

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Vol. 138 No. 45

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Board OK'd amended deed

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board revisited old business regarding a vote on the Paige Building deed.

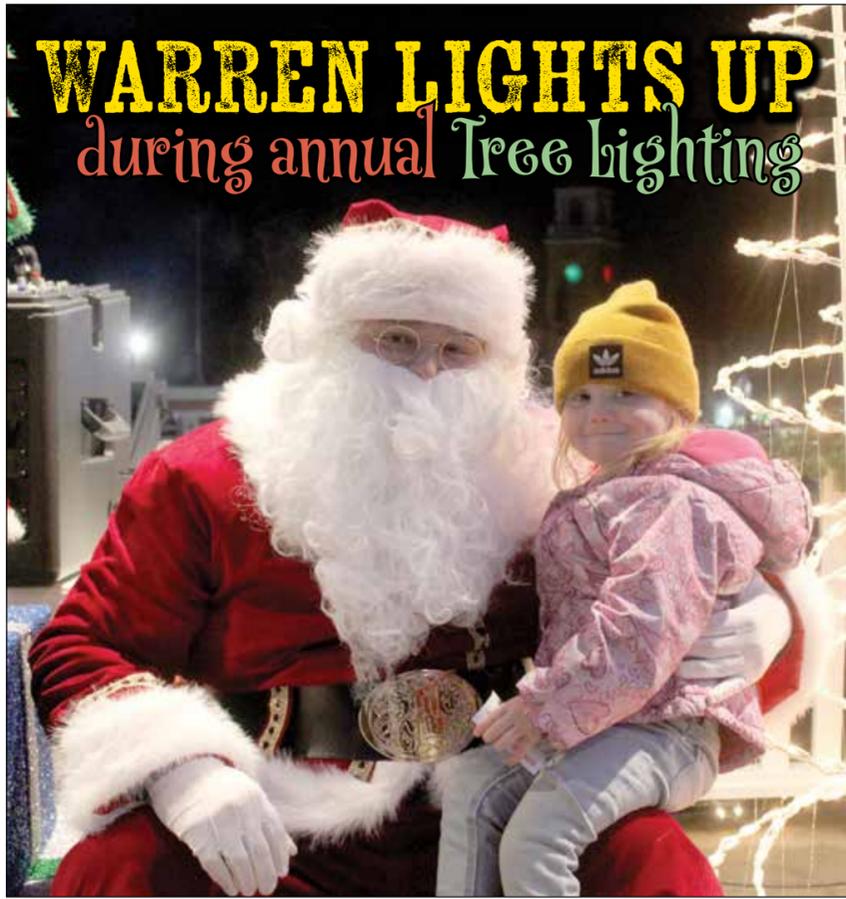
The purpose of this deed is to move forward to fix the building as it is viewed as a valuable part of the town. A nonprofit group, Friends of the Paige Building, has been formed by citizen volunteers of Hardwick to purchase and completely restore the building.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano wanted to state for the record that she does not recommend the approval of the deed in the way it is worded. Caggiano mentioned that Select Board member William Tinker raised some valid points regarding restrictions to be put in place for this deed.

Caggiano had attached an email from town counsel to the packet for the Select Board to review and it stated that counsel does not recommend approval of the deed.

Tinker pointed out the wording seemed to clarify

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 2



Phoenix is shown with Santa Claus at the Warren Town Common Gazebo during the annual tree lighting.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Community enjoys holiday festivities

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – It's the holiday season and the town of Warren came together to celebrate during its Annual Tree

Lighting. This annual event is run by the Warren Parks Department, who were keeping busy offering hot apple cider, popcorn, and s'mores on the Town Common. This year's tree lighting featured new activities, including a truck light parade and wagon rides.

The wagon rides were provided by Flat Brook Farm & Sugar House, owned by

Cory Kibbe. The wagon would transport guests from the Town Common to the Shepard Building, where there were local vendors, crafts, and face painting. The wagon rides were available for drop off and pick up.

Truck Light Parade was part of the arrival of Santa Claus, who would meet kids

Please see **TREE LIGHTING**, page 8

SB approved Lost Towns licensing

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Pam and Jim Spurrell, owners of Lost Towns Brewing Company a nano-brewery located in Gilbertville, applied for licenses to open a taproom in the Stone Mill.

"We found a beautiful space in a beautiful town, which marries to what it is that we've always focused on at Lost Towns Brewing, which is that the craft beer community is part of the community...a place to gather, a place to spend time with their neighbors," Pam Spurrell told the Selectboard at the Dec. 4 hearing.

She said they are also seeking an entertainment license for the new location, as they partner with a lot of musicians and artists. She said the location will also offer prepackaged snacks, and outside food can be brought in by customers.

"We like to get everybody involved," she said.

Pam Spurrell said they are working with the Building Department to complete construction in their unit at the Stone Mill, and hope they will be able to open in January 2026.

"It will come together very quickly," she said.

The Selectboard approved the application for a new onsite premises malt farmer series pouring permit license and an entertain-

ment license for Lost Towns Brewing Co. The town will hold the licenses until the business has a certificate of occupancy.



IT WILL ALL COME TOGETHER VERY QUICKLY."

**PAM SPURRELL
LOST TOWNS
BREWING CO.**

Healthcare update and concerns

Resident Cindy Allen Bourcier shared concerns about open action items not being followed up on. She said it was requested of the Selectboard to have open action items either added to agendas or meeting minutes.

"We want our town manager to be successful and this would be helpful to keep track of the many, many, many things we just throw at him all week long," she said.

Bourcier said she had a record's request dating back to May 2024 for documents concerning Baystate Health. She said there has been a lot of back and forth about the release of the documents, and she filed a complaint with the state.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 13

Selectmen discussed next steps for public safety studies

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen discussed next steps for the public safety studies during their Dec. 4 meeting.

These two studies were approved by voters at the Special Town Meeting held on Nov. 20 and the Selectmen wanted to know

what is next moving forward with these studies.

The first is a study on the former Cornerstone Bank building at 968 Main St. and see if the building is feasible to host a modern-day police station. The other is to conduct a study for the possible extension of Fire Station A, located at 1012 Main St.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said the Special Town Meeting vote

results have awarded the funding to conduct these assessments. The funding of these studies allows the town to seek out testing services by a licensed architect and engineer.

The town has worked with a firm, Tecton Architects, which helped with the study of identifying properties in Warren that could be the

Please see **WARREN**, page 5



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Juniors of Ware Junior/Senior High School were busy running the raffle during the Holiday Craft Fair held last Saturday in the school gym. Shown back row from left: Reaghen, Aaron, Kazmirry, and front row, Andrew and Cam.

Ware High School hosted holiday craft fair

By Ryan Drago
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WARE – Ware Public Schools hosted its annual Holiday Craft Fair, which took place this weekend.

All the excitement was held in the Ware High School gymnasium with over 50 vendors in attendance. Director of Student Services at Ware Public Schools, Dr. Ginger Coleman, said the crowd was very steady, positive and spirits were great throughout the holiday craft fair.

"This is a great way to kick off the holiday season," Coleman said.

The students got busy and were running a few activities during the fair. The seniors were busy running the 50/50 raffle by the gymnasium entrance and the juniors were in charge of the gift raffle, which had dozens of prizes available.

The sophomores were running the concession stand just outside the gymnasium and the freshmen were selling reusable bags. Each class was working hard in raising funds to support their graduating class.

Over by the popular candy table was Becky Hebert, who had a lot of homemade candy available during the Holiday Craft Fair. Hebert said this year's fair had 55 vendors this year. Local vendors were set up in the gymnasium selling handcrafted items, food, and unique items that will make a great holiday gift.

Please see **CRAFT FAIR**, page 7

Celebrate the Season



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Dawn Corley of Just Keep Smiling wore a Snoopy and Woodstock Christmas sweater and provided glitter tattoos during Celebrate the Season held in the Town Hall Dec. 6 and 7.

Annual tree and wreath festival held at Town Hall

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – Over 70 entries were displayed in the grand hall of the Town Hall for Celebrate the Season this past weekend, which is made possible by the leading organizers, the Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House.

Coordinating the event were Lynn Lak and Tony

Please see **TREE FESTIVAL**, page 6





Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Abigail Landine, left, Brielle Sullivan and Emma Landine volunteered to help collect toys for the Stuff a Cruiser event at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.

Stuff a Cruiser held at Rod & Gun Club

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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Toys were waiting inside the South Barre Rod & Gun Club to be shipped to dozens of kids throughout the community.

HARDWICK – It's the most giving time of the year as the South Barre Rod & Gun Club hosted the annual Stuff a Cruiser event to benefit area children for the holiday season.

Officers of the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department and the Barre Police Department parked their cruisers in front of the club to await the cars ready to drop off toys for the toy drive. Hardwick/New Braintree Chief of Police Kevin Landine said the South Barre Rod & Gun Club has been the host for the toy drive for the last couple of years and does fantastic work.

The Christmas for Kids program has been beneficial for the children of Hardwick, New Braintree and Barre for about 40 years. Throughout the day, folks dropped off new and unwrapped toys at the club and the cruiser were ready and gained a trunk full of toys.

Landine said any kind of donation for Christmas for Kids is appreciated. Monetary donations can be mailed to the Hardwick/New Braintree police station at 20 Memorial Drive in New Braintree. The check can be made out to "Hardwick Christmas for Kids."

This annual fundraiser is

all about giving back to the community, according to Landine.

"The community is always good at supplying what we need," Landine said.

On average, the annual Stuff a Cruiser toy drive supplies gifts to about 90 kids per year.

The department had some helpful volunteers to help during the toy drive. Abigail Landine, Brielle Sullivan and Emma Landine collected toys and stored them neatly in the cruiser that was parked in front of the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.

Barre Police Officer Mark Sawyer, who is also

the School Resource Officer, arrived with the Barre Police cruiser and collected toys as well. This was the first toy drive Sawyer has been a part of and he thought the turnout was excellent.

Sawyer said this toy drive worked out great to benefit all of the communities.

Inside the club were toys that were purchased thanks to club's spaghetti dinner fundraiser. There were bicycles, scooters, and bags of toys that will go to local children.

It may have snowed during the toy drive, but it didn't stop the steady traffic of cars dropping off toys for the children.

Are You Old News?

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed the beach area at the Northeast Music Camp on Hardwick Pond. The camp, which was in its 18th year in 1989, was located on 100 acres around Hardwick Pond and offered a mix of musical instruction and recreational activities for some 150 campers from all over the world during each of the two, four or six week sessions.

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

HARDWICK BOS

from page 1
that there are no restrictions in place and there should be. The restriction is that the Friends cannot sell the Paige Building and it conveys it back to the town. This is something agreeable that the Board wanted to add to the motion.

The Board voted to sell the Paige Building to the friends with the amendment of the deed restriction that they cannot sell the property; it conveys back to the town.

School House #6

The Select Board heard from Liz Cyran regarding the amount of \$600 in an account that was formed to support School House #6.

Cyran said there was approximately \$3,500 collected and held by the Historical Society for their rehabilitation of the schoolhouse. The money was used to stabilize the building and there is \$600 remaining.

This appeared to be an outside project, and the town didn't recruit donations. This is administered by the Historical Society. Selectmen Jeffery SchAAF commented and said it was the Historical Society that

took in the money and it shouldn't be decided by the board on what to do with the remaining funds.

"I don't see a reason for us to be involved," SchAAF said.

Though the town owns the lot, the Select Board members said it is best for the Historical Society to share their input on what to do with the funds. Caggiano agreed and maybe the Historical Society should have a conversation since it's their money.

"We can't demand their money," Caggiano said.

Liquor license renewal

The Select Board approved the renewal of several liquor licenses with the exception of Old Furnace General Store due to a violation of its zoning because of outdoor lighting.

A letter was sent to the store owners reminding them of their permit, according to Planning Board Chair William Cole. As of Oct. 16 of this year, the owners stated that everything was measured and that the lights are needed for security purposes.

"It is a blinding thing," said Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim.

The board voted to

approves the licenses with the exception of the Old Furnace General Store with contingency they got with the zoning within 90 days.

Town Administration Report

Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board during their Dec. 8 meeting. The Town Administrator talked with Dr. Rick Romano about well testing grant, and it seems the town will not get it now. Caggiano is hoping they'll get the grant at the next go-around.

Community Development Block Grant funding has been discussed with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and other departments.

Caggiano shared that she is finalizing budget sheets soon for the departments and the "budget process has started."

Recognition

Vollheim acknowledged the heroism of Police Officer Patrick Almstrom and Deputy Fire Chief Nick Gaumond after they pulled a driver out of a burning car.

"Those two were heroic," said Vollheim.



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COUNTRY BANK HOSTED STUFF A CRUISER EVENT

Picture from left are Blair Robidoux, Country Bank, AVP, Retail Bank Operations; Officer Jeannine Bonnayer, Ware Police Department; Calia Rich, Olive Davis and Allison Sprankle. Country Bank, located on West Street, recently hosted a stuff-the-cruiser event to collect toys and donations for local children for the holiday season.

Turley Staff Photo

Ware School Committee continued graduation requirement discussion

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said they are continuing to have school wide discussion regarding Mass Core requirements and the number of credits needed to graduate.

He said the school district currently requires 28 credits to graduate and he had proposed advancing it to 32 credits. He said feedback from staff was in favor of staying with the 28 credit requirement.

At the School Committee's Dec. 3 meeting, Wood talked about class offering changes that would need to happen in the future to meet Mass Core standards.

He said the school district needs to design a digital literacy class, but that it does have a financial literacy class, both of which are required.

He said the biggest challenge would be to add a word language class by hiring another teacher. Wood said a virtual class could be an option for offering more language classes.

Wood said the school district also needs to identify and define "mastery" of a subject. He said currently a grade of 65 meets the standard to earn credit for a class.

The proposed graduation requirements could also include the implementation of end-of-course assessments, as well as capstone or portfolio projects.

"This is important work," Wood said of the graduation requirements.

He will continue to work on drafting the proposed graduation requirements for the School Committee.

Superintendent's report

Wood said there are still vacancies within the school district, including an eighth grade math teacher, a long-term special education teacher, an elementary school speech pathologist and a high school computer teacher.

Wood said they have a long-term substitute in the eighth grade math position and that she is doing "a fabulous job" with support from math interventionists in the elementary school.

Woods said the administrative team met with the Civil Rights Review Coordinator from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He said the school district's review will take place in February 2026.

He said the review will look at the school district's policies and ensuring they are up to date.

"We're in good shape for that," he said.

Wood said Assistant Principal Ivy Peritz is participating in a New England Association of Schools and Colleges review at another high school. He said this will be a great experience for her and helpful for when Ware Jr./Sr. High School does its review next year.

Wood told the School Committee that he will be holding a virtual meeting to discuss the Portrait of a Graduate with parents. He presented a draft visual display that listed some of the qualities that described student learning in Ware.

Change in substitute pay

Wood presented changes to the school district's substitute policy to the School Committee. He said the school district, like many others, have lost many good candidates for long-term substitutes due to having lower pay rates.

"It's basically to move people away from being \$15 an hour because we were getting feedback that that was just too low," Wood said. "It's a gesture to go in the right direction."

The School Committee will continue discussion of the policy change at a future meeting.

Superintendent search subcommittee

School Committee member Melissa Whitham said 11 people have expressed interest in serving on the superintendent search subcommittee.

"We're off to a really good start," she said.

The subcommittee will meet in executive session starting on Dec. 8.

School Committee meetings

In the event of snow day closing, the School Committee members discussed holding their upcoming Dec. 17 meeting over Zoom, rather than rescheduling the meeting. Chair Brian Winslow said he will check with legal counsel to ensure the committee can do this.

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. 15

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Christmas Party
Limited to 100 tickets available until Dec. 12. Music by Freddie Marion. Dessert and entertainment provided by The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lisa

Tuesday, Dec. 16

- 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
- 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking.

- \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 17

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knitting-Crochet-Laugh
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, Dec. 18

- 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. 19

- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES

DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Dec. 15

Christmas Party Limited to 100. Tickets available until Dec. 12

Ham Dinner with Pineapple and Raisin Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Dessert and Entertainment Provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Macaroni and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Dec. 17
Soft Taco with Fixings, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Dec. 18

Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Dec. 19

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

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Christmas for Kids request donations

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.

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.

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

About tax filing status and Medicare

Dear Rusty:

I'm trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to "Married - Filing Jointly" prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D.

My current IRS status is "Married - Filing Single" and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I've read that Medicare will review my income two years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated.

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain:

Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you only, not your spouse, your spouse's Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated.

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly."

The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage.

For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare visit www.cms.gov/newsroom/

fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles.

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are reevaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don't have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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

Demolition to begin at the Storrs Building at MLH

WARE – According to a Nov. 30 press release, Baystate Health has completed its full due diligence on the Storrs Building at the Baystate Mary Lane campus, working closely with public safety officials, structural engineers, and other partners to assess site conditions.

With this work now complete, demolition of the Storrs building and final weatherization of the Wetherby Building will begin in the coming weeks.

To prepare the building for demolition, initial interior work of Storrs has begun and will continue for several weeks. Following this preparatory phase, partial demolition of the Storrs Building is anticipated to begin later in December and involves equipment and contractor activity and mobilization on the property.

Once demolition is underway, on-site activity is expected to take approximately three to four weeks. Final weatherization of the Wetherby Building will also be completed as part of this effort.

Baystate Health representatives state they remain committed to ensuring that all work is completed safely, responsibly, and in accordance with town requirements. The phased approach was designed to minimize disruption to neighbors and local

businesses and they said they are grateful for community's patience and understanding throughout this process.

"Baystate's mission is to deliver compassionate, high-quality, and accessible care –advancing our communities' health for all. In Ware and the surrounding communities, we fulfill this mission by continuing to invest in clinical services at Baystate Wing Hospital and through our commitment to developing a primary care and convenient care site, serving most urgent care needs, located in Ware off the Baystate Mary Lane campus," the press release stated.



Christmas decoration trivia

Last week I provided you with a few tips on how to make a simple evergreen swag and wreath. Hopefully you gave it a try.

For this column I thought it would be fun to share some fun facts with you, many of which I just learned today. You see, I will be working with a group of students tomorrow and wanted to have some cool trivia up my sleeve.

I'll be bringing in all the Christmas greens I talked about a week ago and will pass them around to each student: juniper, hemlock, fir, white pine and more materials, including rose hips, pine cones and holly. Read on to see if what I share is new to you, too!

For example, did you know that the Easter White Pine (Pinus strobus) is the tallest tree in the northeast? It also goes by the name "the Great Tree of Peace," due to the fact that five Native American tribes formed an alliance under a tall white pine; a neat correlation because the needles that are attached to the twigs are in groups of five.

This tree also has a history of being used to make ship masts, and for awhile the trees were reserved for "the Crown." The great "Pine Tree Riot" was an act of defiance that led up to the American Revolution!

One other point of interest is that pine needles are edible and contain vitamin C.

Other materials that often shows up in Christmas decorations are pine cones. What I learned today is that the correct terminology is to generically call them "cones," since they are only pine cones if they come from a pine tree! Logical point!

The hard cones we use for

decorating are female and their main purpose is to keep the naked seeds inside safe. They will open and close to

using juniper is that it smells nice and often has attractive waxy looking berries along with the foliage. It was interesting to learn that these berries are actually cones.

The seeds are protected well within the tough outer coating and can pass through an animal's digestive tract intact. That way the seeds can be dispersed far and wide – wherever the animal is traveling, I guess!

I've done complete articles on Holly (Ilex spp.) before, but I did learn a few new interesting tidbits with this most recent bout of research. The plant has a unique defense mechanism.

Lower foliage is extra spiny to reduce deer from browsing. Upper foliage is not nearly as spiny. There are chemicals in holly berries that make the berries unpalatable to birds and other wildlife at first, but as winter goes on they begin to taste a little better.

Still the birds only eat a few at a time thereby dispersing seeds at various rates and locales. I think all of this is so interesting and so carefully orchestrated to continue the species!

Well, I hope my research has been entertaining, and I do hope that the students enjoy my show and tell tomorrow!

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.

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The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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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.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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Holiday happenings at the Paige Memorial Library

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. Mrs. Claus and her Elf are coming to the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, to decorate Christmas cookies.

Children of all ages are invited to join them. Choose a large sugar cookie shaped like a Christmas tree, a gingerbread man, a reindeer, or an ugly Christmas sweater to decorate. Please register to save your spot.

Have your gifts wrapped on Saturday, Dec. 20. A Special Christmas Gift Wrapping Day will be held at the Paige Memorial Library where self-proclaimed “obsessed” gift wrappers will make every gift special with a large selection of Christmas gift wraps and matching ribbons in many colors, and styles, classic and fun.

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 offered at the Paige Memorial 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.

Library Friends host 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.

Ware Junior/Senior High School lists honor roll

WARE – Ware Junior/Senior High School announced the first quarter honor roll for the 2024-2025 school year

Grade 12, High Honors

Irmak Bagci, Olivia DiRienzo, Jack Gaudreau, Kyle Kaczuwka, Maia Lamothe, Marek Luongo, Ella Przypek and Sophia Rheume.

Grade 12, Honors

Jadrien Berthiaume, Damian Brace, Troy Dufresne, Brady Guimond, Jacoby Heredia, Shealee Logan, Enrique Martinez, Aidan Montone and Alex Orszulak.

Grade 11, High Honors

Aaron Bateman, Olivia Beaumier, Andrew Bonilla, Thomas Cleveland, Emily Jones, Reese McKeever, Edgue John Michael Owsiak, Sebastian Schmidt and Ohana Wall.

Grade 11, Honors

Isla Bennington, Carly Brown, Enrique Burton, Kahmari Crump, Reaghan Jacobs, Kazmiryr Lagimoniere, Mila Markham, Dalton Marquis, Jacob McNamee, Haylee Torotora and Robert Wood.

Grade 10, High Honors

Natalie Alencar, Marsicano de Melo, Demitri Bonilla,

Jadyn-Amy Boulrice, Caeleb DuBois, Laura Landgren, Mason Lee, Amelia Orszulak, Adalia Rivera Rolon, Enzo Santo and Matthew Skutnik.

Grade 10, Honors

Sophie Blais, Callie Cygan, Anna Dulak, Carlea Foley, Aralyn Garcia, Emanuel Lugo, Alexandria Marceau, Molly McGrail, Catherine Mickna, Logan Millet and Colin Pennington.

Grade Nine, High Honors

Lana Bennington, Gloria Cotaj, Josephine Galeckas, Rylee Hume, Jennavesia Josephson, Gabrielle Kaczuwka, Mason Kalafarski, Kyra Kearney, Edmund Klee, Daisy Laverdiere, Alexandria Mickna, Madison Mitchell, Laila Perron, Andrew Shaw, Roman Viess and Zoey Wattu.

Grade Nine, Honors

Thanishka Cordero, Frankee Crehan, Joseph Cygan, Finnegan DeMarco, Dane Dulak, Lucy Hebert, Andrew Rheume and Carter Smith.

Grade Eight, High Honors

Madison Boulrice, Rosaida Carrion, Roman Chadwick, James Devlin,

Sophia Epley-Nourse, Isabella Francis, Gloria Gern, Ryder Harper, Lucas Jurczyk, Nathan Kelly, Emily Lane, Noah Lane, Ellyana Lavalley, Pinyaphut Matin, Isaac Peterson, Alexandria Schmidt, Sean Taylor and Alana Tolman.

Grade Eight, Honors

Skyshe Anglero-Rosario, Robert Beauregard, Titus Benitez, Anivea Confer, Esmeralda Esteves, Michael Goss, Quinn Lanigan, Riley Logan, Leon Longobardi, Mason Kaydin, Jaleaa Pagan, Whisper-Leigh Wagher and Liam Wedhoff.

Grade Seven, High Honors

Keyana Baxter-Churchill, Clark Rhys, Natalie Finocchio, Afina Griffith, Emma Hillebrand, Nicolette Janusz, Richard Lamonda III, Miriam Milligan, Emma Mulcahy, and Brianna Ramirez-Minas, Moah Rasys, Aiden Stebbins, Mason Viess and Bennet Wnek.

Grade Seven, Honors

Troy Bamber, Bryan Cardin, Aiyana-Mae David, Rylee Estridge, Rowan Hillebrand, Savannah LaFond, Houston Lints, Damien Martinez, Cainan Sanford, Kayleigh Taylor and Samier Watson.

St. Aloysius school lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School, 52 Church St., Gilbertville, announced the students who achieved the honor roll for the first trimester.

High Honors

Juliana Moryl, grade four; and Jackson Boudreau, grade eight.

Honors

Lachlan McMartin, grade four; Jakob

McBride, grade four; Natale Docimo, grade five; Malikai Grinkley, grade five; Connor Shunaman, grade five; Sawyer Verham, grade five; Lilliana Soja, grade six; Alexander Velez, grade six; Grant Verham, grade six; Aidan Caulfield, grade seven; Hailey Casiello, grade eight; Gavin Letendre, grade eight; and Noelle St. Jacques, grade eight.

WARREN from page 1

home of a public safety complex. With the board's direction and comments by the public, Ferrera said the town is looking at other options.

With the topic of relocating the Police Department, it was brought up that the bank building was viewed as a possible option. The town wants to identify what the cost will be to bring the bank building up to code to be appropriate for a modern police station.

The Selectmen want to see what the structural stability of the building is, the condition of the roof, HVAC, and the accessibility of the building. The board also wants to seek out a qualified architect and engineer to do these assessments.

“Understanding the requirements is critically important,” Ferrera said. “Hire somebody who has some type of qualifications and experience in dealing with these types of facilities.”

For the fire station, the town is looking at updates to the existing fire station and possibly adding more bays and what that might potentially cost.

Ferrera and the board made it clear for the record that

the town is still in its options phase. They're seeking out options that could possibly be suitable for the Police Department, Fire Department, or a public safety building for both departments.

As for input from the building inspector, the inspectors will come later and inspect the work that is being done to the chosen building. Right now, the town is not focused on a particular site. Therefore, the board is focused on going over options before factoring in any spending on environmental.

Selectmen David Dufresne asked for some background information on the engineer that Jim Fountain (the bank building owner), recruited to observe the building. Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker reviewed an assessment letter the board received in a prior meeting and said the assessment didn't state any qualifications of the engineer regarding public safety buildings or police stations.

From his standpoint, Dufresne believes the bank building is not designed to be a police station or a public safety building.

Eichacker called the engineer recruited by Fountain and found out that the engineer

hasn't done an assessment in 20 years.

Ferrera explained the designer selections, under Chapter 30B, but knows the town is not in that designing selection now as its trying to assess its options.

This topic of moving the Police Department has been discussed for at least 20 years and Dufresne says the town has looked at a lot of properties over the years.

Eichacker believes the town is getting closer to the best possible option. The board asked if they wanted to continue working with Tecton Architects to help them with the study as they have experience in building public safety buildings, police stations and fire stations throughout the Northeast region of the country.

The board is looking to possibly get another firm for the fire station expansion study. As part of the fire station study, there should be further discussions with Fire Chief Adam Lavoie to see what the department is aiming to accomplish.

As part of the studies, the Selectmen want to identify the scope of the work that would have to be done on the fire station and the bank building if

it is feasible. Dufresne mentioned that it could cost the town a lot of money to tear the bank building down to make way for a more modernized building. Ultimately, the Board wants to know the cost of bringing the bank building up to a category 4 building.

Derick Veliz of the Board of Selectmen commented that the town “is trying to get something done,” and it has to be done right under the construction code.

Eichacker said it comes down to figuring out what the costs will be. There was public comment on how the board seems to believe the bank building isn't a right fit, but the residents voted to get a study done. Eichacker mentioned that the bank building hasn't had this sort of assessment done before.

“Nobody really assessed it to a level that it needs to be,” Eichacker said.

When Tecton did their study on the public safety complex options, the study found what was available on land and not existing buildings. The board will continue to assess the options that are currently in front of them.

The board voted on an access agreement for 968 Main St. Ferrera said this

agreement was drafted by KP Law and is awaiting the approval of the board. Fountain had already signed the agreement and will provide keys to the building. The board voted and accepted the access agreement.

Tax classification hearing

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors held a tax classification hearing to determine tax allocation among the property classes for fiscal year 2026. public hearing for tax allocation.

Assessors Debra Hardy and Jack Feeney shared the information the assessors received and mentioned no tax rate has been approved yet. Both assessors shared the options on what the Board could vote for. There are several exemptions the Board can vote on.

The Assessors shared that there could be new growth coming from commercial new housing or remodels.

The Board of Selectmen voted to retain a single tax rate and took no action on residential, commercial and open space exemptions.

Board of Health-related topics

The board voted to adopt a Sustainable Purchasing

Policy. After that vote the board heard from Daniel Thibodeau of the Board of Health to talk about the acceptance of a state grant from the recycling dividends program under the sustainable materials recovery program. This grant is administered by the Board of Health.

Thibodeau said this is a standard thing the town does every year and focuses on recycling programs and the town wishes to do more recycling related programs in town. The board voted to accept the state grant.

The Board of Selectmen also voted to increase the board of health petty cash by \$100 to cover the cost of added certified mailings.

Tighe & Bond contract

The Selectmen voted to enter into a contract with Tighe & Bond for engineering services related to the duct work improvement project at the Warren Senior Center. This article was passed at the Special Town Meeting, although there was some confusion regarding the process of duct work. The board explained the process of how the work would be done and would benefit the senior center.



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USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$1 ⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$13 ⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNISH HENS TWIN PAK..... \$2 ⁷⁹ lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2 ⁷⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$6 ⁶⁷ lb	HOLIDAY APPETIZERS
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS HOLIDAY ROAST PORK LOIN STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES \$4 ⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG LAMB \$6 ⁶⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHEFS TOGETHER PIGS IN A BLANKET 24 PC BOX... \$3 ⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK..... \$1 ⁵⁵ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$14 ⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI SPRING ROLLS 8 PAK..... \$3 ⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS BUDABALL OLD TYME SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2 ⁶⁶ lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED SWEET & SMOKY BBQ BABY BACK RIBS..... \$3 ⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. BONELESS KAYEM WHOLE PIT HAM \$3 ⁶⁶ lb		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN HEALTHY CHOICE STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS... \$11 ⁹⁹ ea

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Wings of song performs 'Night, Moon, Stars'

STURBRIDGE – The community chorus Wings of Song offers a program of songs for Christmas and the Winter Solstice in two upcoming concerts.

The first, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., will be presented at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale. The second is Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m., at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Both concerts are free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. The venues are fully handicap-accessible. As always, free refreshments will be served after each concert.

Folks are encouraged to arrive early to be sure of a seat.

Over his two decades as Wings of Song Music Director, Nym Cooke has introduced the chorus and its audiences to a wide variety of music. This program is no exception.

Pieces come from places as far apart as Denmark and South Africa. Musical styles range from French Baroque opera to white gospel. Featured instruments include handbells, djembe, and upright bass. Compositional dates stretch from the early 1500s (composer: King Henry VIII of England) to 2025 (composer: Wings of Song tenor Gianni Davilli).

Moods vary, from deeply peaceful to ferocious. Familiarity ranges from widespread (classic Christmas songs such as "O Little Town of Bethlehem") to non-existent (two world premieres).

Pieces last less than a minute to over five minutes. Vocal range spans almost four octaves. Musical textures range from highly con-

trapuntal (rounds such as "This Longest Night" and "Full Moonlight Dance") to grandly homophonic (the ever-popular "O Holy Night," in John Rutter's magnificent arrangement).



The interlocking themes of night, moon, and stars proved to be enormously rich: many wonderful texts and pieces of music have been written to celebrate the mystery of darkness, or to bring spiritual light and uplift at the darkest time of the year. People are strongly encouraged to bring stars or moons to these concerts, to be held or hoisted aloft at key points in the proceedings. (More than one moon is fine, in the spirit of celebration.)

Cooke waxes enthusiastic about the chorus: "One of the many good things about this group is that we are becoming more and more a collaborative enterprise. Rather than me saying, 'This is how this piece should go' and that's it, I start things off and then chorus members come up with all sorts of great contributions—an idea for dynamics here, a pertinent question about breathing there, an instrumental suggestion from someone else. There are so many deeply musical people in this group! And equally important are the devoted folks who just love to sing, and who help make our sound as big and thrilling as it is!"

People attending these concerts are in for a treat – a deep dive into some of the enduring mysteries of this charged time, mysteries stemming both from the natural world and from Christian tradition. Miracles will abound. Come and hear!



This teddy bear and wagon made by Lori Cebula was filled with sweet treats.



A bake sale was held during Celebrate the Season and featured a variety of cookies and breads.

TREE FESTIVAL

from page 1

Swiercz. This fun weekend of witnessing the creativity of local crafters who decorated trees, wreaths, and other crafts has been happening at Town Hall for nearly 10 years.

Lak expressed gratitude for the help of Ware High School students, who came in to help organize the tree and wreath festival at Town Hall. Lak also thanked Ware Police Officer Jeannine Bonnayer for coordinating with the students to help do the amazing setup work at the Town Hall.

"They're amazing," Lak said.

There were several trees and wreaths that were made by students at Ware High School.

All these entries, including trees and wreaths, were being raffled off. Visitors purchased their raffle tickets at the front door and placed a ticket in the bags next to the item they desired to take home.

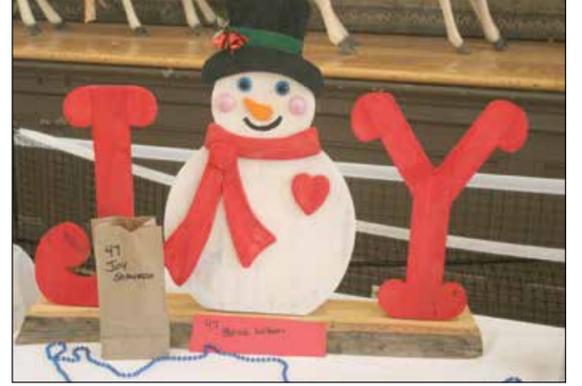
There were door prizes available, 12 in total, for guests to try and win during their stroll through Town Hall. The Town Hall was certainly a winter wonderland, surrounded by trees, wreaths, decorative stands and other goods that would fit nicely in a new household.

The center of the room had a space for Santa Claus to sit and meet the children of Ware.

The door prizes included a quilted table runner, paper tree, nesting boxes, and the beautifully designed Meeting House ornament, which came



This gnome made out of greenery wore pink mittens.



This joyful snowman was made by Bernie Wilson.

with a stand. For the entries, Lak brought back the adorable gnome bushes.

Many local crafters contribute these items every year. Lak gave a shoutout to Claudia Kadra and her family who have donated items to the festival for many years.

"A creative artistic family who have donated every year," Lak said.

Representatives of the Ware Center Meeting House and the Ware Historical Society had a table of items available. There were books, merchandise, and historical pieces tied to the community of Ware.

Dawn Corley of Just Keep Smiling had a table set up offering glitter tattoos for kids.

Celebrate the Season also featured a bake sale with a variety of home baked breads and cookies available.



The center tree was provided by Ware High School students.

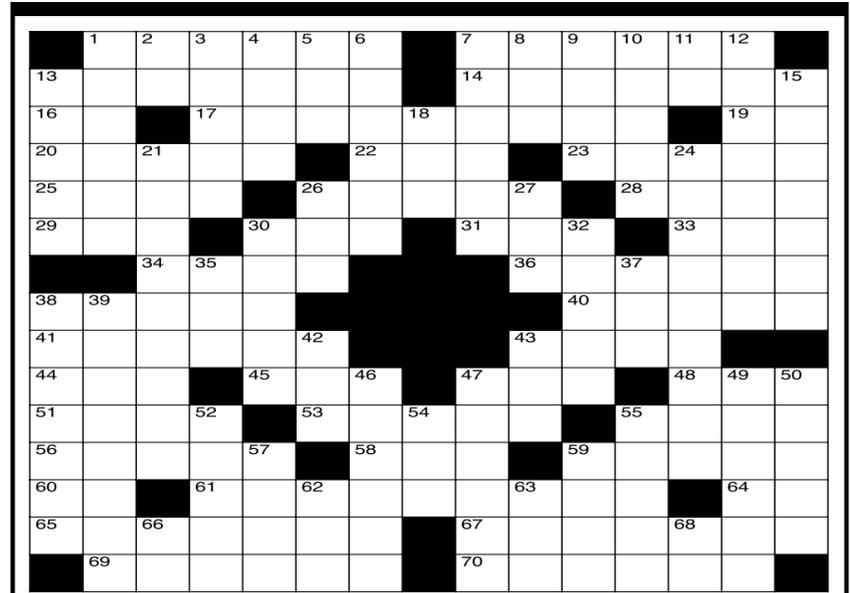


A Ware Center Meeting House ornament with a stand was one of the door prizes.



A quilted holiday table runner was sewn by Hilarie Shea.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. A type of solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German

psychologist

41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan (abbr.)
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Sound
56. MLB legend Hank
58. Very attractive person
59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Mocking
64. Symbol for gold
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl

70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho

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In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.**

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Dazzling Resin Designs had unique figurines that were looking to be a part of a new household.



ABOVE: Plenty of handmade holiday ornaments were available to shop for during the Holiday Craft Fair.

LEFT: An adorable painting by Dorothy Witaszek of West Warren, who specializes in watercolors.



These decorative wreaths were made by Creations by Laurie.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Pumpkin whoopie pies were baked by Mom's Whoopie Pies.



These baskets were made by Baskets & Mats by Jessica.



Ornaments of all kinds from hearts, snowmen, teddy bears and trees were available to be added to your Christmas tree.

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.



CRAFT FAIR

from page 1

Attending the Holiday Craft Fair was the Friends Committee of the Ware Library. The friends were selling lottery calendars to help raise money for the library. Those who buy in have an opportunity to win a prize during the month of January 2026. Prizes will be awarded from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31.

There were a lot of unique items showcased in this year's Holiday Craft Fair. If you haven't decorated your house or Christmas tree yet, there were several vendors who had handmade ornaments.

Dazzling Resin Designs was at the holiday craft fair and there were plenty of neat items to choose from. These designs are figurines of various animals, including seals, turtles, birds, frogs, cats and dogs.

Creations by Laurie returned to the Holiday Craft Fair and had various holiday décor. Last year, Laurie Gagne of Creations by Laurie made these unique crafts known as nature circles, made mostly out of Jenga blocks.

These are popular items that went fast, but Gagne will return with more nature circles in the near future. Creations by Laurie still had some beautiful holiday décor, including wreaths and Christmas lamps.

There were a lot of bakers in this year's Holiday Craft Fair. Mom's Whoopie Pies were available and looked delicious. The baker behind these whoopie pies has been baking for several years and their popular baked good was the whoopie pie that was pumpkin flavored. There was also peanut butter fudge available.

There was a lot of shopping and celebrating as the Ware Public School community came together to put on a great Holiday Craft Fair.

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DEADLINE

January 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE

February 18, 2026

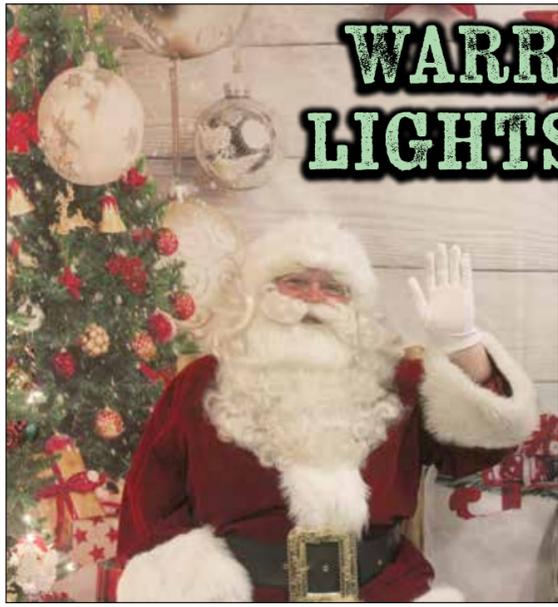


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Visitors could take a photo with Santa Claus at Mason's Grille during the Tree Lighting.



Frizzle the Clown from Clowning for Kidz Foundation was hanging out at Mason's Grille.



The Quaboag High School Cheer Squad performed on the Common. *Turley Photos by Ryan Drago*

TREE LIGHTING
from page 1

at the gazebo to hear their Christmas wishes. St. Nick would then join his friends in Warren at the tree for a countdown to its lighting. Everyone joined in on the countdown as the holiday season has officially begun in Warren.

The center of Warren was busy as various locations had activities to offer. Mason's Grille had beef stew and clam chowder available for purchase in addition to a raffle. Proceeds from these purchases will be donated to support Firefighter Scott Bridges and his fight against cancer. The Mason's Grille Staff were wearing Bridges Strong T-shirts in addition to their holiday attire.

Mason's Grille also provided cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee at their refreshments table. Becky Mason of Mason's Grille shared that the business had raised over \$1,000 earlier in the day.

Throughout the day, Mason's Grille collected donations for this great cause.

"We're like a big family here at Mason's," Mason said.

It was all about celebrating with family and friends during the Warren Tree Lighting. Mason's Grille also had a couple special guests. Santa Claus was sitting comfortably inside Mason's Grille and was taking pictures with guests.

Frizzle the Clown from Clowning for Kidz appeared at Mason's Grille to say hello to all the guests during the tree lighting.

Across from the Town Common is the Warren Public Library hosting an open house. For over 15 years, the library has been a destination for guests to visit during the annual Warren Tree Lighting. Library board members treated guests to various baked goods and apple cider.

At The Lost Arts, there was an open house featur-

ing a scratch art craft, where guests can make some ornaments for their Christmas tree at home. The Lost Arts also featured photographs with their special guest, The Grinch.

Glenda's Pub had a free kid's activity and had 3D laser printed items for sale. Warren WIC hosted an open house featuring games and prizes.

The Warren Fire Department was parked over by the train depot and was having their wreath sale. Plenty of wreaths were available and displayed nicely.

The Warren Police were busy collecting toys for the Jingle Fund. This year, the police are able to supply toys for over 80 children in Warren.

Officer Morin of Warren Police Department has been running the Jingle Fund for the last three years and mentioned the collaboration the department has with Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Students of Quaboag and Quaboag staff assisted with the program and helped do the shopping and the wrapping of the gifts.

QRSD Superintendent Stephen Duff said 30 students helped with assisting with the Jingle Fund. Presents will be wrapped at the high school and will be distributed on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

For those who want to write to Santa Claus, the Warren Post Office was hosting Letters to Santa with the big Santa Letter Box waiting to be filled. Kids can get a reply from Santa if they leave



Shown from left to right are Officer Morin, Chief Millette, Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff and students who volunteered to help during the toy drive put on by the Warren Patrolman's Association.

a return address.

Warren Postmaster Jennifer Drago supplied the letters and gingerbread coloring sheets for kids to enjoy. The post office also had a decorated photo booth with Gingy the Gingerbread man.

After Santa's arrival, the Quaboag Cheer Squad gave a performance on the Common prior to the official lighting of the tree. In the heart of Warren, the town came together for a celebration that is the Annual Warren Tree Lighting. The parks department did an amazing job decorating the Common with lights on all the trees on the Common and adorable holiday floats.



Kids visited the Warren Post Office to write a letter to Santa and draw gingerbread cookies. Warren Postmaster Jennifer Drago, left, is shown handing out coloring sheets.



Wagon rides were provided by Flat Brook Farm & Sugar House and participated in the truck light parade.

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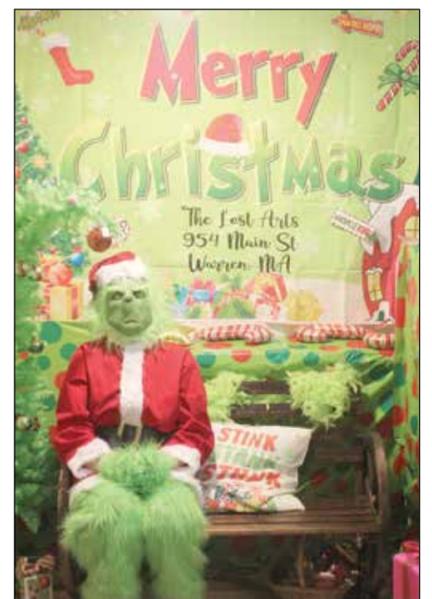
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The tree on the Common was lit after Santa Claus and Warren residents did a countdown.



The Lost Arts had photo opportunities with the Grinch.



The Quaboag High School Cheer Squad joined Santa Claus for a photo under the Town Common gazebo

SPORTS

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Turley's Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving student-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.



Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

Submitted photo

at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications. At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

Please see **RECOGNITION**, page 10

Pioneers fall to Cape Cod in vocational tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—In a span of six days, the Cape Cod Regional Vocational Tech football team traveled more than

650 miles and celebrated two upset victories in the State Vocational Tournament.

Following their 30-16 opening round victory at second-seeded Franklin County Tech on Nov. 14, the seventh-seeded Crusaders made another long bus trip from Harwich to Western Mass., on Nov. 21. This time, Cape Cod Tech overcame a ten point halftime deficit to defeat the third-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers, 18-16, in a semifinal game played at Legion Field in Palmer.

It was the first meeting on the gridiron between the two squads and the final home game of the season for the Pioneers.

"I'm very close with most of the seniors, so this is a very tough loss for those guys," said Pathfinder sophomore Cassian Kowalik. "It's going to be very difficult not playing with them again next year."

The Pioneers ball careers against rival Belchertown on Thanksgiving morning, are Dustyn Cook, Ethan



Anthony Arventos rushes toward the sideline.

Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Trevor Alexander heads into the crowd.

Mooney, Stephen Curtis, Brandyn Wilson, Aiden Girard, Brandon Charron, Jaiden Ambrose, Wyatt Breault, Amias Kowalik, Harold Black, and Jarrett Skowyra.

"You're always disappointed to see the seniors' season come to an end, and I'm proud that they got this far," said Pathfinder head coach Bill Darling. "We're one of the only teams playing at the end of the season here for some type of trophy, so I'm really proud of the boys."

Pathfinder Tech (5-6) didn't have very much trouble dispatching sixth-seed-

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10



Madi Slattery takes a shot.



Reese McKeever gets the jumping one-hander.



Naomi Torres eyes the hoop for a shot.

Indians get going in preseason

WARE – The preseason for Ware girls basketball heated up on Sunday afternoon as Ware girls basketball had a scrimmage with

Quabbin Regional. The Indians are set for the regular season with their opener on the road at Monson High School on Friday, Dec. 12 at

6 p.m. Ware's home opener will be Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. against Hopkins Academy.



Reaghan Jacobs attempts to pass through a defender.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Daisy Laverdiere dribbles down the right sideline.

sports

PVSOA hold 79th awards banquet

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneers Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization is that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks its amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

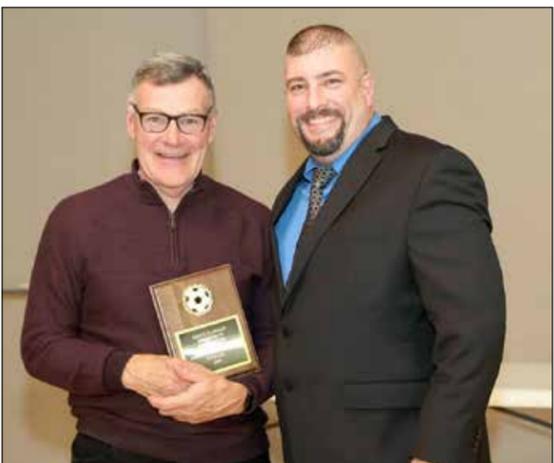
He said he appreciated the



David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking

forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

PIONEERS from page 9

ed Smith Vocational, 42-12, at home in the first round of the Vocational Tournament.

The Pioneers have qualified for the Vocational Tournament three times since 2022, but they haven't advanced to the championship game yet. They lost at Nashoba Valley Tech in the 2022 semifinals.

"This is the second time during the past four years that we've lost in the Vocational semifinal game," Darling said. "We're still in the building process and our goal is to play in the championship game."

After recovering a fumble with 8:24 left in the first quarter, the visitors from Cape Cod put together a 16-play scoring drive. The series was capped off with a three yard TD run by junior running back Thomas Allen less than a minute into the second quarter.

Pathfinder sophomore Elijah Cardenas tackled junior running back Chaz Thomas in the backfield on the two-point conversion play.

The Pioneers dominated the second quarter as they

scored 16 unanswered points.

With 7:49 remaining in the first half, sophomore quarterback Grayson Griswold completed a 36-yard pass to Skowyra at the Crusaders 33 yard line.

Four plays later, Griswold, who completed four passes for 101 yards, scrambled 11 yards into the endzone capping off the seven play scoring drive.

Cook made the extra point attempt giving the home team a 7-6 advantage with 5:32 left in the second quarter.

After the Pioneers defense forced the Crusaders to punt, Griswold connected with Cassian Kowalik, who made an outstanding one-handed catch before rumbling about 20 yards into the endzone, for an impressive 51-yard TD reception.

"The cornerback was on my back, so I couldn't really back up. I just jumped as high as I could and I put my hand up and hoped I could catch it," Kowalik said. "I then saw green grass and I went for it."

Cook added the extra point, which gave Pathfinder Tech a 14-6 lead with two minutes left in the half.

Then junior Anthony Arventos sacked the Cape Cod quarterback in the end zone for a safety.

The Pioneers offense couldn't score another touchdown before the first half ended.

The Crusaders (7-4) received the second half kickoff and marched down the field.

Thomas scored on a one yard plunge into the end zone with 4:25 left in the third quarter.

Pathfinder Tech held a slim four point lead (16-12) as the two-point play failed.

With 11:09 remaining in the fourth quarter, the Crusaders retook the lead following a 19-yard TD run from junior Anthony Bartlett.

Arventos returned the

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – December has started as the Wednesday Night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes continues into the winter months.

After week 14, Fire Mountain hangs on to first place with a record of 61.5-36.5. In second place, just half a point behind, is Sandri with a record of 61-37. Night Hawks and Ironmen are tied for third place with both teams having a record of 55-43.

During week 14, Sandri bowled against Night Hawks on lanes three and four at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Sandri defeated Night Hawks by a score of 513-398. Brandon Lane of Sandri bowled the highest game of 135. His teammate Ron Gouin bowled well with 122.

In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 473-432. Rich Picotte of Sandri led the team to victory with the highest game of 123.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 475-463 for a three-game sweep over Night Hawks. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks finished strong with a 121 and a three-game series of 335. Lane finished with a 112 and a three-game series of 338. The final score was 1461-1293 in favor of Sandri.

Slow Burners bowled against Ironmen on lanes five and six. In game one, Slow Burners defeated Ironmen by a score of 498-478. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners made some clutch

spares on his way to a 122 game.

In game two, Ironmen bounced back by winning 514-459. Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled 139 and his teammate Ryan Drago bowled 137.

In game three, Slow Burners won by a score of 510-497. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners put up a score of 122 to retake the lead after Drago finished with 136, which included four spares and a strike in the last five frames. Ironmen won total pinfall by a final score of 1489-1467.

Snappers bowled against Team UMass in week 14. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 471-459. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers bowled a 106 during his team's victory.

In game two, Team UMass won again by a score of 487-421. Jane Choy of Team UMass bowled well over her 72-league average with an 86 in game two.

In game three, Team UMass won for a three-game sweep over Snappers, 482-472. The final score was 1440-1352 in favor of Team UMass.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against Cannonballs in week 14. In game one, Cannonballs won by a score of 452-443. In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 465-458. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls broke the century mark with 103.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 1400-1352. Paulus finished the match with 116. The final score was 1400-1352 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

T-Birds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting

only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the open-

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 11

Cougars earn victory against Northern Essex

HOLYOKE – Women's basketball got back to their winning ways on Thursday night, earning a 65-59 home victory over regional opponent Northern Essex CC. The Lady Cougars dominated early on, scoring 38 points in the first half to take a 17-point lead into halftime. Holyoke was able to hold off a strong second-half push from their opposition on their way to the win

J o h a n n y s Andrades (Springfield, MA / Putnam Vocational Technical HS) played brilliantly for the Cougars, leading the team in points, rebounds and assists. Andrades scored a season-high 21 points while grabbing nine rebounds and dishing eight assists. Emily McGrail (Ware, MA / Ware HS) had a team-high four blocks for Holyoke and was second in points with nine.

Women's basketball is in second place in the New England standings with a 3-1 regional record. They are 4-3 overall and 4-1 versus NJCAA opponents.

RECOGNITION from page 9

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Grayson Griswold attempts a pass.



Dustyn Cook kicks off for the Pioneers.

ensuing kickoff about 80 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown. The long return was nullified due to a holding penalty on Pathfinder Tech.

The Pioneers offense turned the ball over on downs on their final two series of the game.

Griswold left the game late in the fourth quarter with an injury.

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Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 16-22, the Warren Police Department responded to 139 building/property checks, 24 community policings, 14 emergency 911 calls, two motor vehicle accidents, one fraud/forgery, one property damage, one complaint, five animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 16

9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
3:16 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed

Monday, Nov. 17

1:15 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Southbridge Road, Officer/Chief Advised
6:27 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:17 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Heritage Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
3:38 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
5:38 p.m. Property Damage, Little Rest Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Nov. 18
9:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
1:29 p.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:59 p.m. Odor, Main Street, Investigated

Wednesday, Nov. 19

6:21 p.m. Pain, Pulaski Street, Transported to Hospital
8:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Nov. 20

8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
2:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
2:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
4:43 p.m. Fire District 7 Activation, Uxbridge, Mutual Aid Assist
8:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old West Warren Road, Arrest(s) Made

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.

Friday, Nov. 21

9:19 a.m. Stroke, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10 a.m. Propane Incident, Yankee Drummer Drive, Investigated
3:45 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:57 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Nov. 22

10:34 a.m. Complaint, Southbridge Road, Officer/Chief Advised
9:02 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Burbank Avenue, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Nov. 24-Dec. 8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 124 building/property checks, 85 directed/area patrols, 28 radar assignments, eight traffic controls, 19 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one assist other agency, three motor vehicle investigations, three scams, one threat, one illegal dumping, three parking complaints, three trespasses, one property damage, four motor vehicle accidents, two fires, nine animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Nov. 24

11:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
1:41 p.m. Threat, Main Street, Officer Handled
2:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
2:15 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Officer Handled
2:31 p.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Removed Hazard
3:32 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
6:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Nov. 25

7:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Greenwich Road, Report Taken

Wednesday, Nov. 26

8:15 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Petersham Road, Criminal Complaint

Thursday, Nov. 27

4:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Nov. 28

10:05 a.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Officer Handled
12:51 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:17 p.m. 911 Complaint, New Braintree Road, Negative Contact

3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Vehicle Towed

Saturday, Nov. 29

3:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
1:54 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled
6:20 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, Nov. 30

9:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Officer Handled
3:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Report Taken

Monday, Dec. 1

3:16 a.m. Parking Complaint, High Street, Written Warning
3:40 a.m. Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Patient Refusal
6:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
7:11 a.m. Trespass, Upper Church Street, Report Taken
4:28 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Officer Handled
6:49 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Main Street, Services Rendered
7:11 p.m. Property Damage, Bridge Street, Report Taken
11:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Dec. 2

1:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
1:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Unfounded
3:08 p.m. Parking Complaint, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
4:33 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Lower Road, Services Rendered
4:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Prouty Road, Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Dec. 3

2:06 a.m. Bylaw/

Ordinance Violation, Prospect Street, Citation Issued
9:28 a.m. Trespass, Thresher Road, Negative Contact
1:47 p.m. 911 Lockout, Bridge Street, Services Rendered
2:59 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 4

10:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Church Street, Services Rendered
7:22 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered
11:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 5

2:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Prospect Street, Check/Secured
3:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, High Street, Officer Handled
1:39 p.m. 911 Scam, Hardwick Pond Road, Officer Handled
2:35 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, High Street, Extinguished
2:49 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Spoken To
3:24 p.m. Welfare Check, Lower Road, Officer Handled
5:14 p.m. Scam, Hardwick Pond Road, Report Taken

Saturday, Dec. 6

7:14 p.m. Welfare Check, Pine Street, Transferred Call to C7

Sunday, Dec. 7

8:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:04 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Dec. 8

1:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
6:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street

DA announces gun buyback program

WORCESTER – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. is urging participation in the 24th annual Guns to Gardens program, an opportunity for members of the community to turn in unwanted firearms at participating police departments on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Since the program's start in the City of Worcester in 2002, more than 4,000 guns have been voluntarily turned in across the county. This annual program encourages participants from all of Worcester County to turn in firearms at participating police department headquarters in Charlton, Fitchburg, Northborough, Milford, Worcester, or City Welding & Fabrication, 10 Arant St.

Anyone who turns in an operable firearm will receive a gift card in exchange (\$50 for a rifle, \$100 for a pistol, and \$150 for an automatic or semi-automatic weapon). Free gun locks are also available, even if you are not turning in a firearm.

"By getting unwanted and unsecured firearms out of the house and safely disposed of, we can help prevent accidental tragedies, theft or

misuse. This not only helps reduce gun-related tragedies and save lives, but also avoid the high costs of medically treating gunshot victims," said Early. "I commend Worcester Division of Public Health Medical Director Dr. Michael Hirsh, who started this program, and all our local police departments for their continued efforts to advocate for gun safety and protect our communities."

"Every gun that we can get out of homes that are not safely secured or not in an environment where it is safe to keep them at home is a win for a peaceful holiday season in the Woo," said Dr. Hirsh.

As in the past, Early will relax law enforcement of the law prohibiting the carrying of firearms for those participating in the program. Participants may bring firearms without any registration requirement, and anonymity is guaranteed for everyone. All weapons should be brought unloaded and wrapped up or in a bag. Replica guns and ammunition will also be accepted. Ammunition should be separately bagged. Residents are reminded to treat all firearms as though they are loaded and

dangerous.

Participants can watch their weapons be destroyed at the City Welding & Fabrication location.

In recent years, these destroyed firearms have been turned into garden tools to be used in the UMass community garden, which is maintained by members of the UMass community and produces fresh produce that is donated to those in need.

Guns to Gardens is sponsored by the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, UMass Memorial Medical Group, the City of Worcester, the Worcester Police Department, and the Worcester Department of Public Health.

Firearms can be turned in at the following locations during the specific hours: Charlton Police Department from 10 a.m.-noon; Fitchburg Police Department from 10 a.m.-noon; Milford Police Department from 10 a.m.-noon; Northborough Police Department from 10 a.m.-noon; Worcester Police Department from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Worcester City Welding & Fabrication (10 Arant St., Worcester) from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

T-BIRDS from page 10

ing frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and

allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a high-light-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from

the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

Wreaths Across America ceremony is Dec. 13

WARE – The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will begin in Veterans Park, Main Street, on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.

There will be an opening ceremony and laying of the branch specific wreaths at the park, before volunteers will go to Aspen Grove Cemetery to lay wreaths on veterans graves then continuing to other cemeteries.

All are welcome to attend and honor the town's veterans for the Christmas season.

December holiday events at Ware Senior Center

WARE – The holiday season comes to Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, on Monday, Dec. 22 at noon with music from the Ware High School Band and the third graders of Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School who will be singing.

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.

These events are sponsored by The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc.



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

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

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

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Classifieds

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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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

WARE BOS from page 1

Bourcier said the town submitted a response to her complaint and she has appealed it. "I have not received any copies of any documents concerning Baystate," she said.

Bourcier said she has also requested to see a summary of the activity performed by special counsel, Attorney Patricia Davidson, who was hired by the town to research the will and trust of Lewis Gilbert.

She said she also asked for a copy of the letter Davidson sent to Bank of America, the trustee of the Lewis Gilbert Trust.

Bourcier brought up the Building Department and its appeal process. She said there are "no checks and balances."

Bourcier said she submitted an open meeting violation complaint with the state over a May 6 executive session, in which three of the Selectboard members voted to support Baystate Health's proposal for a primary care/Convenient Care site in town. She said the complaint will be reviewed soon.

Bourcier said she attended a meeting with Way Finders, along with Ann Bigda, Selectboard member Jack Cascio and Town Manager Stuart Beckley to discuss the development of a mixed income senior living community on the Mary Lane Hospital site. She said Way Finders did express interest in this project.

She also spoke with the CEO of Ascentria, about the construction of a nursing home, memory care and independent living facility.

Bourcier said Baystate Health has announced a voluntary separation program after laying off employees due to its financial standings.

"Baystate's financial position has not gotten any better," she said. "How can we as residents petition somehow the Selectboard to rethink their July 1 vote to support Baystate?"

Bourcier said Baystate Health has only agreed to offer Convenient Care if its proposed primary care office was successful.

Beckley said the board voted in favor of Baystate Health's proposal as it was the quickest way to get healthcare into town.

"It doesn't mean we should stop looking for others," he said.

Beckley said the access to Rural Equity Funds would be a "complete game changer" for rural healthcare.

Selectboard members Ken Willette and Josh Kusnierz said they would like a current update from Baystate Health about its

financial status.

Selectboard member John Desmond asked to put this discussion on the agenda of a future meeting. Kusnierz said the board can also reach out to the Select Board of Hardwick and invite them to submit questions or concerns from that town regarding Baystate Health's proposal.

The Selectboard will invite Baystate Health's representatives to its Jan. 6, 2026, meeting to discuss the status of healthcare in town.

Open meeting law complaint

The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund's open meeting law complaint against the Hospital Review Committee.

Beckley provided a proposed response to the complaint prepared by town counsel, as well as a four-step process the board can take to address the complaint.

Granlund's complaint was related to the Hospital Review Committee having several months of missing meeting minutes. He also cited that many committee members were not current with their conflict of interest certificates when business was being discussed and voted on.

The corrective actions to be taken by the Selectboard include notifying all town boards and committees of their responsibility to take meeting minutes. The Town Manager will no longer take meeting minutes on their behalf.

Boards and committees will also utilize technology, such as Zoom, to record meetings.

Hydrant flow test fees

Interim Department of Public Works Director Ken Calder proposed the implementation of fees for conducting hydrant flow tests. He said these tests are conducted by the DPW at the request of developers.

Calder said the fee covers the cost of water being lost during the flow test.

"When these tests are being done, the amount of water that's being flushed down into the drain or street...is unaccounted for water, or a loss for the town based on that, so hence the fee for the application," he said.

The current minimum rate for commercial flow testing would be set at \$150. Calder said other towns have fees ranging from \$60-475.

The Selectboard approved Calder's proposal.

Sanitary survey

Calder was joined by Jeff Faulkner of Tighe

& Bond to discuss the town's sanitary survey through the Department of Environmental Protection.

Faulkner talked about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances testing results, and said the town meets the current federal regulations and the state regulations. He said there is one site that is above the federal PFAS limit.

Faulkner said by 2029, the federal regulations will implement a lower number of PFAS contaminants allowed in parts per trillion. He said this will allow municipalities time to address water treatment for PFAS.

"All of the site in Ware have PFAS at some level," he said.

He said a PFAS master plan was prepared in April of this year, and the DEP has asked the town to finalize its approach to dealing with PFAS.

Faulkner said there are several options to address PFAS, including the construction of treatment plants.

He said there may be grant testing available to get this project started and the town could participate in a pilot study to determine the best treatment for PFAS.

Faulkner said this could also be combined with the treatment to remove iron manganese from the water, which is what causes discoloration.

"It would be a combination of solving several treatment problems with a larger treatment plant project," he said.

The Selectboard voted to move forward with a pilot study.

Plowing/sanding of unfinished subdivision roads

The Selectboard reviewed unfinished subdivision roads that were recommended for plowing and sanding this winter. The town will plow/sand Coldbrook Drive, Lee Road and Wildflower Drive and part of Williston Drive.

Bel Air Drive will not be plowed or sanded due to its condition.

Special Town Meeting date

Beckley said the Moderator would not be available on Jan. 26, 2026 for a Special Town Meeting and asked that the date be changed to Monday, Feb. 2, 2026 with a snow date of Feb. 4, 2026. The Selectboard approved this request.

Water tank project

Beckley said the Church Street water tank project has been completed and it is back online. He said work on the Anderson Road water tank will begin in the spring.

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 Sprous 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:
A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATE IN SAID WARE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LAND FORMERLY OF A. W. LINCOLN, ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF A STREET COMMONLY CALLED BELLEVUE AVENUE EXTENSION RUNNING FROM ASPEN STREET TO BELLEVUE AVENUE; THENCE EASTERLY ON SAID STREET THIRTY-NINE (39) FEET TO OTHER LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF LOTTIE M. FOUNTAIN, THENCE NORTHERLY IN A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF BELLEVUE AVENUE ALONG OTHER LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID FOUNTAIN ONE HUNDRED TWO (102) FEET; THENCE WESTERLY ON LAND FORMERLY OF JOSEPH DUMAS, JR., THIRTY-NINE (39) FEET TO OTHER LAND OF FRANCIS R. BULLAN ET UX, GRANTORS HEREIN; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON OTHER LAND OF SAID BULLAN ONE HUNDRED TWO (102) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

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.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
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

Town of Hardwick PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting on **Monday, December 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

High Street- National Grid to install 1 SO poles on High Street beginning at a point approximately 247ft north of the centerline of the intersection of Joslyn Road.
12/11/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 25 SM 003799 ORDER OF NOTICE

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

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Ware, numbered 108 Fisherdick Road**, given by **Toryn M. Lane and Shayne Marie Pedercini to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns**, dated **July 8, 2021**, and recorded in **Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14180, Page 213**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, 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 **01/19/2026** 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 12/03/2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder

12/11/2025

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **12/30/25 at 10:00AM** at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle

2009 Subaru Forester
Registration#/State: 3KZD21/MA
VIN: JF2SH63649H711995
Name and address of owner:
Bradley Thane
27 Morse Ave., Apt. 1
Ware, MA01082

2017 Yamaha YZFR3
Motorcycle
Registration#/State: none
VIN: MH3RH06YXHK017063
Name and address of owner:
Misael Enamorado Ramos
27 Studley Ave.
Brockton, MA 02301
Maya Gidopoulos & Dennzel Davis
20 Sorel Rd.
Ware, MA 01082

By: James M. Regin
Dated: 12/8/2025

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A
12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0746EA Estate of:

George V. Boudreau Also Known As: George V. Boudreau, Sr. Date of Death: 10/27/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **George V. Boudreau, Jr. of of Danielson, CT**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

George V. Boudreau, Jr. of of Danielson, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/11/2025

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

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The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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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 \$288,000.** 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 \$194,000.** 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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