

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 137 No. 46

16 Pages

(Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

PVTA to restore and enhance shuttle service

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Representatives from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission presented information about upcoming changes to the services the PVTA offers.

At the Dec. 7 meeting held at the Ware Senior Center, Paul Burns-Johnson, director of Transit Operations at PVTA said there will be increased fixed route service thanks to an increase in funding from the state. The increase will restore service to Ware and Palmer that had been reduced in 2017.

“We expect no negative impacts,” Burns-Johnson said of the changes to service, as the increased routes are just reinstating routes that had already existed.

Burns-Johnson said the PVTA is taking an incremental approach to adjusting the service, which includes expanding weekend hours throughout the region, restoring service that was reduced due to staffing shortages and increasing the frequency on all routes to 30 minutes or less.

Starting on Dec. 18, the PVTA will reinstate the Ware and Palmer circulators using two vans to provide more comprehensive service to each town. The current Ware and Palmer route is serviced by only one van.

Additional service to the Wilbraham Big Y will also be added, bringing the total number of connections to Springfield to six each day. The Ware shuttle will connect to Springfield via the Wilbraham Big Y van and the Palmer shuttle will connect to Union Station in Springfield.

Burns-Johnson said PVTA riders can also connect from the Ware shuttle to Palmer, in order to travel to Union Station.

“Customer service can assist

Please see **PVPTA**, page 3

Holiday Flair’s annual tree lighting brought Santa to town



See more photos on page 8.

Santa Claus arrived in Ware the Friday after Thanksgiving, helping to light Main Street and the Christmas tree at Veterans Park.

Warren CDAC discuss future projects in town

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met at the end of November to discuss future projects in town.

Grant programs

A series of updates were shared about grant programs that have been beneficial to the town of Warren and their streets. It was first shared with the committee that Warren is in the works of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program and a hazard mitigation plan.

Once approved, the town can be awarded funding from the state to complete vulnerability assessments.

The CDAC continued by discussing further updates for their Open Space and Recreation Planning and updates on Lucy Stone Park.

According to Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission representative Chris Dunphy, there is an open space opportunity at Lucy Stone Park. The park on Old West Brookfield Road welcomes walkers, fisherman, paddlers, and families who

want to picnic or play in a beautiful setting.

Open Space planning Recreation planning reflects the needs of its community members.

The town also partakes in a grant for Community One Stop for Growth and is working on a master plan for Prospect Street and Otis Street. The CDAC is working on a grant for a complete rehabilitation on these streets.

CDAC is currently working on completing the master plan for Warren and these streets including Otis Street.

“An umbrella of construction, design, housing and planning,” said Dunphy of the project. Adding there are “multiple opportunities.”

The CDAC went over new energy management and Green Communities funding.

A new system was recently installed at Warren Community Elementary school that is energy efficient. Other initiatives are under advisement by the CDAC to try to include more new energy in the town of Warren.

Waterworks

The CDAC discussed concerns about the quality of water in town.

Please see **CDAC**, page 6

Class II car dealer license not renewed for Affordable Car

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the Police Department conducted a site visit of Affordable Car, 2089 Greenwich Road, after concerns were raised at a previous Select Board meeting.

During the site visit, the Police found 53 vehicles, along with car parts. No one from Affordable Car was on site at the time of the visit.

At the Dec. 11 Select Board meeting, Parker said the Police Department did make contact with owner Brian Gillespie the day after the site visit. She said

the Police requested to review the vehicle record book and were told by Gillespie that he hasn’t sold any cars this year.

Jim St. Laurent, co-owner of 2089 Greenwich Road, where Gillespie leases a building brought a witness to share her experience with Affordable Car.

“Within 100 miles the car died,” the woman said, after she had helped purchase a car for her granddaughter in October of 2021.

The Select Board voted not to renew the Class II license for Affordable Cars.

All other Class II and III licenses were renewed.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 5

Selectmen hear from business owners regarding ABCC complaint

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said the town was notified by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regarding complaints against several businesses in town for serving alcohol to a minor.

The Selectmen invited the business owners to their Dec. 7 meeting to discuss steps taken to prevent another incident from occurring.

“We’re just here to hear how have you strengthened your policies to make sure somebody

doesn’t get served in your establishment,” Dufresne said.

Glenda Morin of Glenda’s Pub said employees are TIPS certified and signs have been displayed in the building. She said there is a sign on the door requesting identification be shown before being served.

Warren Package Store owner Jiten Patel said his employees have since received TIPS certification. A display has also been made noting the need for proper identification.

This is the second warning Warren Package Store has received for serving a minor.

Alicia Rowland of Countryside

Pub said she has educated all employees to check identification, without exception. She now has an employee working in a management role to oversee the business, and she has sent people in to see if her employees will follow protocol, which they have.

Dufresne encouraged the business owners to continue being vigilant and ask for proper identification.

IT service provider

The Selectmen discussed renewing the town’s contract for information technologies with

Please see **WARREN**, page 3

Merry Christmas Main Street



WARE – The Ware Business and Civic Association’s Christmas Stroll gave holiday shoppers a chance to enjoy special sales and activities at local businesses and organizations this past Saturday. The Ware Center Meeting House set up their annual Tree and Wreath Festival in the Town Hall, bigger and better with each year it’s held.

See more photos on page 15.

Christmas trees came in all shapes, sizes and creative decorations.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Ware Flair continues with drive-thru at Grenville Park

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Ware Flair continued with a drive thru at Grenville Park this past Saturday night.

Hundreds of cars filled with residents were patiently awaiting the drive thru of wonderment as Grenville Park featured holiday lights, memories, and spirit. It was a busy day as volunteers came together to make this winter wonderland in Ware possible and come to life.

When the clock struck 5 p.m., the cars were ready to roll

Please see **DRIVE-THRU**, page 7



The Ware Flair’s Holiday drive-thru was held in Grenville Park this past Saturday night, offering holiday cheer for the whole community.

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WareRiverNews

Are You Old News?



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

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

Email your answers by Monday at noon to pouimette@turley.com.



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1991 showed Dorreen Borra, Jane Dolan, Ruth Nordhausen and Ursula Wright, presenting a proclamation designating 1991 as Warren's 250th anniversary year to the Selectmen (seated), Donald Nickerson and Kenneth Frazier.

Tombstone Trading Company

celebrates grand opening



Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. has moved into the newly renovated space at 126 West Main Street (Route 9).

Gun store moves to Ware from Brookfield

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – After a year in the making, Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. opened the doors to its new location at 126 West Main St., this past Saturday.

A crowd of eager customers, state and local officials, friends and family gathered to celebrate the occasion, and tour the newly renovated building that is fully stocked with all of your firearms needs.

"I'm absolutely blown away by the support," David Bourdeau, president of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. said at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Last year, Bourdeau announced that Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. would be relocating from Brookfield to Ware, where both Bourdeau and Vice President of Operations Jason Turcotte reside. He said it took them two years to find just the right location.

"When this opened up, it seemed to click," he said of the West Main Street site.

Bourdeau said he first started Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. in 1994 as a firearms training company, and became a full-service gun shop in 2002 in Brookfield.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Jason Turcotte (left), vice president of operations and David Bourdeau, president of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. cut the ribbon at their new location at 126 West Main St.

"I got my Federal Firearms License and started the business more or less as a hobby," Bourdeau said, above his longtime company Richard's Furniture, which he ran for over 30 years. Around 2004, Bourdeau decided to go into the firearms business full-time and close his furniture store.

Turcotte also joined the firearms industry after owning and operating

his own business, a website design company.

He started going to gun shows and eventually approached Bourdeau about becoming the store's manager, a role he took on in 2016.

"Since then, the two of us have worked hard," Turcotte said. Together

Please see **TOMBSTONE**, page 5



Customers browse the selection at Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.

Ware Senior Center events

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

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

ACTIVITIES

- Monday, Dec. 18**
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
6 p.m. Whist Party
- Tuesday, Dec. 19**
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9-10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class; registration starts at 5 p.m.)
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Wednesday, Dec. 20**
9 a.m. Tai-Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
- Thursday, Dec. 21**
9 a.m. Tai Chi

- 10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
6 p.m. Pitch (registration starts at 5 p.m.)
- Friday, Dec. 22**
Closed

LUNCHES DINE IN
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

- Reservations required by calling 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.
- Monday, Dec. 18**
Meatball Sub Sandwich with Cheese, Mandarin Orange Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Tuesday, Dec. 19**
Christmas Party
Chicken Marsala, Roasted Potatoes, Mushroom Gravy, Baby Carrots
*Dessert and Entertainment Courtesy of the Friends of the Ware Seniors Inc.
- Wednesday, Dec. 20**
Lazy Pierogi with Kielbasa, Pickled Beets, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, Dec. 21**
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Friday, Dec. 22**
Closed

OBITUARY POLICY

Ware River News

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



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



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NO REGULAR MENU

Wreaths arrive for Wreaths Across America Day

WARE – This past weekend, Foster Hill Transport delivered over 550 wreaths in preparation for Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Starting with a brief ceremony in Veterans Park at 10 a.m., volunteers will work to place a wreath on every veteran's grave in the town's four municipal cemeteries.

To sign up as a volunteer, visit the links for either sponsoring group: Scouts BSA Troop 281, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/175907> or WMS PTO, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/176743>. Interested volunteers can also call Wreaths Across America Chair Frank Bateman at 413-949-6517 and leave a message.



Submitted Photos
Foster Hill Transport delivered wreaths from Maine this past weekend, to be placed on the graves of veterans in Ware's municipal cemeteries on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The Department of Public Works unloaded the wreaths from the truck.



WARREN from page 1

service provider Northeast IT and concerns about the cost and quality of services provided.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Derick Veliz said they don't know how much other companies charge for similar services and he believes there is room for improvement.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said a vendor on the state bid list could provide them with quotes, but they would need to evaluate the town's system first. He said with the board's approval, that evaluation could happen within a month or so.

Ferrera said Northeast IT has been responsive to various departments' issues with email and technology.

The Selectmen tabled renewing the contract with Northeast IT until they reviewed quotes from other vendors.

Painting donation

Sylvia Buck of the Warren Historical Commission requested that the town accept an oil painting from the family of Shepard Blair. The painting is hanging in the Historical Commission's room.

Buck said Blair and his wife were active in the anti-slavery movement in the pre-Civil War era, and he died in 1883.

"It's a really nice painting, it's a really nice gift to receive," Buck said. "A person who was active in Warren and respected for the things he did."

Buck said she hopes to have an open house in the future to present the painting to the public.

The Selectmen voted unanimously to accept the painting.

Letters of support

Buck asked for the Selectmen's support for the Historical Commission's application for National Register recognition for the South Warren Cemetery.

She said the cemetery started as a family cemetery, and there are 46 known burials there. Buck said they have researched those buried there, and the neighborhood around the cemetery.

The last burial in the cemetery occurred in 1852.

The care and maintenance of the cemetery has been referenced in town reports dating back well over a century, although no clear record of town ownership exists.

The Selectmen agreed to sign a letter of support for the National Register recognition, and discussed placing an article on a town meeting warrant to secure a title to the cemetery.

The Selectmen also signed a letter of support for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, regarding Verizon's application for the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Network's grant program.

If received, this grant will help to provide fiber optic service to unserved and underserved residents.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said he met with Tecton Architects along with Police Chief Gerald Millette and Fire Chief Adam Lavoie to discuss the proposed public safety complex. He said there is additional information that will be presented to the Board

of Selectmen during the Jan. 11 meeting at 6 p.m.

Ferrera said they also met with Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson to discuss potential challenges at proposed public safety complex locations.

Ferrera said town counsel is working on negotiations between Comcast, the town and the Cable Advisory Committee.

"We should be having something of a final document by the end of this week...or early next week," Ferrera said, with a hearing to be held by the end of the year, or early in the new year.

The Selectmen said a hearing with Comcast will be scheduled for the Jan. 4 meeting.

Ferrera said town staff held a luncheon to celebrate the retirement of the Tax Collector and Veteran's Agent, and also to recognize the Town Accountant before she takes her new position in another municipality, as well a staff member going on maternity leave. He said the town's new Veteran's Agent has started and her office hours are Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tax rate

Ferrera said the fiscal year 2024 tax rate has been set at \$15.07 per \$1,000 valuation; a decrease of \$.73 from the previous fiscal year.

Petty cash

The Board of Selectmen approved \$50 in petty cash for the Assessor's to cover the cost of postage.

Selectboard members address car dealer license renewals

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley presented a list of annual renewals for Class I, II and II car dealer licenses for businesses in town, including any complaints received against them and resolutions.

All but one renewal application was received on time. The remaining application will be voted on at a later meeting.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, Selectboard members voted in favor of renewing the licenses with Keith Kruckas abstaining and Jack Cascio opposed. Both Kruckas and Cascio said they did not want to sign the licenses until each applicant had checked off every box on the checklist.

The Selectboard renewed the licenses as presented, but only signed those with complete department reviews.

Town Hall hours

Kruckas said there are numerous times he has come into the Town Hall at 8 a.m., only to find that certain offices aren't opening until 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.

Beckley said hours of operations are generally 8 a.m.-4 p.m., but with small departments, if someone is out, there will be times an office has to close, even during regular hours.

Kruckas questioned Town Clerk Selectboard member Nancy Talbot about her office being closed one morning. Talbot explained that her assistant has been out sick, and she has to close the office when she steps out of the building.

Water Department update

The Water Department's second flushing of the year was unable to be done due to the shortage of staff. It will be completed in the spring.

Kruckas questioned why the department hasn't hired anybody to fill the vacant position, and why the town wasn't advertising it. He said without a full department, they are setting the current staff "up for failure."

Beckley said the Water Department is also working on having trees removed around the Church Street tank in order to place a fence mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mary Lane Hospital

Beckley thanked Michelle Holmgren from Baystate Health for working to preserve a portrait of Mary Lane Gilbert, the namesake of the former Mary Lane Hospital.

The painting will be given to the Historical Commission. Holmgren also gave a small table to the Historical Commission, which Mary Lane Gilbert used to sit at.

Beckley said the Historical Commission will be having a hearing regarding the demolition of one of the houses (located at 89 South St.) and the hospital property on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. in the Selectboard meeting room. He said the hearing will move upstairs in the Town Hall if the room exceeds capacity.

Gatehouse roof

Beckley said he printed the designs for the gatehouse building roof on Buckley Court and has ordered the state prevailing wages.

PVPTA from page 1

you with planning your trip," Burns-Johnson told residents in attendance at the meeting.

He said that PVTA's dial-a-ride service would continue as is, and it will not be changed by the increased fixed route service.

Burns-Johnson said the PVTA hopes to provide additional weekend service starting in the spring of 2024, shifting the fixed route shuttle to a seven day a week service.

PVTA will also enhance the P21E (Springfield/Holyoke via I-391) and G73E (Springfield-

Northampton via Holyoke Mall) routes on Dec. 24. This includes improved frequency of trips and Sunday service for the G73E route.

Both P21E and G73E will increase to 30-minute frequencies in the spring.

Burns-Johnson said people may submit comments regarding the enhancements by emailing PVTA at comments@pvta.com, calling 413-732-6248 extension 2237 or mailing PVTA, c/o Paul Burns-Johnson, 2808 Main St., Springfield, MA 01107.

Comments will be accepted until Dec. 20.

"We'll send them out to six contractors at least, but make it available for all," he said.

Wreaths Across America

Beckley said a ceremony will be held at Veterans Park starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16 for Wreaths Across America Day. Following the ceremony, volunteers will place wreaths on all veterans' graves in the town's municipal cemeteries.

Rescinded appointment

Selectboard members rescinded the appointment of Anna Burgos from the Ware Housing Authority. Burgos was appointed to the position about two years ago and has not fulfilled that role.

The position will be posted as a vacancy until the 2024 town election.

ARPA discussion

Cascio asked Beckley, how much of the town's American Rescue Plan Act money was remaining.

Beckley said there is about \$124,000 of ARPA that has not been allocated. The Selectboard has the final say over how ARPA funding is spent.

Flag policy

Beckley said Executive Assistant Nicole Croteau is currently drafting a flag policy for the town's flagpoles to be reviewed by town counsel.

Winter parking warnings

Beckley said the Police Department has been issuing winter parking ban warnings for vehicles parked on town streets. The winter parking ban went into effect as of Dec. 1.

Festive ornament craft available at the library

WARE – This month's Saturday Morning Craft at the Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St. will be making festive ornaments on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This drop-in activity is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and materials are available while supplies last.

Friends of the Library host lotto calendar fundraiser

WARE – The Friends of the Library are hosting a lotto calendar fundraiser for the month of January, with proceeds to support programs and events at the Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St.

Calendars are \$10 each and you have a chance at winning every day of the month. Prizes range from \$25-300, and winners will be notified by phone.

Only 1,000 calendars will be sold. For more information, stop by the library.

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LIFE TOGETHER

Bethlehem is closed.
Christmas is canceled.

Whatever our belief or unbelief in a higher power, we seek hope. Muslims have experienced a shutdown of the Temple Mount, and Jews have experienced violence at the Wall.

In the current war believers in Gaza and Israel includes Christians, Muslims, and Jews, and those who claim no faith in any god, yet, still suffer a shutdown of their security, food, water, and future.

Some cringe when they say, "Merry Christmas" and prefer "Happy Holidays". We search for appropriate words to express our own shutting down; our own uncertainty, our own fears.

It is a chaotic time; what is the truth? Whom can we trust? How do we "trust and verify"? The intractable war in the Middle East sends shock waves throughout our world.

20,000 Palestinians and 1400 Jews killed, including thousands of children.

Each day both sides lose more, and Gaza is leveled. The nightmare has destroyed the hope of a two-state solution.

As we honor many religious traditions and rituals, we are called to remember that, as Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that". Right now, those in Gaza see no light at the end of the tunnel, yet they hope.

The Season of Hanukkah and Christmas are a season of hope. Ramadan in March and April of 2024 is a season of reflection, obedience and hope.

Today our Life Together is challenged by war, division, hate, and great suffering and death. We are a people of hope in the midst of hopelessness.

May we renew our hope as we hold on to each other and our beliefs. May we find words to express love, peace, and reconciliation.

We have been warned about extremism; Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor Patriotic. Blurred lines of church and state put us all at risk, no matter what our belief system may be.

We look forward to peace and reconciliation in the Middle East and in our own country.

We are all called to serve others, especially those in the margins of our society. To comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, shelter the unhoused and lonely, and embrace the depressed, the addicted, and mentally ill.

Remember: "Darkness intensifies so Grace can abound, Grace abounds so Darkness can be transformed", from the book by Jim Garrison, "Globalization and the Transformation of Power".

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Holy Ramadan.

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

Experiment with
American Holly seeds

I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) are native

plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too!

It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pretreatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots. Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new, bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

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

LETTER
TO THE EDITORFree Christmas dinner
hosted by the United
Church of Ware

During the week of Thanksgiving then on Thanksgiving morning this year an amazing thing happened in Ware.

A dedicated and amazing group of people came together to, cut pies and sweet bread, cut 100 pounds potatoes, cooked and mash potatoes and squash, made stuffing and gravy and to those that cut up 22 cooked turkeys, in order to package over 250 meals including delivery and take-out.

There are not enough words to thank all those who generously donated their time, and the items needed to put this meal together.

A thank you also to St. Mary's Church, Trinity Church, and the Weir River Social Club for the use of their ovens to help cook the donated turkeys, to those that donated money to help offset the cost of the meals, and to Country Bank whose employees came in to peel and cut 125 pounds of squash.

However, even with the great success at Thanksgiving, we not yet done for the year.

We now move on to the free Christmas Dinner meal of ham, candied carrots, mashed potatoes, rolls, pies, and sweet cakes. Last year approximately 190 Christmas meals were delivered or picked up.

Donations of hams, carrots, red skin potatoes, Hawaiian sweet rolls, pies and sweet cakes would be appreciated and can be dropped off at the United Church of Ware at 49 Church St. Cash donations are always appreciated to offset the cost of any items not donated.

Any cash donations left over after any left-



over costs of the meals have been covered, are placed into the United Church of Ware Fuel Heating Fund and used for those in the community that are in need of assistance during the winter months. This can only be accomplished with the generous support of businesses and individuals in the community.

We are already seeing an increased request for assistance for this winter that has just began.

If you wish to order a meal(s), all you need do is call the United Church of Ware at 413-967-9981, if you get the answering

machine, please leave your name, address, phone number, and number of meals you need and if you want the meal delivered or will pick it up. The church secretary will call you back to confirm.

You can also call Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686.

Thank you all for your continued support, and Happy Holidays to you all.

Dave Blessinger, Chairperson

I'm returning to work;
what should I do about
Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way?

I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligi-

ble for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67.

For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit.

Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily

Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later.

If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA,

will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record...)

That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs

them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox

sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with



Fox sparrow

seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodious than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee news-

letter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Senej Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways.

The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

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

Send opinions to:
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**The deadline for
submissions is
Monday at noon.**

Turley Election
Policy

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

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

Friends of Ware Town Hall fundraiser a huge success

WARE – Dec. 3 was a cold and rainy day this year, but inside the Ware Senior Center there was warmth, light, and a lot of chatter and laughter.

Thirty-two ladies were gathered there for a fundraiser workshop organized by Friends of Ware Town Hall and instructed by Tina Bemis of Bemis Farms Nursery in Spencer. Those attending went home with a smile and a beautiful “traffic stopping” winter porch pot which should last through the winter months.

“It was a fun event, everyone attending seemed to have enjoyed themselves, many coming with friends and/or family members. We were very pleased with the turnout and plans are already being made for more workshops next year,” said Pat Skutnik, president of the group in a press release. “We plan on having more workshops next year, they’ve been very successful.”

Skutnik said the Friends are also excited about their annual “Giving Campaign” which is currently in progress.

“It has been our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we hope this year will be as successful,” she said.

Friends of Ware Town Hall is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to raise funds to help restore Ware’s Town Hall: Anyone wishing to send a donation to Friends of



Participants were able to create their own custom porch pot.



Many enjoyed making festive winter porch pots with Bemis Farms Nursery at the Friends of the Ware Town Hall’s fundraiser.



Friends of the Ware Town Hall held a successful fundraiser, helping to continue their efforts to preserve the historic building.

Submitted Photos
Ware Town Hall may do so by sending a check to P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082.

Bemis Farms Nursery provided a variety of natural materials, along with colorful accents to brighten your doorstep during the winter months.

HARDWICK from page 1

Interim fire chief

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said they need to notify the State Fire Marshal in their decision to appoint Deputy Chief Joshua Pease to interim Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Raymond Walker said Pease has been on the Fire Department for 14 years, and the past two years Pease has taken online classes.

“He has completed the necessary steps as far as the Fire Chief’s position,” Walker said.

The Select Board voted to appoint Pease as interim Fire Chief, and will negotiate his pay rate at a later date.

Citizen’s concerns

Kat Riley from the Whistle Stop Restaurant said she has been working with the town to bring a train to her site, and increase the number of jobs available to residents.

“It’s been well over a year that I’ve worked on this,” she said, citing issues she’s experienced with the Building Inspector.

Riley said she shouldn’t have to go from person to person to seek help through this process when the Building Inspector could help her from the start. She said others have shared similar complaints.

“I think that we could do a lot here,” Riley said, with the extension of her building.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim requested that Riley submit a letter, regarding her concerns.

Conservation restriction

Conservation Commission Chair Bill Zinni said they have been working with the East Quabbin Land Trust to conserve several properties, including 34.5 acres owned by EQLT in Wheelwright, located near the rail trail and the Ware River.

Zinni said the parcel has 2,700 feet of frontage along the river that is priority wildlife habitat, wetlands, and has an existing walking trail and more. There is no road access to the parcel.

The Select Board voted to accept the conservation restriction on the property.

Cable proposal

Parker said she was contacted by Matrix, a cable service company, seeking to service parts of Spring Hill Road in Barre and surrounding roads. Matrix worked in the town of Petersham to bring cable to unserved areas.

Parker said Matrix will submit more information about their service at a January meeting.

Annual renewals

The following liquor licenses were renewed for 2024: Hardwick Crossing, Hardwick House of Pizza, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, Hardwick Rod and Gun Club, Eagle Hill School Foundation, Hardwick Market and Package Store, Old Furnace General Store, Mimi’s Coffeehouse, South Barre Rod and Gun Club and Lost Towns Brewing Company.

EV charging stations

Parker said the electric vehicle charging stations have been installed but they are not online yet.

TOMBSTONE from page 2

they have brought Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. into the top nine gun stores, competing with some of the big chain stores.

Turcotte is also a trainer at Tombstone Trading Company, Inc., and he said there are over 600,000 people with gun licenses in the commonwealth, with a higher concentration in this region.

Training is of the utmost importance for Turcotte and Bourdeau, with Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. offering an approved firearms safety class, in addition to other classes, based on interest and availability of instructors.

“We started as a training company,” Bourdeau said. “It’s the most important thing.”

Turcotte said in over 20 years, the instructors have put “thousands and thousands” of people through firearms classes.

“You have to understand that firearms are a passion,” Bourdeau said.

People from all walks of life share that same passion Bourdeau and Turcotte said, regardless of political, social and economic backgrounds, with all supporting 2nd Amendment rights.

“The [gun] laws are in political context, not the people,” Bourdeau said. “Not everyone is in a box.”

On its opening day, customers browsed Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.’s expansive supply of firearms, ammunition and accessories, ranging from black powder to fully automatic.

“We wanted a shop that offered everything,” Bourdeau said. “There’s something for everyone.”

Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. even has a broad selection of military and collectible firearms, dating back to the days of early



Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier, state Reps. Donnie Berthiaume and Todd Smola and state Sen. Peter Durant listen as David Bourdeau speaks to those in attendance at the grand opening of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.

militia.

“We’ve had Revolutionary War guns that came through the building,” Turcotte said. “Many if not most of these firearms have seen action,” he added, pointing to the back wall.

Bourdeau said he hopes to someday own a single action Army revolver that was owned by a famous historical person (perhaps Wyatt Earp).

Turcotte said he already owns his favorite historic gun, a 1911 pistol made in 1913 and used in the Battle of the Bulge. Thinking about what this gun saw in battle gives him goosebumps, Turcotte said.

In the season of giving, Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. is looking to support the

town’s emergency responders, with a raffle to be drawn before Christmas. Four guns donated by the company will be raffled off, with proceeds to be divided between the Ware Police and Fire departments.

Raffle tickets are available at Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. during open hours.

“We truly want to be stewards of the community,” Turcotte said. Both Bourdeau and Turcotte thanked town officials for making the transition smooth.

“The support has been phenomenal,” Bourdeau said. “From Town Hall to the Water Department, everybody made us feel tremendously welcome.”

Turcotte said all of the department heads they worked with

were quick with a response to any question they had.

“The town has been absolutely amazing,” Turcotte said.

About Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.

Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For the holiday shopping season, they will also be open on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, people may visit tombstonetrading.com, call 508-867-6800, email shop@tombstonetrading.com or follow them on Facebook.

BACKYARD from page 4

minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don’t know her exact age.

We only know for sure that she was at least 3 years old in 1993. However, loons don’t hatch chicks, on average until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who

said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared.

He said, “maybe that’s part of it.” He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about.

Here’s hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, “On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.”

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

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Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

education

Quaboag Regional Middle High School lists honor roll

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced the first quarter honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 12, 1st Honors

Ethan Araujo, Ty Armitage, Camrin Bolduc, Alexandra Cacace, Antonio Congelos, Olivia Dumas, Chloe Fredette, Lily Gianfriddo, Cameron Giroux, Jason Houle, Ayla Iwaniec, Dawson Kelly, Rachel McGrath, Hanna Nemeroff, Asya Osei-Opoku, Dennis Pease, Thomas Robidoux, Kenady Sloan, Riley Sloan, Owen Stevens, Haileigh Swistak, Alina Taro and Matthew Tiberii.

Grade 12, 2nd Honors

Mason Blount, Aeron Bridges, Isabelle Burgess, Zachary Carlson, Matthew Carter, Raven Casey, Emily Cieslak, Genesis Dembowski, Evelyn Doe, Bryce Douglas, Laine Hatstat, Christian Judd, Paige Leach, Abigail Long, Ryan Miner, Selina Mohamed, Isabella Paolucci, Aurora Powers, Hunter Regan, Joseph Standrowicz, Patrick Toomey and Cole Waz.

Grade 12, 3rd Honors

Lillian Black, Aidan Flood, Kendall LaRiviere, Evan Long, Samantha Martin, Aiden McManaman, Laura Orne, Jaden Ostigu, Dylan Piazza, Lily Potvin, Arianna Russell and Alexander Russo.

Grade 11, 1st Honors

Isabelle Aberle, Aviendha Andreoli, Jacque Boulais, Lila Broadley, Samuel Carrasco, Abigail Jolin, Elise Kopec, Joshua Leaming, Dante Martino, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Blake Merrill, Matthew Miller, Alessa Parks, Nora Pennington-Russell, Norah Schwenker, Katelynn Swistak, Sydney Tracy, Parker

Tunley and Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon.

Grade 11, 2nd Honors

Mackenzie Archambault, Juliette Boos, Casyn Carpenter, Allison Duszlak, Michael Enetzlis, Izaiah Flores, Lauren Grover, Hailey Hennessey, Sadie May, Corah Neilsen, Madison Neilsen, Victoria Powell, Joseph Reynolds, Jarrett Shipman, Cristyna Tambolleo, Caydence Tetreault, Richard Tracy, Nina Vorobiova, Hart Waz and Makenna Williams.

Grade 11, 3rd Honors

Reilly Comptois, Skylar Cook, Daniel Hobart, Brasen Sauriol and Kandace Wilcox.

Grade 10, 1st Honors

Juliana Augusto, Kenadi Chenevert, Emma Dion, Kadin Dufault, Hayssa Freitas, Morgan Lakota, Gianna Lindsey, William Lopes, Reece Miner, Olive Moulton, Madison Sears and Kyle Withers.

Grade 10, 2nd Honors

Madic Andreoli, Emma Astrella, Madelyn Bagg, Jaylin Bailey, Milo Biedron, Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace, Megan Cline, Gretchen Conn, Brennan Doe, Madeline Dufresne, Gabriela Feeney, Serenitee Gagnon, Briana Hawk, Landon Hogan, Alison Jones, Brayden Lopato, Jackson McGarry, Kaitlyn Nault, Lily Nimitz, Camden Olivo, Jacob Plante, Madeline Potvin, Madison Schreier, Grace Smart, Lennon Smith, Camden Williams and Ashton Winders.

Grade 10, 3rd Honors

Saharah Ackerman, Isabelle Bellizzi, Isaac Cowher, Evangeline Iwaniec, Lily Lancey, Mia Letendre, Jason Read, Gabrielle

Riendeau, Makayla Savoie, Jack Stevens, Matthew Twomey and Elijah Wilhelm.

Grade 9, 1st Honors

Logan Baldwin, Riley Black, Devlyn Bridges, Sierra Brote, Ava Cassavant, Haylee Dumont, Brielle Gerulaitis, Riley Gray, Josephine Hescocock, Lucian Kerkow, Emma Landine, Lyndie Miller, Kasey Narov, Jonah Phillips, Persephone Piermarini, Brea Sauriol and Lillian Sturges.

Grade 9, 2nd Honors

Jennifer Adams, Cameron Bennett, Kira Bouchard, Abigail Degnan, Hunter Dodson, Jade Fontaine, Scott Garrand, Tina Hamm, Amarie Martino, Lani O'Clair, Leo Paquette, Mallory Piazza, Caden Prinsen, Asher Sargent, Brielle Sullivan, Jasmine White and Gavin Williams.

Grade 9, 3rd Honors

Cameron Aponte, Thomas Bellizzi, Sylvia Dube, Alexis Gauthier-Vanderpuy, Aiden Gundlach, Jackson Gundlach, Brianna Hubbel, Patrick Needham, Christian Rudz, Steven Smith and Reed Waz.

Grade 8, 1st Honors

Anthony Araujo, Violet Atwood, Jack Beall, Andrew Boudreau, Yesenia Carrasco, Cadence Cieslak, Riley Corder, Ayden Laird, Austin Letourneau, Nathen Louis, Alyssa Lussier, Bryann Lussier, Isabelle Manzano, Aydan Marsh, Lilianna McIsaac, Emma Nault, Victoria Paradis, Jonas Rossi, Maeve Smith, Connor S n a y, Logan Spring, Caroline Stevens, Buddy Stocks, Leah Thomasian, Jontae Todd and Natalia Veliz-Baldizon.

Grade 8, 2nd Honors

Maci Astrella, Mackenzie Bennett, Travis Bigda, Liam Bray,

Lincoln Brown, Julisa Carrasco, Allie Choquette, Rolando Galvan, Olivia Hebert, Julianna Hibbard, Evelyn Lyon, Robert Menard, Kourtney Nichols, Lucia Norman, Hunter Oldenburg, Hunter Pietrzak, Hannah Pytel, Cooper Rose, Izaak Santiago, Isabella Santos, Theodore Sexton, William Sexton, Stephanie Smith and Maggie Taro.

Grade 8, 3rd Honors

Harper Bradley, Julie Chenier, Ronin Czub, Jazmine O'Clair, Gabriel Ortiz, Addison Peloquin, Payton Schreier, Tyler Snow and Emily Tobiasz.

Grade 7, 1st Honors

Elaina Amoros, Kayla Barrett, Louis Beauregard, Teagan Bessette, Annabelle Bloom, Jaden Boudreau, Lyric Bradley, Kamryn Chenevert, Grayson Contacos, Igor Costa, Davin Douglas, Abigail Landine, Kennah Martino, Desmond McElroy, Delaney Merkel, Stella Paquette, Travis Pensinger, Julia Queiroga, Jonathan Reynolds, Cyedrin Salcines, Evalina Santos, Maxwell Sturges and Audrey Wilhelm.

Grade 7, 2nd Honors

Zoey Adams, Shawn Chobot, Peyton Damon, Cayden Dupell, Aiden Galarneau, Gianni Holland, Brody Kenney, Samuel LeClair, Hayden McAnuff, Ariah Miller, Logan Parks, Mia Parsons, Adelina Petersen, Sage Raba, Arie Robbins, Jadynn Stanikmas, Andrew Sternowski, Ryder Tunley and Hunter Wilk.

Grade 7, 3rd Honors

Bryce D r o l e t , D e c l a n Ferguson, Keilynn Grieco, Jayden Jablonski, Makayla Towlson and Elle Waz.

Quabbin High lists first quarter honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the first quarter honor roll.

Grade 9, High Honors

Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, Benjamin Darcey, Jack Desjean, Tess Dunphy, Anna Hautala, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Ella Reeves and Brandan Welch.

Grade 9, Honor Roll

Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Carter Bassett, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, James Cook, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Brody Faucher, Quinlan Fauteux, Grace Flamand, Alijah Flint, Kathryn Ford, Jacoby Hartshorn, Violet Kelley, Sadie Kennan, Jillian LaMontagne, Alisha LaRange, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Mia Miville, Samantha O'Connor, Owen O'Donnell, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Nahdiya Pena Leary, Julia Quintal, Arianna Riendeau, Emma Ryan, Kailynn Schuster, Sienna Shaw, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Ellary White and Leanna Zou.

Grade 10, High Honors

Aaron Bodine, Micah Cerezo, Kenzie Gallagher, Elizabeth Mattheson and Zoe Orellana Cadenas.

Grade 10, Honor Roll

Owen Breuer, Tricia Brusio, Troy Budreau, Kylee Costello, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer, Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Evelyn Giese, Ava Gilman, Madeleine Hardy, Adelaide Harmon, Ian Haupt, Emma Kahlau, Samuel Kane, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lindley, Madison Lyden, Grace

Manna, Hunter McQueston, Garrett Pease, Parker Proulx, Wesley Sanderson, Allison Sprankle, Madelyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Andrew Warfield, Bianca Wilder, Farah Wojcik, Aiden Woodruff and Jin Xi Zou.

Grade 11, High Honors

Kevin Boles, Matthew Erickson, Isabel LaBelle, Ethan Salvatore, Irene Stolgitis and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 11, Honor Roll

Alexander Bedard, Kaeliana Boucher, Ava Conlee, Teaghan Earle, Adam Faulha, Angelina Feliciano, Ellie Frost, Samuel Guertin, Rylee-Anne Hart, Lianna Leger, Kun Liu, Vincent Marinelli, Veronika Mendrek, Alexandra Pease, Ezequiel Santoro, Sadie Sheldon, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Richard Tucker and Abigail Ure.

Grade 12, High Honors

Baylee Garcia, Kylie Casey, Sophia Januszewski, Grace LaValley, Ally Legare, Camryn Orsini, Eleanor Thompson, Michael Tobin, Benjamin Vasseur, John Waltz and Brianna Whitelaw.

Grade 12, Honor Roll

Annabel Audino, Conner Breeds, Brianna Caponigro, Evan Cole, Samantha Dube, Jady Gonzalez, Colin Harmon, Carsyn Harty, Emmah Hinckley, Abigail Hughes, Jaxon Kelley, Gavin Majoy, Joshua Marcotte Jr, Kelsey Marsh, Emma Masser, Cole Morrill, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Julianna Stanger, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart, Lillian Swett, Gracie Talbot, Seth Twarog and Nicholas Whitelaw.

Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 20th annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2023 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.

Gilbertville Public Library receives new flag at Veterans Day ceremony

GILBERTVILLE – A new flag is flying at the Gilbertville Public Library courtesy of state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant.

The legislators donated the flag, which was flown over the Massachusetts State House, and presented it to Library Director Linda Payne and Eileen Giard, chairman of the library's Board of Trustees during a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

Berthiaume, a U.S. Navy veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance after he and Durant raised the new flag.

The legislators also toured the library, which was newly built and dedicated in 1913 and, save for a new, accessible entrance added in 2002, remains essentially as it was then with cathedral hardwood ceilings and ornamental woodwork.

A new solar light, donated by a U.S. Air Force veteran who was raised in Hardwick is set to be installed soon.



Submitted Photo
Library Director Linda Payne, state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, state Sen. Peter Durant and Library Trustees chairman Eileen Giard, recite the Pledge of Allegiance beneath the library's new flag.

Young Men's Library Association lists ongoing programs

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St., offers regular weekly and monthly programs.

For more information, stop by the library, call 413-967-5491 or visit www.warelibrary.org.

Weekly Programs

Drop by Story Stars with Mrs. Desjardins on Mondays at 4:30

p.m. or Story Time and Craft with Miss Cathy on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Take & Make Craft Bags featuring a new craft each week are available in the Children's Room lobby.

Monthly Programs

Lego Club is held every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

and Lego Anytime with bags of assorted Legos is available to use in the library anytime.

Kids Bingo is held the last Thursday of the month from 4:30-5:30 p.m., first come, first serve.

Music with Caylin is held the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. for ages birth-5.

Saturday Morning Craft is held once per month and dates vary.

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Space reservation deadline is January 3rd.

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CDAC from page 1

Over the course of the last 15-20 years, systems tend to be disrupted when maintenance work is going on.

The CDAC said that water will clear up in time and Warren residents will expect more clean water in the next couple of months moving forward.

Community Development Block Grant

For new projects under the Community Development Block

Grant, surface improvements will be made on School Street in the spring.

Other proposed projects are under review as are income surveys as the town looks to work on other locations in Warren such as River Street, Central Street, Pulaski Street and Cutter Park. Eligibility for certain projects are still to be determined as income surveys are still being taken.

For Cutter Park, the CDAC is looking for design improvements and ideas for future construction work. Before any initiated plans,

the committee wants to discuss with the Parks Department and figure out what they want to do with projects in the park and in the town common.

For future projects for street work, the CDAC passed a motion to add River Street to the CDBG grant application.

Upcoming meeting

The next Community Development Advisory Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 4 p.m.



Greeters welcomed drivers to the Holiday Flair drive thru at Grenville Park.



Many of the lights and decorations display holiday cheer.



Santa Claus on his sleigh greeting hundreds of guests at the Holiday Flair drive thru.

Ware's Holiday Flair Drive-Thru



A peaceful manager scene gave meaning to the Christmas season

DRIVE-THRU from page 1

into Grenville Park and were greeted gracefully by numerous characters. Lights at every corner featured snowmen, reindeer, nutcrackers, Christmas trees and elves.

As you entered downhill, the entire park was lit by joy, music, and familiar holiday characters to brighten the famous Ware Holiday Flair.

Visiting the Holiday Flair was The Grinch, Mickey Mouse and Jack and Sally from "The Nightmare Before Christmas".

There was also a scene from the Nutcracker being played as cars drove by. The Nutcracker was battling the evil Mouse King as the soundtrack from the legendary story was played.

Anna and Elsa from "Frozen" greeted the guests driving by and sang the song "Let it Go". Across from them was a beautiful display of Santa's toy shop provided by Western Props Warehouse.

Towards the end of the drive, many elves were handing out candy canes to the drivers.

The finale included a warm greeting from Santa Claus as he was sitting in his sleigh wishing every visitor a Merry Christmas. Being pulled by his reindeer, Santa enjoyed his time visiting the Holiday Flair as Grenville Park.

The drive thru was made possible by generous sponsors. The sponsors included Cluett's, Country Bank, Pennington Painting Co, Brookside Mart, Inc., Hakim Medical PC, Moulton Insurance Agency, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Pioneer Valley Environmental, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co. and Sherman Oil.

The Holiday Flair is a fun tradition in the community of Ware that brightens the night at Grenville Park for hundreds of residents in the community to enjoy.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Grenville Park becomes a winter wonderland filled with lights, cheer and spirit.



Inflatable displays featured adorable characters.



Swans a swimming during the Holiday Flair at Grenville Park.



Anna and Elsa greeting visitors at Holiday Flair and singing Let it Go.



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This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it's time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!

The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness.

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Go to www.healthyquaboag.org to find vaccines near you.

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LEARN MORE



Brody Sylvester had a lot to share with Santa Claus.



Santa Claus arrived in Ware the Friday after Thanksgiving, helping to light Main Street and the Christmas tree at Veterans Park.

Santa is here!



Paige LaBombard smiles at the crowd during a dance routine by Dance Unlimited.



Charlotte Johnson and Lillian Kaczuwka wore matching cow hats to the festivities.



Kellyann Kaiser and Ian Goudreau brought their youngest daughter Avere (along with her siblings Bailee and Landon) to see Santa Claus for the first time.



Each child received a silver jingle bell from Santa Claus.



Matthew Prescott dances in front of the Town Hall.

This young child was amazed when she saw Santa Claus arrive on a firetruck, courtesy of the Ware Fire Department.



Susan Kenney and her dog Charlie visited Veterans Park to see the tree lighting.



These brothers wore matching shirts for their visit with Santa Claus.



Turley Photos by Single Shot Photo (www.singleshotphoto.com) Mackenzie Lamb and Alyssa Hatch hold hands as they dance to holiday songs on Main Street during Dance Unlimited's annual tree lighting performance.



Chelsea Dufault, Meghan Lagimoniere, Brynn Lagimoniere and Lisa Dufault visit with Santa Claus.

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Panthers look for return to tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—For only the sixth time during the past 32 years, the Quabbin boys' varsity basketball team didn't qualify for the postseason tournament.

With only one senior and seven juniors listed on this year's varsity roster, the Panthers are still in the regeneration process.

"This is the youngest basketball team that I've coached since the 2003-04 season," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "We struggled that season, but we did win the Clark Tournament title and advanced to the semifinals of the Central Mass. Division 1 tournament in 2005. We just need to be very patient with this group of players."

The Panthers graduated five players from last year's team, which finished with a 4-16 overall record. They are Will Hood, Tyler Clark, Mark Halaby, Kyle Vander Baan, and Aidan Welch.

According to Dextradeur, the ramifications of the COVID 19 pandemic is still impacting his squad.

"The pandemic years without a program and facilities really set us back in a devastating way," he said. "We are dealing with the repercussions and results now. We didn't have a middle school program or a youth program for two years."

Under the direction of Tim Hay, who's one of the 1,000 point scorers in the history of the Quabbin boys' basketball team, the Quabbin Youth Basketball League is in the rebuilding process. The program has more than 300 participants this year.

"Tim Hay has done an outstanding job of rebuilding the youth basketball program, which is our feeder system," Dextradeur said. "We have more than 300 players playing in the league this year. We're hoping to get back to where we were before the pandemic started. We do have a great group of kids on the varsity basketball team."

The Panthers lone senior on the varsity roster is Nick Whitelaw, who's a forward.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy

Quinn Geary drives to the hoop.



Luke Salvatore with a left-handed layup.

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10



Jacoby Dilling with a hard-earned layup.

Indians hoping for improved season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— After winning four games two years ago and seven games last season, the Ware girls' varsity basketball team would like to reach double digits in victories this winter.

"I'm very excited about the start of the basketball season," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "This is a very good group of kids and they've been working very hard at practice. We qualified for the Western Mass. tournament last year, but we didn't play in the state tournament. Our goal for this season is to reach double digits in victories and qualify for both tournaments."

During his coaching career, Orszulak, who's a math teacher at Ware High School, has had the opportunity to coach all four basketball teams at his alma mater.

"I began my coaching career by coaching the j.v. boys' team. I then coached the boys' varsity team," he said. "After taking a couple of years off from coaching, I coached the girls' j.v. team before replacing Bernie Dulak as the girls' varsity coach seven years ago. I've had opportunities to coach basketball at other high schools in the area, but I'm a Ware guy. This is where I grew up and this is where I raised my kids. Ware is a very special

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Panthers prepare for regular season

BARRE – In their final tune-up before the start of the regular season, Quabbin girls basketball faced Monty Tech in a scrimmage late last week. The Panthers had a game scheduled Monday night to start the regular season, and are next in action on Friday, Dec. 15 at Hudson High School at 7 p.m.



Riley Bassett with a quick jump shot.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy



Mikalah Kingsbury passes through a crowd of defenders.



Hannah Baxter grabs a rebound and puts the shot up.



Brianna Whitelaw hits a three-pointer for the Panthers



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw in the first quarter.



Richie Gula reaches up to try and bring in a rebound.



Following a defensive rebound, Adrian Moskovitz sprints down the court.

Pioneers pick up season-opener victory

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder was aggressive early on and was able to score a win over Pioneer Valley

Christian School 58-46 in the season opener for both teams. The Pioneers remained on the road facing Mt. Everett earlier this week

and host Ludlow in its home opener this Friday evening at 7 p.m.



Adam Slonker takes a shot.



Seth Mitchell looks to get around an opponent and head for the hoop.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

T-Birds stuff Islanders on Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakob Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to

Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Walker was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game moved to 4-on-4 following matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put

the game out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a back-hander to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the game. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs

at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could muster on this night. Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play shorthanded, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – December has arrived in the 2023-2024 candlepin bowling season at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks has had momentum shifts happening so far in round two of their league. As of Nov. 28, Life is Good ranks #1 with a 7-1 record.

This past week, Life is Good bowled against Last in Line who is currently tied for fourth place in the 2nd round. In game one, Last in Line won a close game 333-329. In game two, Life is Good turned the tides by dominating game two 380-340.

Jeff Knight of Life is Good was over his average by bowling 106. Paul Cyr led the team confidently by scoring 122.

In game three, the two teams tied at 338 and received one point each. Life is Good won total pinfall by a final score of 1047-1011.

Blue B's bowled against Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs were victorious by a score of 389-374. In game two, The Champs won again 385-371. In game three, The Champs won 404-381 for the sweep. John Colkos of the Champs had a strong finish by scoring 121.

The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1126.

Team BK bowled against the 1st round winning team, Compression. In game one, Compression bowled well and took the first game 383-335. In game two, BK rebounded with a win of their own by a score of 376-315. In game three, BK managed to win the last game 372-

354. BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1083-1052.

Acres bowled against their average and won two out of three games.

Thursday Night Mixed League
The Thursday Night Mixed League witnessed a momentum shift as one team took over the #1 spot as of Nov. 30.

Team Six is the current leader with a record of 29-19 and is 1.5 points ahead of Team One. Team Three was the team to bowl Team One this past Thursday night. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 403-399.

In game two, Team One came back with a win 415-383. In game three, Team Three won the last game of the night 408-386.

Team One took total pinfall by a final score of 1200-1194. Each team received two points.

Team Five bowled against Team Two as both teams were trying to move up in the ranks before the conclusion of round one. In game one, Team Two was the winner in a close game 383-377. In game two, Team Five managed to come up with a close win 399-396. In game three, Team Two had a strong last game and won 448-412. Team Two took 3 out of 4 points as they won total pinfall 1227-1188.

Team Four bowled against the #1 seed Team Six. In game one, Team Six had a strong showing as they won 438-409. The first game victory was thanks to anchor bowler Ron who bowled 113, 28 pins over his current league average (85).

In game two, Team Six won a close game against Team Four, 429-428. In game three, Team Four won the last game of the night 426-402.

Team Six won total pinfall 1269-1263.

Railers suffer loss to Thunder

WORCESTER – The Railers dropped a 3-2 shootout to the Adirondack Thunder here Saturday before a loud Teddy Bear Toss crowd of 5,029. While Worcester did not dominate play in this one as much as it did in Friday's 4-2 triumph, the Railers had more and better chances than the Thunder.

However, Adirondack was 1 for 2 on its power plays, Worcester 0 for 1. This marked the ninth time in 21 games this season the Railers were outscored by the opposition on special teams. Worcester is 2-4-3 in those games.

The Railers did not get a power play until overtime. At 3:08 of the fourth period, something happened that typified the night. A Worcester shot rang off the post, rolled into the back of Thunder goaltender Vinnie Purpura, then bounced back towards the net.

It stopped on the goal line. Worcester outshot the visitors, 38-28. That included a 21-6 edge in the first period, which ended 1-1 but

could have been 5-1.

"Stay the course," was coach Jordan Smotherman's advice to his team in the dressing room. "That's two really good games out of us. We have 80 shots in two nights and we should win both those games. Obviously, we'll take the three-point weekend but prefer the four."

"There's a lot to build on." The seven-minute overtime was exactly what hockey's honchos had in mind when they thought up the idea. It was non-stop offense with great goaltending from Worcester's Tristan Lennox and Purpura, both of whom stopped five shots.

The shootout was the kind of thing hockey's honchos are trying to avoid. The teams traded slow-motion approaches to the net. Adirondack's Patrick Grasso had the only goal in eight tries, a 12-foot wrist shot along the ice.

Keeghan Howdeshell and Anthony Repaci had the Railers goals. Worcester never led. Jack Jeffers and Mike Gillespie scored for

Adirondack.

Howdeshell's goal came at 19:07 of the first period. It was set up by a physical play by Riley Piercey along the right boards. Repaci redirected a long pass from the right point by Todd Goehring at 13:33 of the second period.

In the last four games the Railers have outshot the opposition by 160-108 but have been outscored — goalies in the net — by 11-8. Worcester's shots have not been time-to-change lines softballs, either. The Railers are pummeling opposing goalies.

"It's the old adage in hockey," Smotherman said. "If you keep getting the chances they're gonna go in at some point. I'd rather be getting them than not."

Saturday night's game marked the 16th time the Railers and Thunder have met in the last 30 games going back to the end of last season. That ridiculous overload is almost over. The teams play just three more times this year, one of those games next week.

Hurricanes take win in season opener

WESTFIELD – Last Friday night, Amherst Regional hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, won its season opener against Southwick Regional at Amelia Park Arena in Westfield. Jack Dyjach had a hat trick in the 6-2 win. Cooper Beckwith, Joshua Goodhind, and Eric Chin also scored goals for the Hurricanes, which are 1-0 in its first week of action.

The Hurricanes face Agawam Dec. 14 followed by a home matchup with McCann Tech on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Orr Rink on the campus of Amherst College.

WARE from page 9

place to me."

The Ware High School gymnasium is named in honor of Paul Orszulak.

"My father was the Athletic Director at Ware High School for 29 years," Dan Orszulak said. "He did a lot of wonderful things for this school. He and my mother (Colleen) always come to my games. They were both teachers and all four of their kids also became teachers because of them. They were great examples for us."

The Lady Indians, who finished with a 7-13 overall record a year ago, lost at Hoosac Valley in the Western Mass. Class D quarterfinals.

Eight of the twelve players listed on the 2023-24 varsity roster are returners.

The only two players that the Lady Indians lost to graduation are Emma Jacobs and Cassie Pendleton, who recently wrapped up her freshman season as a member of the Fitchburg State University women's soccer team.

"Cassie and Emma Jacobs were our captains last year and they did a lot for us," Orszulak said. "Cassie averaged 15 points per game, which is a lot of points to make up. She averaged more points per game in one season than either Jordan Halgas or Aidyn Welsh did."

Both Halgas and Welsh finished their outstanding high school basketball careers with more than 1,000 career points.

Pendleton scored a team-leading 267 points as a senior.

"We'll have to find different ways to score this season," Orszulak said. "We'll need to have three or four players score points. We'll also need to play well defensively."

One of the seniors listed on this year's varsity basketball roster is Emily McGrail, who scored 157 points as a junior.

The other senior is Mia DiRienzo, who's a returning var-

sity player.

"Both of our seniors are great kids, and they've been staples of our basketball program for a long time," Orszulak said. "They're outstanding teammates and I'm really going to enjoy coaching both for one final season."

The five juniors listed on the Lady Indians varsity roster are Shelby Hogan, Kyla Campbell, Finn McFaul, Kaylee Gardner-Carreau, and Tory Finocchio, who didn't play last season because of a right knee injury.

"We're very happy to have Tory back on the court this year," Orszulak said. "She was a starter as a freshman and she's going to help us a lot."

While Hogan, Campbell, and McFaul are returning varsity players, Gardner-Carreau is a newcomer.

"Kaylee transferred to Ware High School from Wachusett Regional," Orszulak said. "She didn't play basketball for her high school team. She'll be one of our contributors this year."

The other returning varsity player is freshman Reese McKeever.

Rounding out the Lady Indians varsity roster are freshman Reagan Jacobs, freshman Emily Jones, and eighth grader Amelia Orszulak.

Ware, who are members of the Franklin South League, will be playing non-league games against Quaboag Regional and rival Palmer at the end of the regular season.

The Lady Indians kicked off the 2023-24 campaign with a 33-26 victory at Smith Academy, last Friday night. McGrail led the way offensively with a game-high 15 points. McKeever added six points, and Slattery chipped in with five points.

Ware was scheduled to host Athol in their home opener on Tuesday night.

The Lady Indians junior varsity/assistant varsity coach is Tim Simons.

Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the

Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will compete on all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note,

Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also join in on the Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is

officially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at www.speedsport.tv.

PANTHERS from page 9

"Nick is an outstanding defensive player," Dextradeur said. "He moves up and down the court very well. He's someone that the younger basketball players should watch during our games. He gets the most out of his ability."

The seven juniors are Kyle Clark, Quinn Geary, Frederick Jenoure, Luke Salvadore, Zeke Santoro, Bryce Venne, and Jaxon Warburton.

Whitelaw and Geary, who's a guard, were chosen as the Panthers co-captains. The duo are also returning varsity players.

"Naming the team captain was a community wide decision," Dextradeur said. "You can pick your captains, but you can't choose your leaders. Nick and Quin are our two leaders this year."

Geary, who's the only returning starter, was the Panthers leading scorer last season. He averaged nine points per game.

Clark, who's a power forward, is another returning varsity player.

Rounding out the Panthers varsity roster are freshman Jacoby Dilling, who's a returning varsity player, and eighth grader Brady Patchen.

"Jacoby and Brady are the only eighth graders to play for the varsity team during my coaching career," Dextradeur said. "They're learning how to compete at this

level from the older players."

Dextradeur coached Patchen's father, Harley, at the AAU level. He was a 1,000 point scorer at North Brookfield High School.

"Brady has a basketball mind and great instincts," Dextradeur said. "What we need to do is slow down the game for him. He has a very bright future."

The Panthers are a member of the Mid-Wach C League, along with Hudson, Maynard, Tyngsborough, Clinton, Littleton, and Gardner.

"All of the top teams in our league are returning their best players this season," Dextradeur said. "We're still in the rebuilding process, but we'll be trying to improve in every game. We're also hoping to qualify for the postseason tournament."

The Panthers, who haven't won a league title since 2020, are scheduled to play three games this week.

The season began with a home contest with Murdock on Monday night. After playing at Narragansett Regional on Wednesday night, the Panthers will be returning home to battle Hudson High School on Friday night.

The members of the Panthers coaching staff are Jason Ayer, who's an associate varsity coach, Eli Sulmasy, who's the j.v. coach, and Nick Farrell, who coaches the middle school boys team.



Kyle Clark a force under the basket.

Turley photo by Ray Duffy

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

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

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

public safety

Weekend fire displaces family; house deemed total loss

WEST BROOKFIELD – At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, West Brookfield Fire Department was toned for a fire at a residence at 319 Long Hill Road.

According to a press release from Fire Chief Richard Lapierre, at the time of the call, the deck attached to the house was on fire, and residents were evacuating. Car 1 signed on en route within a minute of the initial tone.

The address is four miles from the station in a southerly direction at the Warren town line. Halfway up Long Hill Road, Car 1 requested an engine from Warren Fire Department due to the location of the residence and because of the distance to get there.

Heavy smoke was visible from about a mile from the scene and Car 1 requested a second alarm assignment for outside the hydrant district.

On arrival Car 1 reported a working fire. Fire was visible from the rooftop and the entire back of the house. West Brookfield Engine 1 was first on

scene and pulled a line to the rear of the building to try to knock down the fire.

Warren Engine 3 was second on scene and pulled a line to the front of the house to try and make entry. At this point the fire was already coming from windows in the front of the house.

As crews arrived two more additional hand lines from West Brookfield Engine 1 were pulled to assist with extinguishment. At one point, the house integrity was compromised, and all crews were pulled from the building and a defense tactic was initiated until some control could be gained.

A rural hitch system was set up for water supply. As tankers arrived, they supplied water to the rural hitch and the scene maintained water throughout.

Lapierre said the home is a total loss as a result except for contents in the garage, basement and a few items on the first floor. The cause of the fire was determined by a District 7 Fire Investigation Unit member as

careless disposal of woodstove ashes under the deck from two days ago.

West Brookfield Fire Department would like to thank West Brookfield Rescue Squad for their rehab assistance with West Brookfield Emergency Management. Also, West Brookfield Police Department for their assistance as well as Warren Police Department.

Lapierre also thanked departments providing mutual aid, which included Warren Fire Department, Ware Fire Department, Brookfield Fire Department, Brimfield Fire Department, East Brookfield Fire Department, North Brookfield Fire Department, New Braintree Fire Department and Hardwick Fire Department.

Lapierre also thanked the Red Cross for their assistance with the family and National Grid for cutting power to the scene.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Dec. 4-12, the Ware Police Department responded to 21 miscellaneous calls, 21 administrative calls, 13 traffic violations, 19 emergency 911 calls, two animal calls, four harassments, two thefts/larcenies, four motor vehicle accidents, four frauds/deceptions, four trespasses and 35 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Dec. 4

9:32 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Canal Street, Services Rendered
9:51 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Fisherdick Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:36 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Church Street, Advised
3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:16 p.m. Service of Summons, North Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Jamor Smith, 40, Ware Warrant
10:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Upper Church Street, Investigated

Tuesday, Dec. 5

11:30 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Desantis Drive, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
2:04 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Wednesday, Dec. 6

9:47 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Report Made
3:13 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
4:31 p.m. Service of Summons, Church Street, Advised
Arrest: Shelby M. Perry, 24, Ware Warrant
8:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
10:20 p.m. Warrant Service, West Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Angel Rivera, 41, Springfield Warrant

Thursday, Dec. 7

12:22 p.m. Warrant Service, Upper Church Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Gregory M. Redmond, 34, Ware
Child Pornography, Possess, 2nd Offense
2:03 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Report Made
8:05 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Pulaski Street, Dispatch Handled

Friday, Dec. 8

1:39 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Services Rendered
2 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Saturday, Dec. 9

11:05 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated
11:47 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
10:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
11:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made
Summons: Abdi Adan, 24, Springfield
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Sunday, Dec. 10

1:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Vehicle Towed
2:27 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, City Ordinance Violation
4:35 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Berkshire Drive, Citation/Warning Issued
11:13 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Fisherdick Road, Could Not Locate
12:10 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Gould Road, Advised
2:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
2:44 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

3:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Could Not Locate
6:23 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Doane Road, Dispatch Handled
6:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vigeant Street, Dispatch Handled
6:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vigeant Street, Investigated
8:06 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Investigated
9:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Investigated
9:19 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, South Street, Unfounded
11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued
Summons: Shelby M. Perry, 24, Ware
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Monday, Dec. 11

10:35 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Juniper Hill Road, Report Made
11:22 a.m. Structure Fire, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
12:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Storrs Street, Dispatch Handled
4:43 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Fisherdick Road, Assist Given
8:32 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Church Street, Services Rendered
9:14 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Dec. 12

2:02 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
2:16 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Services Rendered
2:33 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Services Rendered
2:44 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Mattson Boulevard, Citation/Warning Issued
3:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Oak Ridge Circle, Citation/Warning Issued
4:10 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued
7:48 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Services Rendered

Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 19-25, the Warren Police Department responded to 237 building/property checks, 96 community policing, 13 traffic enforcements, four radar assignments, 17 emergency 911 calls, two frauds/forgeries, one trespasser/prowler, two motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 31 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 19

4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, Nov. 20

8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road Extension, Citation Issued
6:11 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
Summons: William J. Maska, 68, Warren
Sex Offender, Fail to Register; Accost/Annoy Another Person

Tuesday, Nov. 21

12:26 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
2:55 a.m. Traffic Enforcement, South Street, Written Warning
5:45 a.m. Follow-up Investigation, Main Street, Investigation
10:40 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed
3:10 p.m. Trespasser/Prowler, Trudeau Drive, Report Filed

Wednesday, Nov. 22

2 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Bemis Road, No Action Required
7:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Bemis Road, No Action Required
11:30 a.m. Diabetic, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Winthrop Terrace, Criminal Complaint

Summons: Phillip A. Adams, 81, Warren

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons: Guowei Xu, 40, Flushing, New York

License Suspended

4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons: Emma K. Stanton, 25, Warren

Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle

8:01 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Brookfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Written Warning

9:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Nov. 23

1:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prospect Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons: Amanda L. Meli, 38, Bondsville

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

Arrest: Hector M. Leonardo Charuco, 33, Worcester

Warrant; Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID

Summons: RMV Document, Forge/Misuse/Possessing

6:01 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent, Old West Warren Road, Investigated

Summons: Christina Weir, 25, Vernon, Connecticut

Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Receive Stole Property -\$1,200; Theft of Registration Plate; Uninsured

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 62 building/property checks, 35 directed/area patrols, 10 traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, 13 radar assignments, two complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, seven citizen assists, one trespass, one scam and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 4

12:42 p.m. Burglar Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
3:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled
4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 5

10:13 a.m. Trespass, North Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, Dec. 6

10:56 a.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled
10:57 a.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered
11:01 a.m. Gunshots, Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

11:08 a.m. Scam, Old Greenwich Plains Road, No Action Required

11:44 a.m. Investigation, Church Street, Services Rendered

12:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, River Run, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 7

1:32 a.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
9:42 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hillside View, Transported to Hospital

12:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Officer Handled

4:08 p.m. Complaint, Dow Road, Officer Handled

7:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

7:57 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Parker Court, Negative Contact

11:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

11:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

Friday, Dec. 8

6:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning

9:36 a.m. 911 Alarm, Main Street, Services Rendered

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.

Motor Vehicle; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No

Summons: Janet A. Vine, 46, Warren

Misleading a Police Officer

9 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Chapel Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Nov. 24

6:46 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Presidential Cricle, Transported to Hospital

7:49 a.m. Infection/Bed Sores, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

2:48 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

8:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Nov. 25

6:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

1:47 p.m. Fire Alarm Activation, Mechanic Street, Investigated

11:33 p.m. Bylaw Violation, High Street, Citation Issued

12:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oxford, Dispatch Handled

1:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

3:17 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

6:34 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled

10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

10:34 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Dec. 9

8:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital

3:41 p.m. 911 Trespass, Maple Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, Dec. 10

1:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered

11:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital

5:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

NEWS BRIEF

Firefighters host raffle for Bruins hockey tickets

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

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

Raffle tickets are a \$10 donation each with proceeds to support the Ware Firefighters Local 1851.

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

Baystate Wing partners with N.E. Donor Services

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital leadership is pleased to partner with New England Donor Services to honor and remember those who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

On Jan. 1, 2024, the Donate Life Rose Parade Float titled Woven Together: The Dance of Life will include a dedication garden made up of roses with handwritten dedications by hospital CEOs across the country including Baystate leaders Ron Bryant, president of Baystate Health Regional Hospitals and Karli Barrett, vice president and Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Baystate Health Eastern Region.

“Through this rose dedication, our Baystate Wing Hospital team recognizes our dedication and commitment to the lifesaving and

healing generosity of organ and tissue donation. We are grateful to be part of this celebration of life to be viewed by millions on New Year’s Day,” said Barrett in a press release.

Since its debut on New Year’s Day 2004, the Donate Life Rose Parade Float has become the world’s most visible campaign to inspire people to become organ and tissue donors. In addition to the 40 million viewers who watch the Rose Parade® on TV and along the parade route, events are held around the country to complete the “floragraph” images of donors that adorn the float.

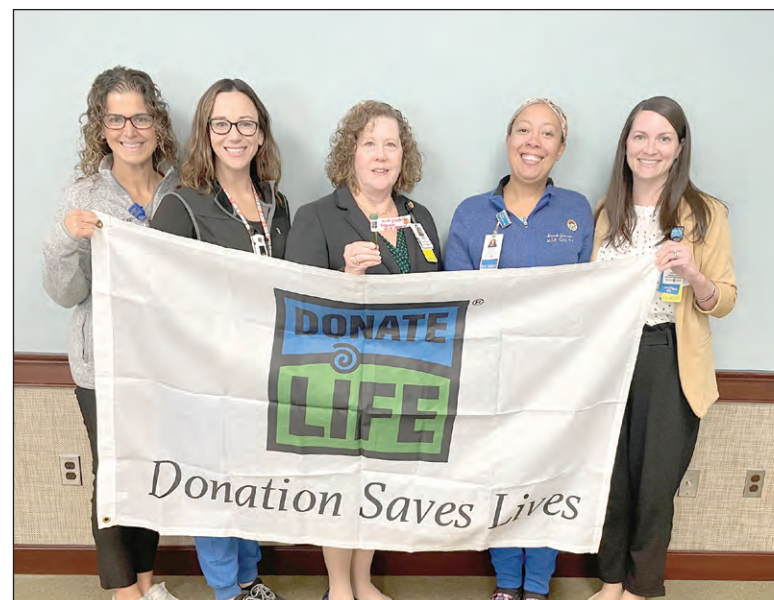
The Woven Together: The Dance of Life float showcases the culture of the Hopi, native to the American Southwest. This group of Pueblo Native Americans is one of the oldest cultures in the United States,

originating approximately 7,000 years ago.

The Hopi have always been outstanding weavers and artisans, and their dances include colorful costumes and impressive headdresses which will be reflected in the float’s design.

As the world’s most visible campaign to inspire organ, eye, and tissue donation, the Donate Life Rose Parade float inspires viewers to save and heal more than one million people in need of organ and tissue transplants each year. Register today to become an organ and tissue donor by visiting www.RegisterMe.org

For more information about Baystate Wing Hospital visit Baystatehealth.org/wing.



Submitted Photo
Representing Baystate Wing Hospital from left are Carrie Ferrindino, manager of Quality; Ashley Wilson, RN, assistant nurse manager, Emergency Department; Janice Mayforth, chief financial officer, Baystate Health Regional Hospitals; Michelle Johansson, nurse manager, Emergency Department; Karli Barrett, vice president and Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Baystate Health Eastern Region.

SCOUTS OFFERED FUN AND GAMES AT CHRISTMAS STROLL



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Sylvie Moulton, age 3, kicks a hover ball toward the goal with encouragement from Scouts from Scouts BSA Troop 7281 of Ware.

Sawyer Moulton, age 5, takes aim at his target during the Ware River News' "Play Ball" activities held during the Ware Christmas Stroll this past Saturday.



Katherine Meyer was recently hired as North Brookfield Savings Bank's first vice president and human resources director.



Michelle Ramos has been hired as North Brookfield Savings Bank's vice president and compliance officer.



Ann Brady was recently promoted to vice president and treasurer and controller at North Brookfield Savings Bank.

North Brookfield Savings Bank announces hires, promotion

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of Katherine Meyer as its human resource director, Michelle Ramos as compliance officer, and the promotion of Ann Brady to controller and treasurer.

North Brookfield Savings Bank prides itself on not simply hiring for technical expertise, but hiring individuals whose background will add to the bank's culture; people who bring different experiences, offer unique perspectives, and create a diversity of thinking among the bank's workforce.

Katherine Meyer

Katherine Meyer, of northern Connecticut, has been hired as first vice president, human resources director for the bank.

For the past seven years, she held the role of vice president, human resources for a Connecticut-based credit union. Prior to that, she held human resource leadership roles in industries such as healthcare, hospitality, construction and manufacturing.

She serves on Lockton's Talent and Culture Advisory Board, is a member of the HR Association of Central Connecticut and looks forward to joining a local SHRM chapter in Western Massachusetts.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree in human resource management from Cambridge College, PHR certification from the HR Certification Institute

and SHRM-CP certification from the Society for Human Resource Management.

"I look forward to being a part of the continued success of NBSB which is so steeped in local community history, and helping to ensure that success by attracting the best talent to serve our loyal customers," said Meyer. "I enjoy visiting our branch locations, meeting our teams, and observing the interconnectedness of all our processes. I am excited to be working among such a truly dedicated group of people."

Michelle Ramos

Michelle Ramos, of Gardner, has been hired as vice president, compliance officer for the bank. She will be responsible for oversight of the bank's compliance management program.

For the past 20 years, she has held a variety of roles for Fidelity Bank in Leominster, including eight years in retail banking, four years in corporate training, and eight years in compliance.

She is currently a part of the Finance Committee for Cornerstone Church in Winchendon. In addition, she holds certificates in deposit and lending compliance, and has earned a certificate of professional development through Nichols College.

"As the new compliance officer for North Brookfield Savings Bank, I am dedicated to upholding the highest regulatory standards and ensuring the bank's operations remain fully compliant," said Ramos. "I am excited

to contribute to the bank's strong commitment to ethical banking, trust, and exceptional service while collaborating with and supporting my new colleagues."

Ann Brady

Ann Brady, of Wheelwright, has been promoted to vice president, controller and treasurer for the bank.

Previously, Brady worked for Country Bank for Savings for over 18 years, starting as a data processor before becoming the assistant accounting supervisor.

She holds an advanced financial services diploma from the Center for Financial Training. With more than 20 years of experience in the financial services field, she brings a wealth of knowledge, confidence and experience to her new role and existing team.

In addition to her previous duties, Brady will now be responsible for overseeing the accounting department and will sit on the bank's ALCO committee.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to expand my skillset by working with our CEO at a higher level," said Brady. "The accounting team is comprised of extremely experienced and talented people, with whom I am excited to learn as we move forward." North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown and Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

Senator advocates to make daylight savings permanent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) released a statement recently on making daylight saving time permanent and ending the antiquated practice of changing the clocks twice a year.

Markey, along with Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida), is an original sponsor of the Sunshine Protection Act, which unanimously passed the Senate in March 2022 but was never brought up for a vote in the House.

"When we 'fall back' and lose the extra hour of daylight saving time on Sunday, we are sacrificing energy savings, crime reduction and economic benefits for darkness," Markey said. "Over the years, I've fought and won to extend daylight saving time-adding two months' worth of sun to the American people's calendar, which saves the same amount of electricity as used by over 100,000 households for an entire year. It's past time for Congress

Please see **DAYLIGHT**, page 15

QUABBIN from page 11

the Barre Police Department. Davidson truly brings warmth and caring to our schools and our students. We could not be prouder to have him on our team.

This is also true of all of our towns, while each school may not have a full time school resource officer, all of our students know their local police chiefs by name and sight. They visit our schools frequently and not only share their smiles but their knowledge.

We recognize and thank them for their commitment to our students, staff, families and communities. We are better together.

Linda Ann Mettig, 72

WARE – Linda Ann (Collins) Mettig of Ware, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at Baystate Medical Center, at the age of 72.



She leaves her loving husband of 51 years, Stanley G. Mettig of Ware; her daughter, Annette M. Koczur and her husband Steven of Gilbertville; her daughter, Melinda R. Mankin, and her husband Travis of Ware; her son, Derrick S. Mettig of Ware; her granddaughter, Taylor Bolduc and her husband Michael; her granddaughter, Sophia Mankin; as well as her nephew, Stephen Collins, and her niece, Kimberly Bousquet. She was predeceased by her two brothers, Lester Jr., and David Collins. She was born in Warren, daughter of the late Lester B. and Doris B. (Hoffey) Collins.

Linda was a stay-at-home mom so that she could raise her beloved children. Once they grew old enough, she went on to work as a waitress at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware for 38 years.

Linda was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother (babcia), and friend to many. She loved cooking most

Death notices

Mettig, Linda Ann (Collins)

Died Dec. 5, 2023
Services Dec. 14, 2023

Taylor, Richard David

Died Dec. 6, 2023
Services Dec. 19, 2023

of all, and was known by those around her as "Meals on Wheels."

She enjoyed watching and listening to all of the cooking channels, even when away from the TV. She also enjoyed craftwork such as crocheting, knitting, and quilting, and she cherished her time spent with her kids and her family.

Calling hours for Linda will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A funeral service will be held the following day, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the funeral home.

Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 or at www.cancer.org.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Richard David Taylor, 67

WARE – Richard D. Taylor of Ware passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, at the age of 67.

He leaves his four beloved daughters; Kimberly S. Taylor and her spouse Shawn of Brookfield, Melissa Taylor, Jessica Chick-Taylor and her spouse Johnathon of Brookfield, and Kelly Taylor of Brookfield; his grandchildren, Joshua, Justin, Damian, Johnathon, Nathan, Alivia, Paige, Gabriel, and Levi; as well as his sisters, Linda Mertizc of Barre, and Marilyn Sinclair and her spouse Barry of Ware. He was predeceased by his



siblings, David and Susan Taylor.

He was born in Ware, son of the late David J. and Mary E. (Wilder) Taylor.

Richard worked at the former Federal Paper Board Manufacturing Co. in Thorndike for many years. He then worked as a Forklift Operator at Hardwick Kilns for ten years before retiring.

Richard was a loving and devoted father, grandfather, and friend to all. He was a hardworking man, who gave his family the world.

He enjoyed nature and walking trails, fishing, camping throughout New England, and especially the peace of being on the water with his family.

He was a past member of the Lions Club 33A Palmer.

Calling hours for Richard will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A graveside service will be held in the Hardwick Center Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, or at www.dana-farber.org.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Reservations accepted for Community Christmas Dinner

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., is accepting reservations for its annual free Community Christmas Dinner on Monday, Dec. 25.

Meals can be delivered between 11:15 a.m.-noon on Christmas

Day, or picked up for take-out at the church from noon-1 p.m. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, Dec. 20. To pick up your meal, drive into the Church's parking lot and await instructions from the lot coordinators.

Cupcake decorating workshop held Dec. 28

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St., is hosting a cupcake decorating workshop for tweens and teens with Jana Hayden of Cupcakes & Confections by Jana on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 4 p.m.

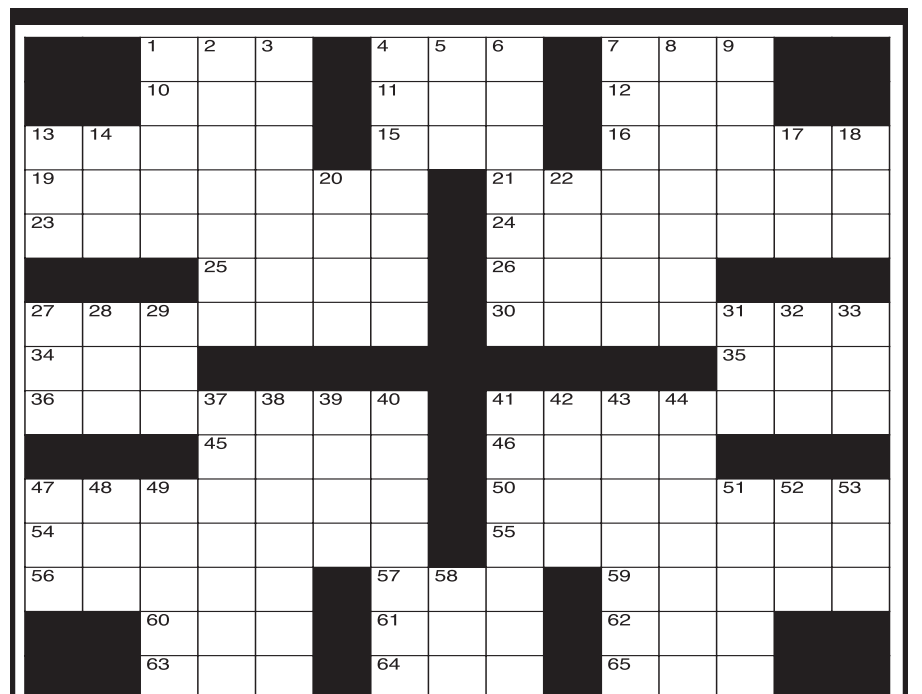
Registration is required. For more information, stop by the library, call 413-967-5491 or visit www.warelibrary.org.

The meal includes baked ham with gourmet pineapple raisin sauce, candied baby carrots, fresh mashed red skin potatoes and assorted homemade cakes, pies and sweets bread

To request your free dinner, call

the United Church of Ware at 413-967-9981 or Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686.

Volunteers are welcomed and appreciated. To volunteer, call Blessinger at the number above.



CLUES ACROSS

- Mimic
- Payroll firm
- Perform in a play
- Opine: _____ philosophical
- Crony
- Political action committee
- 1991 Wimbledon winner
- Affirmative
- Exclamation of disgust
- Action of connecting
- A way to calm
- Especially fine or decorative clothing
- Walked proudly
- Group of people related through male heir
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Soft touch
- Erases

CLUES DOWN

- Inspiring
- Put into a box
- Breathes out
- Pacify
- Patriotic society for women
- Fell down
- Clothing
- Dishwasher detergent brand
- Former French republic
- Single lens reflex
- Men's fashion accessory
- Consumed
- Marry
- ____ up: intensifies
- Body of water
- People of southern Benin
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- Snag
- Yearly tonnage

- (abbr.)
- Records brain activity (abbr.)
- Car mechanics group
- Brought up to snuff
- ____ faire: Economic approach
- Phil _____, former CIA
- Affixed
- Period of adolescence
- Substance
- Danced
- Baked without its shell
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Satisfaction
- Balkans river
- Christmas carols
- Partner to tonic
- "The Godfather" character Johnny
- Swiss river

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.

Classifieds

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Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
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Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

SERVICES WANTED

NEED SNOW REMOVAL (PLOWING).
Need snow removal service for our 150 ft. long by 12 ft. across driveway, located off Ball Rd., Goshen. Must be reliable. Pays well. Call or text: **413-341-0502**.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

A DUMP TRUCK
Cleaning out attics, cellars, garages, estate cleanouts, scrap metal removal. **413-569-1611 or 413-374-5377**.

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.
Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

SERVICES

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Wait at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

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ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

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Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at **413-887-1987**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

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BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

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SERVICES

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DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

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A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

SERVICES

SAW STUMP REMOVAL
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
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HELP WANTED

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED
Prefer local person. Will train. Lizak Bus Warren, MA **(413)436-5262**

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

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates for the full-time position of **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

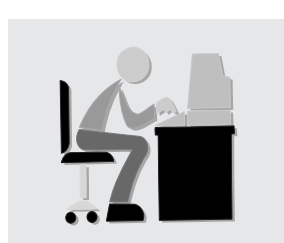
Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P.O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
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Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

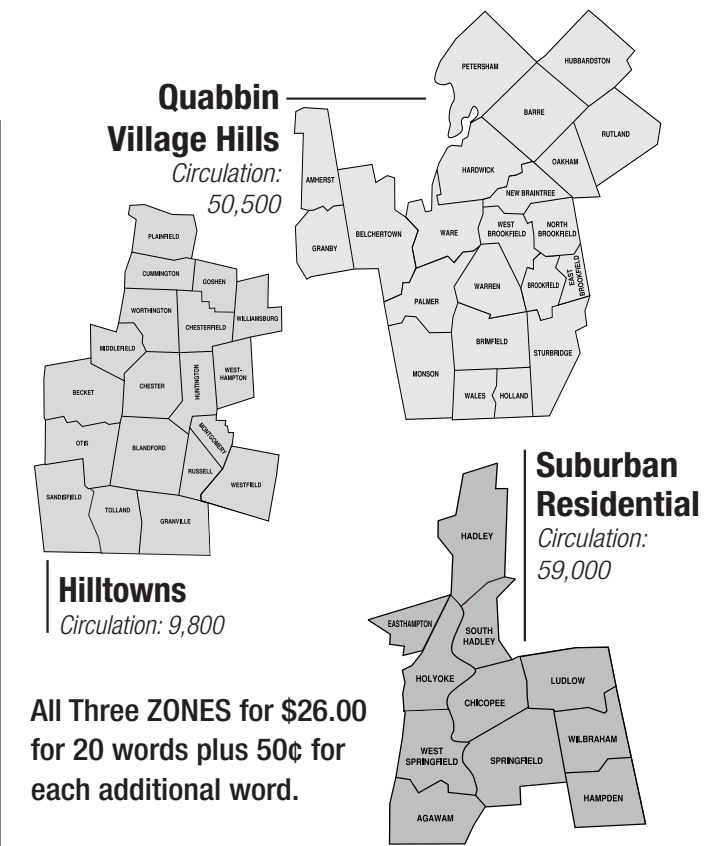
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

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| 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |

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Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
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NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Darin M. Snow, Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Embrace Home Loans, Inc. dated November 1, 2018, recorded at the Hampshire County

Registry of Deeds in Book 13118, Page 103; said mortgage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated January 11, 2023, and recorded in Book 14785, Page 225, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose

of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on **January 11, 2024**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 123 Glendale Circle, Ware, MA 01082. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:
The land together with the buildings and

improvements thereon, situated in Ware, Hampshire, County, Massachusetts shown as Lot 21 on a plan entitled "Subdivision plan for Earl Roy," dated November 28, 1972, made by recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 84, Page 10. Containing (according to the Plan) 15,000 square feet of land, more

or less. Together with the right to use all streets and ways shown on the Plan in common with all others having the right to use the same. SUBJECT TO utility easement as set forth in instrument recorded with said Registry in Book 2673, Page 329. SUBJECT TO restrictions as set forth in instrument recorded with said Registry in Book 3082,

Page 258. Please see DEED recorded in Book 13118, Page 100.
Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
Dated: October 24, 2023 Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency
By its Attorney
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC,
100 Cummings Center,
Suite 303C,
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
www.dgandl.com
57134 (SNOW, SR.)
12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2023

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The contents of the following storage unit:
Henry Budreau
Building 6 Unit 14
will be sold for non-payment of Country Corners Storage, 50 Greenwich Rd. in Ware on **Saturday, December 16, 2023**. 413 967-6095
12/07, 12/14/2023

TOWN OF WARREN OPEN ELECTED POSITION

Town of Warren is accepting letters of interest for a Warren Resident to fill an open elected position on the Warren Housing Authority due to the passing of a board member. This appointment will be valid until the May 2025 Town Election. Letters of interest may be sent to Selectmen@warren-ma.gov or mail it to Selectmen PO Box 609 Warren, MA 01083.
12/14, 12/21/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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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F I N E S S E D E L E T E S
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P A G E U T A H
P A D D I E S B O M I N G O
P H R A S E S E M B R O I L
B A I T S I A R A R E N A
N E E L A T E E L
A D Z E R Y D D S



Visitors to the Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center during the Ware Christmas Stroll could enjoy coffee, baked goods and a free craft for kids



Christmas cookies provided by Workshop13 during the Holiday Stroll.



Watercolor art was provided by the Artsy Elves of Workshop13.

Holiday stroll and tree festival celebrate the season



This Christmas tree and gifts were guarded by reindeer.



The Artsy Elves helped kids create gingerbread ornaments.



Christmas Stroll participants enjoyed some hot cocoa and popcorn at Workshop13.



In addition to trees, other unique decorative arts filled the Town Hall, including paintings, baskets, and figurines.



DAYLIGHT from page 13

to take up the Sunshine Protection Act and make daylight saving time permanent to keep the sun shining."

Studies show that making DST permanent would have positive impacts on public health, the economy, and climate change. Representative Vern Buchanan (Florida-16) introduced companion legislation in the House.

As part of the Energy Policy Act in 2005, then-Representatives Markey

and Fred Upton (Michigan-06) amended the Uniform Time Act of 1966, extending the duration of DST in the spring by changing its start date from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in March, and in the fall by changing its end date from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in November.

In 1985, then-Representative Markey also partnered with Representative Carlos Moorhead (California-27) to extend DST by three weeks.

WE'RE ALL EARS

**Questions?
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Story Ideas?**

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Protecting Local Journalism
A local watchdog for the public good, committed to factual reporting

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our **20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.**
Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

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508 867-6643

NORTH BROOKFIELD - This gorgeous home will truly impress! Set way off the road on just over 8.5 acres, you will enjoy privacy and beautiful views year round. The main floor has a huge kitchen with a walk-in pantry, formal dining room, living room with a pellet stove, half bath, laundry room with a utility sink, and a room that could be used as either an office or bedroom. The second floor has 3 large bedrooms and a full bathroom PLUS a massive main bedroom suite with huge double closets and a beautifully renovated bathroom with a double vanity, linen closet, large tiled shower, and soaker tub imported from Belgium. The walkout basement is partially finished as well with another half bath and a large game room, gym, or perfect teen space. The large deck and pool are perfect for entertaining in the summer and if you enjoy gardening, you will love the variety of fruit trees and large garden area that is all set for the spring. **\$699,000**

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Broker/Owner
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michelleterryteam.com 130 W. Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Dec. 17
11am-1pm

NORTH BROOKFIELD Ranch - \$369,900

3 bedroom, 1 bath, partially finished basement, deck and access to Lake Lashaway! If you have been looking to live near the water this may be the one for you! Quick close possible. No showings until the Open House. Please call me for more information.

CENTURY 21
Century 21 North East
180 West St., Ware
Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
1-978-434-1990

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19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

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Erin, Laura and Nancy

Over 55 years of service.
24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.

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VNA services:
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Manager: Erin Tierney
508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

Michael Toomey & Associates, Inc.
Real Estate

East Brookfield | Maryellen Brunelle | 774-230-1419
Oakham | Irene Caruso | 774-696-9794
Worcester / West Brookfield | Macey Gaumond | 413-233-8967
Spencer | Zac Leach | 508-277-5209
Holden | Sarah Mahoney | 774-245-1218
Barre | Dan Mankin | 760-617-0548
Leicester | Lee Martinelli | 774-253-0364
Paxton | Scott Moss | 508-847-6330
Spencer | Amy Ekleberry Perro | 508-769-7025
Brookfield | Meghan Robidoux | 508-414-2518
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978-669-0088

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7-NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE - May 24-31, 2024
Call now - January 15 deadline!

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Dec. 30 |Moulin Rouge! |\$125 |
| Jan. 27 |Ain't Too Proud - Temptations |\$99 |
| March 16 |Frozen at P.P.A.C. |\$130 |
| May 4 |Kennedy Library |\$95 |
| Aug. 30 |7-night Nova Scotia Cruise | from \$1499 |

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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Signature Holiday Dinners available for pre-order

Choose from prime rib, turkey, or ham dinners for your holiday feast. Single-serve dinners also available.

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