

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## WREATHS Across AMERICA

Community honors and remembers its veterans

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Despite the frigid weather, members of the community gathered in full force at Veterans Park to honor and remember the town's deceased veterans during a moving ceremony on Wreaths Across America Day last Saturday.

This was the town's third annual event, organized by location coordinators Frank and Kristin Bateman.

The Bateman family first became involved with the Wreaths Across America organization after attending a ceremony at Agawam Veterans Cemetery when Frank, a U.S. Army veteran, had returned home from Afghanistan in 2012.

Since 2023, the Batemans have worked to grow Wreaths Across America in town, and this year they were able to receive sponsorship for 852 wreaths thanks to many generous donors. These wreaths were placed on gravestones at Aspen Grove, Church Street, Ware Center Meeting House, Holy Cross and Quabbin Park cemeteries and ceremonial wreaths were placed at Mount Caramel, New and Old St. Williams and St. Mary's cem-



Zeke Trzpit, age 6, joined his family to honor veterans during Wreaths Across America Day. He is shown after placing a wreath on a gravestone at Aspen Grove Cemetery.

eteries, as well as at Veterans Park.

Frank Bateman thanked everyone for attending the cer-

emony and remembering the lives of the town's veterans.

"Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the

mission to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of



Submitted Photo  
Roland Gratton served 29 years of active duty to his country, having enlisted during World War II at the age of 16. Gratton was the featured veteran during this year's Wreaths Across America Day ceremony held in Veterans Park this past Saturday morning.

freedom," he said.

Bateman said Ware is one of over 5,000 sites across all 50 states participating in Wreaths Across America Day, upholding the organization's mission to "Remember, Honor and Teach."

"We are all proud to be Americans living in a free society," Bateman said, reminding those present

Please see **WREATHS**, page 8

## Master Plan edits reviewed

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met on Dec. 8 and began with a discussion on board member edits to the Master Plan.

A spreadsheet was made for members to make edits and leave comments.

Raymond Kopacko of the Planning Board had a couple comments beginning with a phrase in the transportation chapter. Kopacko thought one sentence that was written in the chapter can be removed and it regards trucking routes.

The Planning Board would then discuss the list of businesses in town and Kopacko thought it would be best to update due to having places that are either effectively defunct or no longer in business. The board went through the list and took out any businesses that are no longer existent in Warren or modify the names of places or businesses.

"It's just for accuracy and be totally up to date," Kopacko said.

Taking notes on these edits by the Planning Board was Sarah O'Brien of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. O'Brien is a Principal Planner at CMRPC and has helped the town organize a newly updated Master Plan during the year.

The board also discussed the topic of future budget demands.

Kopacko read some sentences that may be suitable to be put in the Master Plan. For example, "The budget demands of both departments will be important considerations for the town going into the near or long-term future," read by Kopacko.

Budget constraints are a reality for new facilities, but the board wanted to

Please see **MASTER PLAN**, page 2



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Mingels and Eckerle family is shown alongside Santa Claus who visited the Ware Library. Benjamin and Amelia are shown sitting with Santa.

## Saint Nick visited friends at Ware Library

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Santa Claus has been spotted in Ware this past week and was caught in the Reading Room of the Ware Library.

This was the second year in a row Santa has come from the North Pole and made a quick stop to the Ware Library to meet the children during the holidays. There was a line of kids in the Reading Room waiting

to meet Santa Claus and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

The Reading Room was decorated for the occasion of Santa's visit and parents were excited to get pictures of their kids with the jolliest man alive.

There to assist Santa during the day was his most trusted elf, Cathy Goulet, the Children's Room Librarian at the Ware Library. Goulet was there taking pictures of children and families with Santa Claus at the library and handed out candy canes for those who visited Santa.

"She's a helpful elf," Santa said of Goulet.

The Wishing Tree was put

up inside the Reading Room during Santa's visit. Kids can pick up a paper ornament and place it on the tree.

The Ware Library welcomed back Just Keep Smiling for glitter tattoos. Dawn Corley of Just Keep Smiling brought her family to help, and they were all wearing matching Christmas sweaters. The sweaters featured Dr. Seuss' grumpy by lovable, Mr. Grinch.

After visiting Santa, many kids were in line waiting to get a glitter tattoo.

Goulet mentioned that Just Keep Smiling provided

Please see **SAINT NICK**, page 7

## United Church offers free Christmas dinners to residents

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'Tis the season to have flair

Holiday Drive Thru held at Grenville Park

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The traffic was picking up as cars lined up to witness the Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru at Grenville Park.

This festive holiday event is hosted by the Holiday Flair Committee, who look forward to seeing the public drive into Grenville Park and see the holiday celebra-



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Please see **DRIVE THRU**, page 5

Mickey and Minnie Mouse greeted drivers during the Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru at Grenville Park this past weekend.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 1 6



Submitted Photo

Trinity Episcopal Church will showcase its Christmas Putz display during the Candlelight Nativity walk to be held on Sunday, Dec. 28 and Friday, Jan. 2 from 5-7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

## Trinity church lists Christmas services, events

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church will hold its Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.

All are welcome to this service of Holy Eucharist with festive music, including a candle light singing of "Silent Night". The church's celebrant will be the Rev.

Jane Beebe with guest organist Kell Julliard.

On Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. the church will hold a service of Lessons and Carols.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 28 and again on Friday evening, Jan. 2 from 5-7 p.m. the church invites the public to a Candlelight Nativity

walk in the church, which will be decorated with Nativity and creche displays from its parishioners, as well as Trinity's traditional Christmas Putz display (featured in the photo above). There will be refreshments, hot chocolate and coffee served.

## Library Friends host Lotto Calendar fundraiser

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

Tickets are \$10 each and

drawings will take place every day in January. 1,000 max tickets will be sold and you can win an unlimited number of times.

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

## Seasons Greetings

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# Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo  
Last week's photo from 1989 showed Water Department Superintendent Gibby Sorel looking at the low flow from a hydrant on Morse Avenue prior to completion of water main work on the street. The flow was less than a hundred gallons per minute due to a buildup of corrosion. After the main project was completed, flow at the hydrant increased to more than 1,100 gallons per minute.

## Ware Senior Center news

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

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

### ACTIVITIES

- Monday, Dec. 22
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lisa

### Tuesday, Dec. 23

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

### Wednesday, Dec. 24

Closed for Christmas Eve

### Thursday, Dec. 25

Closed or Christmas Day

### Friday, Dec. 26

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

### LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

### Monday, Dec. 22

Beef Stew over Egg Noodles, Dessert of the Day

### Tuesday, Dec. 23

Hot Dogs with Baked Beans, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

### Wednesday, Dec. 24

Closed for Christmas Eve

### Thursday, Dec. 25

Closed for Christmas Day

### Friday, Dec. 26

French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Dessert of the Day

## Christmas for Kids donations requested

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

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

The program recognizes all holiday observances.

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

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

## MASTER PLAN from page 1

properly structure a sentence to address that topic. According to O'Brien, it's about looking towards the future.

Another edit made was in the strong municipal facilities chapter. The board agreed its best to use Senior Center rather than Council on Aging building.

Back to discussing businesses in town, the board talked about the former Spencer Car Dealership located at 764 Main St. The business current-

ly located there is NextGen Parts Place and is in the auto parts store category.

O'Brien explained the next steps after collecting these edits. The CMRPC representative said it won't take long to make these changes, and final copies will be ready for print and then digital copies will be submitted to the board and to the Town Administrator.

### Public hearing scheduling

The Planning Board discussed scheduling a public hearing for Special Permit No.

316, Maple Lane Development Corps. The board received the gravel pit applications and photographs.

Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker explained that the board is down a member, and any approval of a special permit requires four votes. The board hopes the Board of Selectmen will appoint a member sometime the following week.

The public hearing will be held at the Senior Center on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 at 7 p.m.

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## December holiday events at Ware Senior Center

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

Studio on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Dancers will provide a half hour show at noon.

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

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

## Paige Memorial Library offers gift wrapping day

HARDWICK – A special Holiday Gift Wrapping Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

Gift wrappers will make every gift special. Donations for this service will be collected for the Christmas for Kids program sponsored by the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Association.

Select gift wraps and matching ribbons in many colors, and styles. Oddly shaped gifts must be placed in a box. All breakable items must have protective packing around them in the box.

Please make an appointment.

Need more gift ideas? We have books on the history of Hardwick, ceramic tiles showing our village buildings, coffee mugs with Paige Memorial Library images, the Hardwick Fair

winning recipes cookbook, Mary Lane Hospital T-shirts, and lots of gently used books in our ongoing book sale. These sales support our local organizations.

Come to the Paige Memorial Library to socialize and to learn. Activities offered include a weekly children's Story Hour with art and science activities, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the ongoing Friends of the Paige Memorial Library Book Sale, the Paige Writers, and the recently formed Movie Festival Committee. Contact the library if you have an idea for an activity to be offered at the Paige Memorial Library.

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

## LaValley set to graduate from University of Georgia

ATHENS, GA – Audrey G. LaValley was one of over 3,200 candidates to be recognized in the University of Georgia's Class of 2025 fall commencement ceremonies held Dec. 12.

LaValley, of Ware, was a candidate for BBA Marketing.

"The students graduating in the Class of 2025 have distinguished themselves through their hard work and determination, and it is an honor to recognize them at this fall's Commencement ceremonies," said UGA President Jere W. Morehead. "Their

experiences at UGA have prepared them to meet challenges with confidence and to contribute meaningfully wherever their paths lead. I am eager to see the impact they will make as alumni of the University of Georgia."

Doug Ivester, former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of The Coca-Cola Company and 1969 accounting graduate, delivered the undergraduate address. Dr. Ron Walcott, vice provost for graduate education and dean of the Graduate School, delivered the graduate address.

## Boxwood trees made at the Town House

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library hosted a boxwood Christmas tree workshop at the Town House last week.

Boxwood is a thick shrub and a member of the evergreen family. There was a great turnout at the Town House for this workshop as dozens of boxwood trees were being put together.

Running the workshop was Lynn Hartman of Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre.

Hartman has been doing these workshops for 45 years and boxwood trees are usually offered during the holidays. Imagine how good a boxwood tree would look in your home as you decorate for the holidays.

"A boxwood tree for the house," Hartman said.

Hartman also instructs dry flower wreath workshops year-round.

The supplies came from a farm in Williamsburg, Virginia. Hartman had boxes of boxwood from the Virginia Boxwood Company. This company provides a sustainable service that maintains, cultivates and harvests boxwood from the historic state of Virginia, which has some of the oldest and finest boxwood to be found in North America.

Boxwood is used a lot for landscape and is capable to stay green all year. Though it dries out, Hartman said it keeps its shape. For decorations, Hartman provided straw flowers, statice and other trinkets to go with the boxwood.



A boxwood tree workshop was held at the Town House. The event had a great turnout as boxwood covered all the tables.

This popular shrub made its way to the Americas in the 1600s, becoming a staple in Colonial and Victorian gardens. During the 19th century, boxwood became extremely popular for formal gardens and was used in holiday decorations, such as Christmas wreaths.

Having these workshops proves that boxwood is now famous for topiaries and formal designs.

Today, its popularity continues to exist for both ornamental shaping and historical significance. Historically, besides becoming a staple in landscaping, boxwood was used for medicinal purposes. Its bark and leaves were used for fever and rheumatism.

There was floral foam being used to help keep the boxwood branches in place. It was messy but fun for those who attended the box-



A sample of a boxwood tree made by Lynn Hartman of Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre.

wood tree workshop.

The crafters who attended this workshop were excited

to bring their own boxwood tree to their homes for the holiday season.

## Circle of Song holiday concert this Saturday

BARRE – After four months of assiduous practice, the Circle of Song is ready to share their talents and their joy of singing with the public with a holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, 2 Exchange St.

It is an extra special event this year as it is a celebration of "The Best of Circle of Song" from the past 25 years. Former co-director, Beth Bryant is joining the chorus all the way from Georgia and the initial pianist from

the group, Ethel Howard is rejoining all the way from New Braintree.

Initial members still with the group are Jack Kittredge, Joan Bevers, Anne Kneeland and Julie Rawson. The concert will be dedicated to Minnie Isgro, another original, who at 95 years of age, can't be present in person.

The program is a powerhouse of well-love music from the ages – "At the River", "O Magnum Mysterium", "Black is the

Color of My True Love's Hair", "Seal Lullaby", "Mary Did You Know?", "Java Jive", "Regina Coeli", "White Christmas" and "Irish Prayer".

The concert is free and the refreshments are always tasty. To learn more about Circle of Song or to join in on Jan. 22, contact music director, Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net; 978-257-1192 for more information.

**\$12.50 Each**

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5:30pm • All Welcome

# viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Questions about remarrying and benefits from an ex-spouse

Dear Rusty:

I am almost 57, divorced after a 14-year marriage. My former spouse is 15 years older than I and made significantly more money than me. I am required to retire from my job at age 60 but expect to keep working in some capacity.

I have a girlfriend of a similar age to me. She did not earn as much as her former husband as she mainly raised their children. She is also divorced from an older spouse who made more money than she did. I am trying to figure out if we will be penalized if we marry or if it matters if we wait until after we reach 60 years of age. Can I claim my own benefits when I become eligible at 62, then claim survivor benefits later, whenever my former spouse passes? Is that affected if, or when, I remarry? I do not want to give up my potential survivor benefits from my ex-spouse. Are those affected if I remarry?

If I understand correctly, if I remarry even after 60, we would both forfeit divorced spousal benefits, is that right? Given that my girlfriend's former spouse probably made more money than I, would she be forfeiting her former spousal benefits if we were to marry, even after age 60?

Lastly, I am considering retiring abroad as an expat. Any suggestions about how that would affect our Social Security benefits?

Signed: Starting Over

Dear Starting Over:

With certain exceptions, benefits from a living ex-spouse cannot be collected if you remarry (regardless of your age when you remarry). So, from what you've shared, whenever you remarry both you and your new wife will forfeit eligibility for benefits from your respective ex-spouses while they are living (FYI, there are exceptions for those who are disabled).

However, the rules are different for a surviving ex-spouse: if you remarry before age 60, you will forfeit your surviving ex-spouse benefit. But if you remarry after age 60, you retain eligibility to collect survivor benefits from a deceased former spouse. So, if you and your girlfriend remarry after you are both age 60, you will both still be able to claim survivor benefits based on your former spouses' records.

And, yes, it is possible for you to initially claim your own SS retirement benefit at 62 and claim your surviving ex-spouse benefit later after your former spouse dies. Provided you remarry after age 60 you do not lose that option, but if you were to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit before reaching your Full Retirement Age, the monthly payment amount would be reduced, all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced.

Note too, that if you plan to continue working after you are first eligible for SS benefits, Social Security has an "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early benefits. The limit changes yearly for 2025 it is \$23,400 and if exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, as you likely know, claiming at age 62 will also mean a benefit payment of about 30% less than available at your FRA of 67. So, if you plan to work after age 62 and plan to claim early SS, you should take the "earnings test" into consideration. FYI, the earning test no longer applies after you reach your Full Retirement Age.

Now, regarding retiring overseas, be aware that Social Security has limits on where you can collect U.S. Social Security benefits. I suggest you use Social Security's Payments Abroad Screening Tool to find out if benefits are payable wherever you plan to retire abroad. That SSA tool can be found here: [https://www.ssa.gov/international/payments\\_outsideUS.html](https://www.ssa.gov/international/payments_outsideUS.html).

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## Two holiday plants suited for gift giving

Are you in need of a plant for a hostess gift this holiday season but poinsettias aren't your cup of tea? Look no further! I will give you my top two non-poinsettia picks, and share my experiences growing these plants.

Hopefully you will find the perfect gift for someone on your list.

Florist Cyclamen (Cyclamen persicum) is a delightful indoor plant that flowers during the winter months and is available at local nurseries and box stores. Its quarter-sized blooms in red, pink and white are unique in that the petals are bent back and held above pretty, heart-shaped, silver-margined leaves.

There are varying types available with fancy flowers and intricately patterned foliage.

The cyclamen plant is tuberous and unfortunately is best propagated by seed or by division of its fibrous roots. Usually this task is left to the experts who are best able to deal with erratic germination and roots that are susceptible to rot.

A few years back I became the owner of my very first cyclamen (thanks, Mom!). I had a little trouble after awhile.

During the spring its leaves yellowed and fell off so I threw it out. Little did I know that leaf loss was supposed to happen! It was going dormant.

With the cyclamen's bloom time during the win-

ter, it has a period of dormancy mid spring through the end of summer when its leaves will yellow and shed and it will demand next to no water. This time frame is opposite of what we are used to with our perennial flowers that bloom during the summer and go dormant during the winter.

outdoor narcissus do.

In just about four weeks after planting you'll be delighted with flowers galore!

Decide for yourself if you like the fragrance or you find it a little overpowering. Prevent leaves and stems from stretching by placing your container in a cool spot in your home during the night and enjoy the flowers in your living spaces during the day.

After flowering is done, throw the bulbs out free of guilt; they won't bloom again consistently. One year

you may remember that I did try to regrow the bulbs by allowing them to dry out within the container I had first grown them in. Of the four bulbs, two had life left in them a year later.

I watered and waited and leaves did grow, but no flowers ever came. I ended up chalking it up to an experience and starting over with new bulbs the following winter.

Have fun experimenting with these plants or any number of beauties worthy of a good home for the holidays.

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



An Oakham resident saw a purple finch in her yard recently.

The purple finch is about six inches long. It has a sturdy body, short tail and a conical bill designed to crack seed. The male has raspberry red covering its head, chest and back. The color fades into a lighter pink tone on the belly. The wings and tail are brown with red highlights. The female has no red coloring and is brown and white with heavy streaking. It has a white eyebrow stripe.

The purple finch and house finch are often confused. The purple finch as a more uniform raspberry color and the house finch is more orange red color. The house finches color is limited to the head and upper chest. The purple finch also has notch at the base of its tail and is

larger.

Purple finches breed primarily in Canada and the northeastern United States including New England and the Great Lakes region. The purple finch is the state bird of New Hampshire.

A typical clutch consists of four or five pale blue eggs with small dark speckles. The female incubates the eggs for about 12-14 days while the male provides food. Once hatched, both parents feed the nestlings a mixture of regurgitated seeds and insects to ensure proper nutrition. The fledglings leave the nest roughly two weeks after hatching, though

parents continue feeding and protecting them for another week or two.

They are fond of black oil sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, and millet offered in tube or platform feeders. In summer they supplement their diet with insects and caterpillars as well as blackberries and cherries.

**Birds during snow storm**

A Brimfield resident emailed, "During the recent snow storm (Tuesday, Dec. 2) there were 30 plus dark-eyed juncos in the yard and one white-throated sparrow.

Please see **BIRDS**, page 13

## WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM

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## OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

## Turley Election Policy

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

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

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

# Tis the season to have flair



t's a minion Christmas as they try to take a candy cane for the road.

Star Wars characters made their way to Earth and participated in the drive thru.

Friendly and helpful elves were collecting donations during the Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru at Grenville Park.

**DRIVE-THRU** from page 1  
tion and lights come to life. The Quaboag Connector was available for those who didn't have transportation and was available for both pick up and drop off.

Drivers were greeted by Town Manager Stuart Beckley, who was by the entrance gate wearing Christmas sweater attire. Donations were collected during the Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru as drivers kept their eyes open for the friendly and helpful elves that were stationed throughout Grenville Park.

As you drove through Grenville Park, the wooded area became a winter wonderland with adorable floats of all holiday themes placed on the side of the road. Once you came down the hill you could see the entire park light up with lights, music, and characters that express holiday spirit. There was Yukon Cornelius and the Abominable Snowman waving to the drivers at Grenville Park.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse were standing under their holiday ornament waving to the drivers and posed for pictures as well. Across the street was the small town of Whoville and under the entrance to Whoville was Cindy Lou and the Grinch.

A display that referenced a classic Christmas film made its way to Grenville Park. The infamous RV of Cousin Eddie from National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation" (1989) was parked

and Eddie alongside Clark Griswold were standing outside toasting to the traffic.

It was also a "Frozen" Christmas as Olaf and Elsa were at Grenville Park for another year of Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru.

Another holiday classic made its return to Ware Flair Drive-Thru. Characters from the Nutcracker were dancing and greeting the crowd. There were toy soldiers and the mouse king all hanging out under the same tent.

The drive thru concluded with Santa Claus sitting comfortably in his sleigh wishing everyone a Merry Christmas as cars exited Grenville Park.

The Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru was made possible by the supporters of Cluett Appliance, Pennington Painting, Egan Lawn Care, Otto Florist, Quabbin Valley Junk Removal, Canadian Tree, Labier Brothers Tree Experts, BRL Landscaping and Joshua Lynch Journeyman Electrician.

The event was sponsored by Country Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Florence Bank, Moulton Insurance, Sherman Oil Co., Brookside Mart and Quabbin Wire & Cable Co Inc. Ware always brings "flair" during the holiday season at Grenville Park.

Monetary donations to support Ware Holiday Flair events can be mailed to Ware Town Hall, C/O Stuart Beckley, 126 Main St, Ware, MA 01082.



An octopus with a Santa hat was a cute addition to this year's Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru.



Dinosaurs return from extinction to celebrate the holidays during Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru.



Olaf and Elsa from "Frozen" were in the holiday spirit as they brought winter to Ware.



Grenville Park becomes Whoville for one night as the Grinch and Cindy Lou appeared.



LEFT: It's a hedgehog Christmas during Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru season.

Grenville Park was glowing as the Ware Holiday Flair Drive Thru continued.



Santa Claus unknowingly reeled in a shark for Christmas.



Swans swimming could be spotted while driving through Grenville Park.



There were plenty of elves greeting guests at Grenville Park.

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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.

**CHRISTMAS SALE!**  
OPEN: Dec. 22nd, 23rd, and Dec 24th: 8:00am-8:00pm

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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 30-Dec. 10, the Ware Police Department responded to 35 miscellaneous calls, 48 administrative calls, 25 traffic violations, 10 emergency 911 calls, four thefts/larcenies, one trespass, three frauds/deceptions, one damage/vandalism, two harassments/stalks/threats, two structure fires, 13 animal calls and 40 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, Nov. 30**  
 1:38 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, Advised  
 2:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Unfounded  
 7:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 2:48 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Osborne Road, Services Rendered

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 2**  
 2:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 1:52 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Monson Turnpike Road, Services Rendered  
 4:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

5:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, Investigated

**Wednesday, Dec. 3**  
 7:45 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

**Thursday, Dec. 4**  
 5:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 2:17 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered  
 10:36 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
 9:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled  
 10:05 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
 3:50 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Park Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
 3:52 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Sherwin Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 3:54 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Bellevue Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
 3:55 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 3:57 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 11 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Old Poor Farm Road, Report Made  
 12:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Indian Hill Road, Dispatch Handled

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 7:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
 8:22 p.m. Warrant Service, West Main Street, Arrest Made

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
 2:18 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

*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.*

2:40 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 12:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered  
 3:26 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Homecrest Avenue, Services Rendered  
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 6:41 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Palmer Road, Services Rendered  
 8:09 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Palmer Road, Services Rendered  
 8:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Assist Given

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 9:17 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered  
 4:09 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Arrest Made  
 7 p.m. Structure Fire, Highland Village, Extinguished  
 8:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Services Rendered

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 3:42 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pleasant Street, Investigated

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 23-30, the Warren Police Department responded to 106 building/property checks, 20 community policings, 15 emergency 911 calls, one burglary, one threat, one vehicle fire, two parking issues, one complaint, two animal calls and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, Nov. 23**  
 6:50 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:55 a.m. Welfare Check, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
 6:42 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Monday, Nov. 24**  
 7:10 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old Douglas Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:37 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Nov. 25**  
 12:20 a.m. Parking Issues, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:26 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Written Warning  
 5:48 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
 8:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning  
 11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Removed to Court/Lockup  
 3:56 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Nov. 26**  
 8:23 a.m. Threats, Brimfield Road, Report Filed  
 10:13 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:22 a.m. Complaint, Forest Avenue, Report Filed

**Thursday, Nov. 27**  
 12:11 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:28 p.m. Vehicle Fires, North Street, Investigated  
 6:35 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:08 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Nov. 28**  
 6:13 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, No Transport Required  
 11:31 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, Nov. 29**  
 5:02 p.m. Welfare Check, Ware Road, Report Filed  
 9:58 p.m. Alarm Activation, Bemis Road, Investigated  
 10:19 p.m. Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

**Sunday, Nov. 30**  
 11:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 12:24 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 9:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 12:23 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Spoken To  
 1:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Services Rendered  
 3:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:58 p.m. Parking Complaint, Broad Street, No Action Required  
 11:39 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled  
 2:28 p.m. Disturbance, Maple Street, Peace Restored  
 3:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 6:28 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
 10 a.m. Complaint, Highland Terrace, Peace Restored  
 10:03 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Shore Road, Negative Contact  
 11:39 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled  
 2:28 p.m. Disturbance, Maple Street, Peace Restored  
 3:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 6:28 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 12:24 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 9:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 12:23 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Spoken To  
 1:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Services Rendered  
 3:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:58 p.m. Parking Complaint, Broad Street, No Action Required  
 11:39 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled  
 2:28 p.m. Disturbance, Maple Street, Peace Restored  
 3:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 6:28 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 3:42 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pleasant Street, Investigated

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
 11:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Friday, Dec. 12**  
 7:16 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:55 a.m. 911 Misdial, Prospect Street, No Action Required  
 1:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Patient Refusal  
 9:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Patient Refusal

**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
 1:02 p.m. 911 Misdial, Hardwick Pond Road, Spoken To  
 1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Greenwich Road, Citation Issued  
 6:37 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:36 p.m. Harassment, Church Street, Investigated

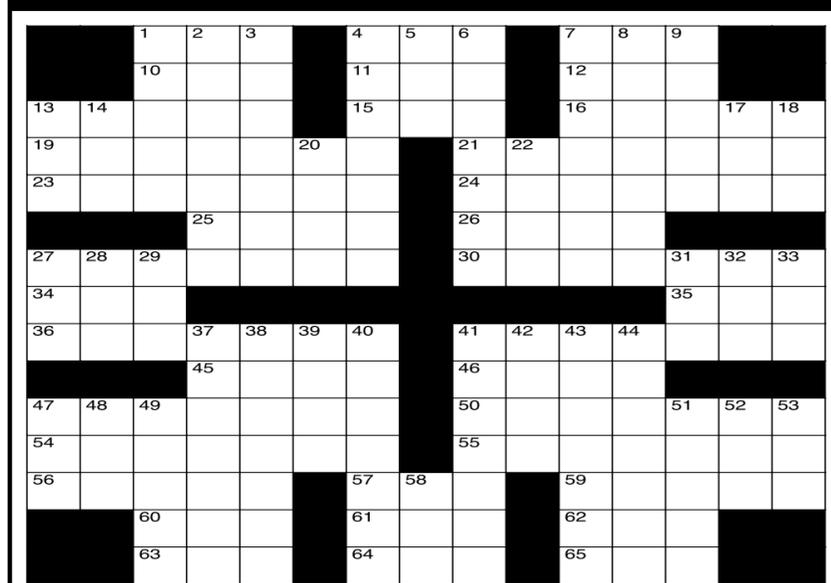
**Sunday, Dec. 14**  
 2:33 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Hardwick Road, Criminal Complaint  
 4:59 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled  
 7:33 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Report Taken  
 8:49 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Turkey Street, Officer Handled

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
 10 a.m. Complaint, Highland Terrace, Peace Restored  
 10:03 a.m. Medical Emergency, North Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Shore Road, Negative Contact  
 11:39 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled  
 2:28 p.m. Disturbance, Maple Street, Peace Restored  
 3:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 6:28 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
 12:24 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 9:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 12:23 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Spoken To  
 1:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Services Rendered  
 3:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:58 p.m. Parking Complaint, Broad Street, No Action Required  
 11:39 a.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Officer Handled  
 2:28 p.m. Disturbance, Maple Street, Peace Restored  
 3:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
 3:43 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 6:28 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
 3:42 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pleasant Street, Investigated

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. American automotive titan
  - 4. Tire term
  - 7. Two-year-old sheep
  - 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
  - 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
  - 12. Actress de Armas
  - 13. Not moving
  - 15. Cool!
  - 16. Plants of the arum family
  - 19. Connected with touch
  - 21. Pen stain
  - 23. Monetary units
  - 24. School kids' art project
  - 25. Early Bell Canada executive
  - 26. Sword
  - 27. Hates
  - 30. Fixed in one place
  - 34. Pie \_\_\_ mode
  - 35. Moved swiftly on foot
  - 36. Carrier on vehicle
  - 41. A path to get through
  - 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - 46. Spiritual leader
  - 47. Flowing
  - 50. Respectful compliments
  - 54. Cure
  - 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
  - 56. Building material
  - 57. Japanese delicacy
  - 59. A way to cause to be swollen
  - 60. One and only
  - 61. You might get one in summer
  - 62. Wreath
  - 63. Thus far
  - 64. They \_\_\_
  - 65. Employee reference number
  - 29. Small amount
  - 31. A way to save for your future
  - 32. Fall behind
  - 33. Midway between northeast and east
  - 37. Head pain
  - 38. Wildly popular sport
  - 39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
  - 40. Boat race
  - 41. About fish
  - 42. Nursemaid
  - 43. Able to be marketed
  - 44. Not as large
  - 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
  - 48. Paddle
  - 49. Oneness
  - 51. Bitter chemical
  - 52. Not around
  - 53. Very fast airplane
  - 58. Main tributary of the Rhine
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Policemen (French)
  - 2. Toy dog
  - 3. Intestinal condition
  - 4. Muscular weaknesses
  - 5. Helps little firms
  - 6. Alphabetical lists
  - 7. Takes down
  - 8. Facilitates
  - 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
  - 13. Engine additive
  - 14. Explorers group
  - 17. Written account
  - 18. Consumed
  - 20. Opposite of first
  - 22. No (slang)
  - 27. Government lawyers
  - 28. NY Giants great

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Just Keep Smiling Glitter Tattoos were provided at the Ware Library during Santa's visit. The Corley family were wearing matching Grinch sweaters.

**SAINT NICK**  
from page 1

Christmas cookies as treats during the event for Santa's visit. Mr. Claus was okay with sharing Christmas cookies with his friends at the Ware Library.

The Ware Library thanked Santa Claus for visiting them and he thanked all his young friends for coming by and encouraged them to visit the library as much as they can.

Visit the Ware Library at 37 Main St. More information can be found at warelibrary.org.



Santa Claus is shown alongside his helpful elf, Children's Librarian Cathy Goulet.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



The Wishing Tree was decorated with bows and cute ornaments made by guests at the Ware Library.



# St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold annual fund drive

**HARDWICK** – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville has launched its Annual Fund Drive with a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds from an anonymous benefactor.

The fund drive runs through March 15, 2026.

Last year the fund drive raised just over \$95,000 including the match funds.

"To raise that amount of money was truly a miracle. Never in the history of our Annual Fund Drive or the Scholarship Drive that preceded it, did we ever exceed our goal to that extent," said Roberta McQuaid, Finance Manager and Enrollment Coordinator for the school.

The School Board implemented the Annual Fund Drive in place of the Scholarship Drive in 2025 to be able to diversify the use of the money earned, and thereby keep tuition affordable for

families.

"The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries. It is no small feat to make ends meet. We rely so heavily on those who support our mission; we couldn't do the good work we do if it weren't for our donors. While I hope and pray we will do well again this year, big gifts are not a given, and every donation, no matter the size, truly counts," continued McQuaid. "Catholic Schools provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit too. Our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. It's a well rounded education, and when they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It's a worthwhile goal to try and keep

our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education."

Tuition assistance is also available through the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and from scholarships gifted by private foundations.

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Annual Fund please visit [www.staloyuscs.com/support/](http://www.staloyuscs.com/support/). Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting "Annual Fund" on the memo line.

An Open House is planned for Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 from 3-5:30 p.m. Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school.

# Loki faces third Christmas in a shelter

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – If Loki is not adopted by Monday, he will mark two full years at Second Chance Animal Services and will face his third Christmas inside a shelter.

He has been with the organization for so long that he believes this is his home, and staff are hoping the public can help change his story.

Loki first came to Second Chance in 2017 from Mississippi and was adopted quickly. He was returned in December 2023 when his family could no longer keep him and he has been waiting ever since, despite his loyal heart and adventurous spirit.

Loki loves car rides, fenced yards, walks, and showing off his many tricks. When he bonds with some-



Submitted Photo  
Loki enjoyed the first snowfall of the season.

barks and howls.

Loki needs a calm home with few visitors. He prefers a female owner but can warm up to men with patience.

He would do best as the only pet and in a home without small children. His adoption fee has already been paid by one of his biggest supporters to help him find the right match.

Second Chance is committed to every pet in its care and hopes the community will help Loki finally find the home he deserves.

Could you or someone you know be the person Loki has been waiting for? Visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org/adoptable-dogs/](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/adoptable-dogs/) or call 508-867-5525 for more information.

one, he becomes a devoted companion who greets his favorite people with happy

# Christmas concert to be held Dec. 21

**HARDWICK** – The Weir River Concert Band will perform a free Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Stone Church

Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate the holiday season.

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**WREATHS** from page 1

of the true cost of freedom. "Freedom did not come without a price."

Bateman said this price was paid, and continues to be paid, by those who served their country through service.

"Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to believe as we do. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. And, we have the right to succeed, and we have the right to fail at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue," he said.

Bateman invited Kate Marceau to speak about the life of Roland Gratton, a 29-year active duty veteran who first served during World War II.

Marceau said Gratton lied about his age and was just 16 when he enlisted, becoming a driver for General Patton in Germany as part of a transportation unit.

Gratton was born in Royal Oak, Michigan on Sept. 11, 1928, and died March 21, 1996. As a child, he moved to West Brookfield and attended a one room schoolhouse at the top of Ragged Hill. When Gratton's father went to World War II, Roland went to work in the Ware woolen and cotton mills.

Gratton was part of the Berlin Airlift and on June 24, 1948, the Soviet forces blockaded rail, road, and water access to Allied-controlled areas of Berlin. The U.S. and United Kingdom responded by airlifting food and fuel to Berlin from Allied airbases in western Germany.

Marceau shared a memory recalled by Gratton's son: "He was there when they started throwing candy out of the C47 - Gooney Birds to the kids. The soldiers shuttled food

because the Russians were going to starve the Germans."

Gratton's military experience during World War II even gained the attention of a writer from England who spent a week in Ware to gather information from him about the Berlin Airlift.

Gratton went on to serve in combat during the Korean War, living on a passenger train and suffering frostbite during the extreme winter conditions.

Near the end of his military career, Gratton served in Vietnam, and his son remembered not understanding why protestors were so upset with his father when he returned home at a Boston airport.

Gratton came back from Vietnam with nightmares of guerilla warfare, and exposure to Agent Orange. Gratton later died from liver cancer caused by that exposure.

Outside of his military service, Gratton drove a school bus, as well as an oil truck for Petracone Oil, and also worked 20 years at the Post Office. He was an active member of the community and dedicated a lot of his time to its veterans organizations and youth sports.

"Roland Gratton was an example of dedication, commitment and service to his country. He served in three wars during his 29 years of active duty," Marceau said. "We are proud to acknowledge his sacrifices today."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all gathered were invited to place wreaths at the town's cemeteries, starting at Aspen Grove Cemetery, where Gratton is laid to rest.

Helping with the ceremony were members of Girl Scout Troop 11383, the Ware Veterans Council, the Ware Jr./Sr. High School band, The Patriot Guard Riders, Ware Jr./Sr. High School students Kazmiry Lagimoniere and Jack Gaudreau, and trumpeter David Deslauriers.

Bateman thanked Scouting America Troop 281, Ware Middle School PTO and the Ware Veterans Council for helping to fundraise for this year's event.

Now through Dec. 31, all sponsorships received for next year's event will be fully matched by the Wreaths Across America organization.

To sponsor a wreath for next year's event to be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2026, visit the "Wreaths Across America, Ware, MA" Facebook page and click on the respective links.

Jane Sterndale carried a wreath to be placed to honor members of the U.S. Navy.



Volunteers helped to unbox wreaths at Aspen Grove Cemetery.



David Deslauriers performed Taps while his father, Henry Deslauriers, saluted.



Bob and Brandy Brusio honored a veteran with a wreath.



Ed Wyzik positioned a wreath to honor members of the U.S. Space Force.



Girl Scouts get ready to place wreaths at Aspen Grove Cemetery.



The Swindlehurst family placed a wreath to honor members of the U.S. Air Force.



Jane Sterndale carried a wreath to be placed to honor members of the U.S. Navy.



Laurie Desjardins placed a wreath on a gravestone at Aspen Grove Cemetery.



David Nicoson saluted after placing the prisoner of war/missing in action wreath.



Kate Marceau spoke about Roland Gratton's military service.



Frank Bateman, location coordinator for Wreaths Across America, spoke about the importance of the day.

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The Ware Veterans Council served as the honor guard during the Wreaths Across America ceremony.

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## Ware suffers tough loss after fast start

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—The senior trio of Kaleb Kanozek, Brady Guimond, and Jack Gaudreau combined to score 39 points in Ware's season opening basketball game against Frontier Regional.

The Red Hawks were led offensively by senior Max Millette, who finished with a game-high 36 points.

Millette's outstanding performance helped the visitors from Deerfield overcome a double digit first half deficit and celebrate a 71-54 non-league victory over the Indians before a large crowd at Paul Orzulak Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

"I liked the way that we played at the start of tonight's game, but we're definitely not where we want to be right now," said Ware head coach Gene Rich. "We still have a lot of work to do, and we want to be playing our best basketball at the end of the regular season. The players are ready for the challenge."

The Indians were outscored, 40-19, during the second half.

"We didn't handle Frontier's pressure very well, especially during the second



Kaleb Kanozek passes the ball away from the sideline.



Brodie Koczur tries to get around an opponent.

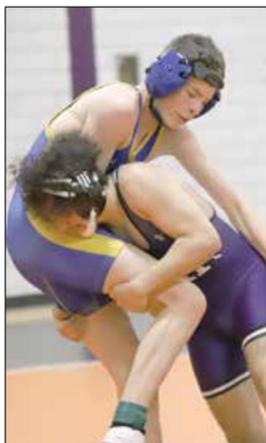
Brady Guimond goes for the layup.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Jake Parker-Gregory goes for the pinfall.



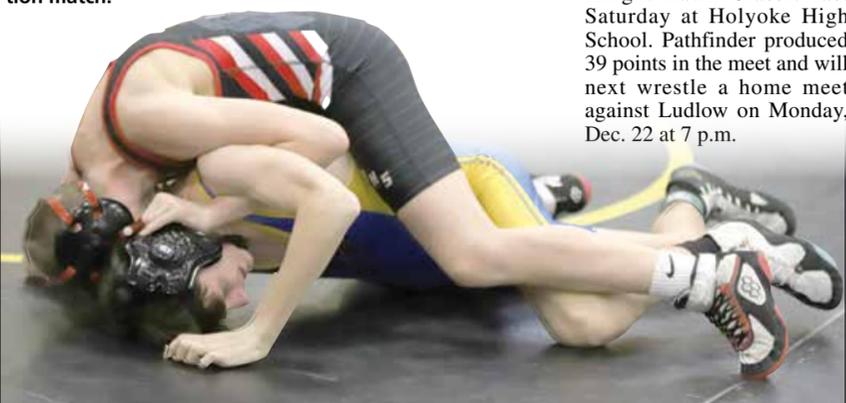
Jose Soto tries to avoid a takedown.



Jayden Rodrigues locks up with an opponent in a consolation match.

## Pioneers open season

HOLYOKE - The Pathfinder Regional wrestling team took part in the Knight-Hawk Classic last Saturday at Holyoke High School. Pathfinder produced 39 points in the meet and will next wrestle a home meet against Ludlow on Monday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.



ABOVE: Crosby Turner tries to work out of trouble.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

RIGHT: Logan Hayes attempts to secure his opponent's pinfall.



## Hurricanes suffer shutout to E-Hamp



Grahm Arguin takes the faceoff.

EASTHAMPTON - Last Saturday night, Amherst Regional ice hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Regional, opened up the regular season against Easthampton at Lessone Arena on the campus of Williston School. The Eagles scored a pair of early goals and rode that to a 2-0 win over the Hurricanes. The Hurricanes were in action against Taconic on Dec. 17 and will next face McCann Tech at home Saturday, Dec. 20 at Orr Rink in Amherst.



Joshua Feldman gets ready to shoot.



Sawyer Ferro heads up the ice with the puck.



Alexander Marlin keeps the puck from crossing the blue line.



Lincoln Auclair heads up the ice.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports

## Panthers preview season with scrimmage at Ware

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE— Dennis Dextrateur is beginning his 35th season as the boys' varsity basketball coach at Quabbin Regional High School.

While the Panthers have five returning varsity players, there is only one senior listed on their roster.

"This is one of the youngest teams that we've had during the past 21 years," said Dextrateur following a home scrimmage against Ware High School on December 9. "We only have one senior on this year's varsity team. We also had one senior two years ago, but we had a bunch of juniors that season."

Twenty one years ago, the Panthers had mostly sophomores and juniors. The following season, they won the league title and the Clark Tournament title.

"Sophomores are erratic, juniors are inconsistent, and seniors are invaluable," Dextrateur said. "We're a very young team this year. This is a two year project for us."

Quabbin, who just missed qualifying for the Division 3 state tournament, finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 9-11 overall record.

The only Panthers senior this season is Anthony Quartarone, who's a center

and a returning varsity player.

"We're looking for Anthony to be our leading rebounder," Dextrateur said. "We're also looking for him to be a physical presence in the paint, which we don't have right now."

Kyle Clark, who was one of the five Panthers players that graduated last spring, dominated the paint area during the past couple of years.

"We're going to be more of a transition team this year," added Dextrateur, who's approaching his 400th win as the boys' varsity coach. "We're also going to be a man-to-man team defensively."

The juniors listed on the Panthers varsity roster are Evan Sherblom, who's a guard, Jacoby Dilling, who's a guard, Owen Twarog, who's a forward, Matt Wade, who's a forward, Calvin Hurd who's a forward, and Jake Doty, who's a forward.

Dilling is a returning starter, along with sophomore guard Brady Patchen.

"We're going to be counting on both Jacoby and Brady a lot this season," Dextrateur said. "They're very important players to us."

Dilling and Patchen, who are the Panthers co-captains, joined the varsity team as eighth graders. The duo averaged more than ten

points per game last year.

Another sophomore is Aiden Crane, who's a guard.

Crane, Sherblom, Quartarone, Dilling, and Patchen were the five starters in the home scrimmage against the Ware Indians.

"The starting positions are earned at practice," Dextrateur said. "Nothing is guaranteed."

The Indians are coached by Gene Rich, who graduated from Quabbin and he also played basketball for Dextrateur.

Rounding out the varsity squad are sophomore forward Collin Leclair, and freshman guard Isaac Patchen, who's Brady's younger brother.

The Panthers were scheduled to begin the regular season with two road games against Leicester and Lunenburg before hosting Hudson in the home opener on Friday night.

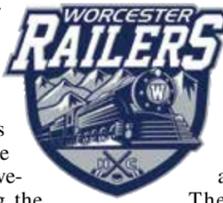
Quabbin is a member of the Mid-Wach C Division, along with Lunenburg, Hudson, Clinton, Maynard and Tyngsborough,

"All of our league games will be very challenging. The other five teams qualified for the state tournament last year," Dextrateur said. "There are a lot of talented players in our league."

The Panthers assistant coaches are Jason Ayer, Steve Carrington, and Nick Farrell.

## Railers score win over Pirates

PORTLAND, ME – The Portland Pirates ruined a lot of nights for the Worcester IceCats and Sharks through the decades.



The Railers got some revenge here Saturday evening by beating the Pirates, 4-2, in front of 4,803 fans as the Maine Mariners did a nostalgia game playing as the old AHL team.

The game went down to the final minutes with Worcester clinching it on Drew Callin's empty net goal with 26 seconds left in the third period. It was a 2-2 game with less than 10 minutes to go in the third, then Ryan Miotto broke the tie with a great wrist shot from the left circle at 10:25.

Cole Donhauser and Matt DeMelis had the other Railers goals. Max Andreev and Robert Cronin scored for the Pirates. Once again Worcester got splendid goaltending from Parker Gahagen who stopped 32 of 34 shots.

It was an outcome that could easily have been reversed except that Worcester refused to give in.

"I think we stuck with a lot of our game plan," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "We got put back on our heels a little bit at the start

of the second period after a pretty good first period but I thought we responded well."

The victory allowed the Railers to finish a seven-game road trip with a 4-2-1 record. They earned nine of a possible 14 points, a .643 pace. Worcester is 9-3-1 in its last 13 games.

The first period was played at a yellow light pace and ended 0-0 although Worcester outshot the home team, 13-7. Things quickened in the second and intensified just before the clock hit the game's midway point.

The Railers were a man short when they developed a 3 on 1. They crashed the Maine zone but probably got in too deep. Ross Mitton was the last man to touch the puck but had no room to beat goalie Brad Arvanitis.

On cue, the Mariners came back with an odd-man rush of their own. They finished this one well with Andreev firing 20-footer under the crossbar from the left circle.

Worcester did not trail for long.

Donhauser stole the puck at center ice and out-

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE – The Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes is 15 weeks into their season as the holidays are approaching.

Fire Mountain is in first place with a record of 65.5-39.5. Sandri is close by in second place with a record of 64-41. Night Hawks are in third place with a record of 62-43 as they try to close the gap with Fire Mountain, who have been leading almost all season.

In week 15, Zeke's Freaks bowled against Ironmen. In game one, Zeke's Freaks took the lead early and won by a score of 476-452. Zeke Sicard of Zeke's Freaks bowled over his league average with 105. Ryan Drago of Ironmen scored 128 in a losing effort in game one.

In game two, Ironmen bounced back with a win of their own, 481-433. Billy Brunk of Ironmen bowled well with 124 and Jason Swistak bowled 112.

In game three, Ironmen and Zeke's Freaks tied, 466-466. Brunk finished strong with 140 and a three-game series of 362. Drago finished with 122 and a series of 352.

As a result of the tie, each team received one point. The final score was 1399-1375 in favor of Ironmen.

Slow Burners bowled against Cannonballs during week 15. In game one, Cannonballs defeated Slow Burners by a score of 463-408.

In game two, Cannonballs won again by a score of 467-436. Suzie Czarnecki of Cannonballs bowled well with 110 during the team's second straight win over Slow Burners.

In game three, Cannonballs and Slow Burners tied, 452-452. Cannonballs won six points out of seven and total pinfall by a final score of 1382-1296.

P&J Meats bowled against #1 seed Fire Mountain in week 15. In game one, P&J Meats pulled off the upset with a huge win over Fire Mountain, 526-481. Three out of four bowlers of P&J Meats scored in the 110s, 119 by Kristy Temple, 113 by Paige Stabach, and 116 by Shaun Midura.

In game two, Fire Mountain won by a score of 482-477. Midura remained consistent and scored 116 again. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain had the highest game on his team with 107.

In game three, Fire Mountain scored big and won 506-485. Gary Delisle of Fire Mountain bowled a 108 and a series of 331. Trott scored 110 and a series of 321. The final score was 1488-1469 in favor of P&J Meats.

Sandri bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls in week 15. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 478-450. Steve McCarthy of Flaming Bowling Balls had the highest game on his team with 110.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 462-458. Ryan McCarthy scored 109 during the team's victory over Sandri.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 536-447. Every bowler of Sandri was over 100 with Ron Gouin having the highest score of 130. Don Paulus of Flaming Bowling Balls had the best game on his team with 122. The final score was 1444-1387 in favor of Sandri.

## Thunderbirds get clutch goals for win over Utica Comets

UTICA, N.Y. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-11-3-2) received a pair of clutch, tie-breaking goals in the final period en route to a 3-2 win over the Utica Comets (5-14-3-1) on Saturday night inside Adirondack Bank Center.

For a second straight road contest, the T-Birds had to lean on their goaltender in the opening period, as Georgi Romanov was a frequently-tested goalie, making 14 saves in the opening period, including a flashy left pad

save on an in-tight chance from Utica captain Ryan Schmelzer on the first shift of the night.

Springfield had the lone power play in the first, but instead, Romanov was pressed into duty again, to which the Russian backstop answered the bell with a 2-on-1 denial on Nathan Legare.

The Comets' efforts finally led to a breakthrough at 6:14 of the second as Dylan Wendt slid a pass to a streaking Jonathan Gruden, who threw a forehander over Romanov's

shoulder from the left side to give Utica the 1-0 advantage.

Just over six minutes later, Springfield equalized as Chris Wagner drove the puck down the left wing to the goal before stuffing a forehander through Nico Daws to make it 1-1 at 12:39. The goal was Wagner's fifth in his last six games.

As the game entered the third, the T-Birds were about to receive two clutch connections from a pair of rookies. First, Nikita Susuev netted his first AHL goal, as he swooped

to a rebound behind Daws' net before wrapping it around to the right post and behind the Comet netminder to give Springfield a 2-1 lead just 1:48 into the third.

Lenni Hameenaho swiftly got Utica back to a tie score at 4:09, as he unleashed a wicked one-time slapper through Romanov's stick side, bringing the game to a 2-2 deadlock.

One more time, though, the T-Birds had a rebuttal, this time from Marc-Andre Gaudet, who uncorked a slap

shot that ricocheted off a Utica defender before bouncing behind Daws at 8:47 for the go-ahead goal, 3-2.

Romanov and the Springfield defense batted down the hatches from there, killing off a Utica power play and receiving numerous shot blocks in the closing minutes, including a clutch denial by Alek Kaskimaki in the dying seconds. Romanov improved to 2-0 for the season against Utica, stopping 65 of 67 Comets shots over his two victories.

### WARE from page 9

half," Rich added. "We'll be a much better team in a couple of weeks."

It was the first meeting on the hardwood between the two squads since Frontier defeated Ware, 46-36, at the beginning of the 2019-20 regular season.

The Indians also lost their season opening game for the first time since suffering a 49-46 home loss to Mount Everett three years ago.

In this year's season opener, Gaudreau scored 13 of his team-high 15 points during the opening half.

Guimond finished the game with 14 points.

"Brady and Jack are very coachable basketball players," Rich said. "I think Jack has a very good opportunity to score 1,000 career points this year. Brady will need to average more than twenty points per game to reach the milestone."

Kanozek also reached double digits with 10 points.

The Indians other seniors are Brodie Koczur, Sean Bernier, Aidan Montone, and Alex Orsulak.

"I really enjoy working with the seniors," said Rich, who's beginning his 10th season as the Indians varsity coach. "They have positive attitudes."

Junior Dalton Marquis checked in with 7 points for the home team.

The Indians built a 16-6



Jack Gaudreau looks to avoid a blocker before shooting.

lead with 2:20 left in the opening quarter following a Guimond lay-up. He scored 11 of the Indians first 16 points. Gaudreau and Koczur combined to score the other four points.

Ware entered the second

quarter holding a 20-14 lead.

The home team led by ten points (27-17) again with 5:30 remaining in the first half following a Gaudreau jumper in the lane.

With a little more than three minutes left in the



Alex Orsulak sends a pass away.

opening half, Orsulak hit a base-line jumper giving his team a 31-25 lead. It was Orsulak's only points of the game. He's also a very good football player and was recently named MVP of the Inter-County football league.

The Indians held a slim 35-31 halftime lead.

Millette, who scored 13 first half points, gave the Red Hawks the lead for the first time at 39-37 with an inside basket three minutes into the third quarter.

Millette took over the spotlight in the second half,

as he helped the visiting squad build a 50-44 lead entering the final eight minutes.

The Indians couldn't catch-up, as they were outscored, 21-10 down the stretch.

Ware is scheduled to play two road games this week before returning home to battle Bi-County East rival Monson on Monday night. The Indians are also scheduled to host Mahar Regional the following night.

# The season for the season

## Church hosted 16th nativity display

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints hosted its 16th “Nativities From Around the World” display over four days the first week of December.

Featuring over 700 nativity displays from church and community members, this free event brought warmth and a feeling of peace to all who experienced it.

Walking through the doors of the church, you were greeted by church members who directed you to the first of six rooms decorated with nativities.

The first two rooms featured the collection owned by the Alt family of Barre. Glen and Joyce have been participating in their church’s “Nativities From Around the World” for over 10 years, having started when their oldest daughter, Jessie, urged them to take part.

“We have like 250 on display and more at home,” Glen said.

Joyce said her husband is more of the collector of nativities in their household,



This nativity scene featured the holy family inside the word “peace.”

and that he always displays each one at least once before packing it up for this event. Glen said he gets most of his nativities from garage sales and thrift stores, and has also received many as gifts.

“Some were rescued from the trash,” he said.

Joyce said one of their favorite nativities in their collection is one that they found at an estate sale at the home of a former doctor in their town. She said it was the second nativity their family ever bought.

“My asking for a nativity turned into this,” Joyce said laughingly, gesturing to the display in the room.

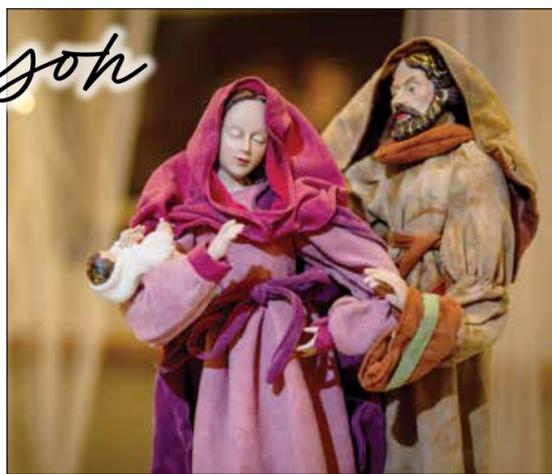
Joyce said that each of the nativities displayed at “Nativities From Around the World” is unique, but that they all capture the same



These hand-painted figures of Joseph and Mary embraced baby Jesus.

event – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Joyce said she tends to like simply nativity scenes the most, and she pointed out several special ones in their



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield held its 16th “Nativities From Around the World” event over four days. This annual event celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ with a display of over 700 nativity scenes.



The Little Drummer Boy announced the arrival of Jesus Christ in this nativity scene.

collection. One featured the holy family being covered by an angel in robes, and another is made out of paper.

The Alts also have nativities made by well-known artists, including Thomas Kinkade and Jim Shore. The nativity made by Shore is also

a music box.

Glen and Joyce said they were able to purchase the music box nativity at a yard sale for only \$2, after another person looking at it before them had accidentally broken it.

Glen said many people came through “Nativities From Around the World” this year, especially on Friday night to hear the music of the Weir River Concert Band and Spirit and Grace. People have also been very generous in dropping off nonperishable food items to support the local food pantries.

Joyce recalled one woman who attended the event crying tears of joy, because she saw a nativity just like one she had as a child.

The other rooms at the church contained the extensive collections of event founders Karen Dusty and Gail Ann Anderson, as well as nativities belonging to their family members, other church members and community members.

### About the church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield got its start meeting in the room of a member’s home in Spencer. As its membership grew, the church moved into another home, and then a storefront next to the town hall.

The church building was constructed over 20 years ago and draws members from North Brookfield, Spencer, Barre, Warren, Hardwick and many other towns.

For more information, visit [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org), click on “Find a Church” and search for the closest location. You can also follow the church on Facebook as “North Brookfield The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.”

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Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

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**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

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The Town of Sturbridge is accepting applications to fill the part-time, 10 hours per week, Veteran' Service Officer position. The position will act as a Veterans' Agent and thus requires all appropriate State and Federal certification. Applications are available on-line on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>

The position is non-union and reports to the Town Administrator. *The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).*

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

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

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**EARLY DEADLINE**

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**

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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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# public notices

## BIRDS from page 4

### Bird bath visitors

The Brimfield resident said he went looking for his bird bath heater and could not find it.

He said, "Eventually I did find it, in the bird bath. It wasn't connected and grass had grown over the cord so I couldn't see it, but dug around and eventually found the cord, got it plugged in and now the bath isn't freezing."

He has a trail camera near the bird bath. Lots of birds are using the bird bath, mostly to get a drink. Birds coming to the bird bath include blue jay, Carolina wren, cardinal, cedar waxwing (six), chickadee, goldfinch, mourning dove, robin (three), titmouse and white-throated sparrow.

He said, "Robins took a bath but when it was warmer, temperature in the upper 40s. Junco are the only cold weather bathers." Mammals seen at the bird bath are opossum, raccoon, mouse at least two and a mole.

He thinks the tub he uses for the bird bath has a leak because the water level goes down and he has to refill it ever couple of days. He said, "The local pond are now frozen. We did a few trips around the area and never saw any migrating ducks, just mallards and Canada geese."



### Helping birds

Birds are attracted to water during winter months. They do not bath when temperatures are below freezing, but they do take a drink. A source of unfrozen water will attract birds.

Providing wild birds with clean drinking water is helpful. However, providing a roomy bathing area that stays thawed even in severely-cold weather can be harmful in some cases. Before heating devices kept bird-baths ice free, birds could bathe in naturally-melted water and be able to fly off without their feathers freezing. According to the blog Cool Green Science-Stories of The Nature Conservancy, birds bathing while air temperatures are frigid risk harm due to frozen feathers: <https://blog.nature.org/2022/01/31/should-you-provide-birds-water-in-winter/>.

The article suggests modifying heated bird-baths so that birds can safely drink, but not bathe. A metal heating element that keeps a small section of the birdbath thawed works well. People, who have bird feeders or simple feeding stations may add shallow unbreakable container around the area. Yes, it can be labor-intensive, but they can easily pour water into them (hot water when it's below freezing) and provide fresh water for at least a short period of time. As a source of drinking water, the containers can be filled with pebbles that will form small pockets of water where birds can get a drink of water.

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.

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Bellevue Avenue Extension, Ware, Massachusetts

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

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

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

**PARCEL 2:**  
A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATE IN SAID WARE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LAND FORMERLY OF A. W. LINCOLN, ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF A STREET COMMONLY CALLED BELLEVUE AVENUE EXTENSION RUNNING FROM ASPEN STREET TO BELLEVUE AVENUE; THENCE EASTERLY ON SAID STREET THIRTY-NINE (39) FEET TO OTHER LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF LOTTIE M. FOUNTAIN,

THENCE NORTHERLY IN A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF BELLEVUE AVENUE ALONG OTHER LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID FOUNTAIN ONE HUNDRED TWO (102) FEET; THENCE WESTERLY ON LAND FORMERLY OF JOSEPH DUMAS, JR., THIRTY-NINE (39) FEET TO OTHER LAND OF FRANCIS R. BULLAN ET UX, GRANTORS HEREIN;

THENCE SOUTHERLY ON OTHER LAND OF SAID BULLAN ONE HUNDRED TWO (102) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE MORTGAGOR BY DEED RECORDED HEREWITH.

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

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

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

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

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.  
275 West Natick Road,  
Suite 500  
Warwick, RI 02886  
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 25-03560  
12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2025

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 88 West Street, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Thomas Hubbard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a TPOGO its successors and assigns and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, said mortgage dated March 22, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry

**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.**

## RAILERS from page 10

skated a pair of defenders. He made a little move between the circles and as Arvanitis reacted, Donhauser put a short shot between his pads.

DeMelis gave the Railers a 2-1 lead at 5:41 of the third period, scoring from in close. Cronin tied it on a power play at 9:12. Once again Worcester responded quickly as Miotto hit the top far corner from the left circle at 10:25.

The home team pressed but Gahegan shut them down until the buzzer sounded.

The two Worcester AHL teams had played the Pirates many times through the years and it was a very intense rivalry. Including play-off games, they battled 206 times. Worcester's record was 91-86-29. The IceCats were 43-45-16, the Sharks 44-37-13.

The city's AHL teams were 36-45-18 in what is currently called Cross Arena.

The American Hockey League won't put this one in the standings, but the Railers were very happy to issue some payback for their predecessors.

of Deeds in Book 15094, Page 194, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 23, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15314, Page 312, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 6, 2025, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15496, Page 282, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **January 8, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain pieces of real estate situated in WARE, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, known and designated as 88 West Street, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the northwesterly corner of the tract herein conveyed at an iron pin on the southerly side of said street; thence SOUTHERLY on line of land formerly of the Murdock Estate about one hundred (100) feet to land formerly belonging to the P.J. Crowe Estate; thence EASTERLY on land formerly of the P.J. Crowe Estate about fifty (50) feet to land formerly of Fred Burge; thence NORTHERLY on land formerly of Fred Burge one hundred (100) feet to West Street; thence WESTERLY on West Street to the place of beginning.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 11, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15091, Page 191.

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

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

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.  
275 West Natick Road,  
Suite 500  
Warwick, RI 02886  
Attorney for  
Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Present Holder of the Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 25-01046  
12/18, 12/25/2025, 01/01/2025

## Town of Hardwick PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting on **Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: **Barre Road-** National Grid to install 1 SO pole beginning at a point approximately 66 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Pine Street.  
12/18/2025

## Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle

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

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

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

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

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD98P0392GR1 In the interests of: Tanya Krutka Of: Ware, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kelly Kobylanski** of Ware, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **12/29/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 01, 2025

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/18/2025

## EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

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

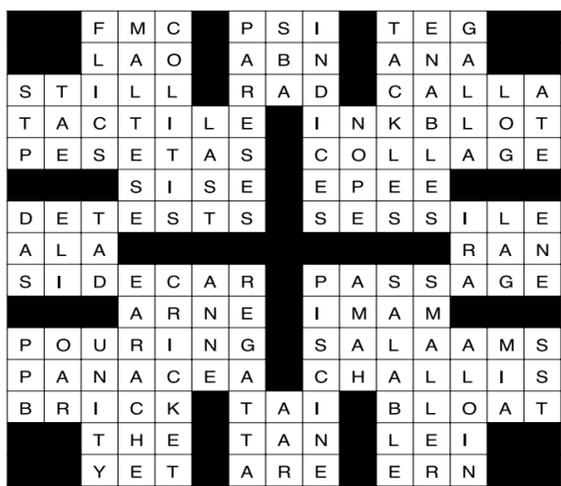
**Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue**  
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

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

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

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

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Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. Asking \$194,000. See listing on MLS # 73397436

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$139,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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