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► This week:



Timeless rom-com

Love, war, life and death: actors performed Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" in Onset over the weekend.

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Little Vikings

Children joined a cheerleading clinic, combining fun and athletics.

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Happy little horses

Peace for Ponies shelter invites guests for an open house to meet rescued farm animals.

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Wareham Week

ABOUT WAREHAM, FOR WAREHAM, BY WAREHAM RESIDENTS

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FREE



We're going to the playoffs!

Gary Gateman cheers for Wareham during the 9-1 victory over Cotuit on July 27 at Spillane Field. Playoffs start on Friday, August 2. For story, see Page 16. Photo by: Andrew W. Griffith

Electronic voting to get trial at Town Meeting

By Nadya Korytnikova
reporter@warehamweek.com

Wareham voters will take electronic voting for a test drive at the October 28 Town Meeting.

Spurred by a desire to speed up voting and by concerns that hand-count voting makes some voters reluctant to vote differently than friends and neighbors, Town Moderator Claire Smith and other officials have for several years been looking into a system that would allow anonymous, button-pushing voting.

On Tuesday, Selectman gave the go-ahead to a trial of such a system at this year's fall Town Meeting.

For the trial, Ohio-based Turning Point Technology will allow Wareham to use

E-Voting Page 12

Shoplifting prompts chase, crashes, search, arrest

By Nadya Korytnikova
reporter@warehamweek.com

What began as a shoplifting incident at the Rite-Aid in Wareham Plaza escalated to a car chase, a crash involving a cruiser, and a two hour search for the suspect on July 24.

According to the Wareham Police:

Officers responded to the pharmacy at 2:09 p.m. following a report of a shoplifting in progress. The female shoplifter, later identified as Tammi L. Denwood, 41, of Randolph, fled the lot in a blue Nissan and drove "very erratically" west down Marion Road just before Officer Zina Kelsch arrived.

Within a few minutes, Kelsch located the suspect's car in the parking lot at the Woods of Wareham. Denwood spotted the cruiser and reversed her car at a high speed through the parking lot before colliding with the cruiser on Swifts Beach Road, and the cars were "hung up on each other."

Police chase Page 2

Buzzards Bay Coalition
offers Cuttyhunk cruise

Sunday breakfast
at Shenanigans Bar & Grill

Game-by-game
Gatemen news

Costume recycling
at the Gleason Y

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E-Voting *continued*

its Response Card remote controls free of charge.

Residents will have about 20 seconds to cast their vote on their assigned Response Cards. They will press 1A to vote “yes” or 2B to vote “no.” Upon completion, the result will instantly appear on a screen at the front of the auditorium.

“Once I say ‘Now I will call for the vote,’ the Turning Point Technology technician will activate the remotes and record the votes on the computer,” said Town Moderator Claire Smith.

While the trial will be free, Smith said purchasing the system would cost \$17,000. Leasing would cost \$2,000 per Town Meeting for up to 400 units.

The cost includes remote controls, a receiver and a technician from Turning Point Technology to set up the devices and oversee the process.

Until now, votes at Town Meeting have

been taken by a “show of hands,” with “tellers” counting raised hands to determine whether a proposal passes.

The new technology would allow voters to vote anonymously.

“No-one has any idea how you vote,” said Smith. “Everybody is just pushing the buttons.”

“People won’t see how others vote, and that’s really good because many voters are a minority,” added Select Board Chair Patrick Tropeano.

If feedback is positive, Wareham will join a handful of towns across the state that have chosen to lease or purchase electronic voting devices for town meetings — including Concord, Dover, Falmouth, Lynnfield, Sherborn, Webster, Westwood, and others.

“Most towns prefer to rent the technology because it changes so quickly and you constantly have to update it,” said

Smith.

“There are towns that bought the technology but they have people on their committee who are MIT graduates and computer technicians, so they know how to update the software. For the average town, you don’t have that, so it’s cheaper and better to rent.”

Wareham town officials took the initiative to adopt electronic voting five years ago.

But due to high prices caused by low competition in the services, the town didn’t have enough funds to sponsor the change.

“Now, when more towns are buying into [electronic voting] and there is a growing competition among the companies that provide this technology, the cost is going down,” said Smith. “I am excited about giving this a try to see how people feel about it.”

Seminar about toxic PFOC's and PFAS's

Fire Tech and Safety and National Foam and Task Force Tips will be offering a free seminar teaching to deal with known toxic PFOC’s and PFAS’s that could be

present in Fire Fighting Foam.

The seminar will take place from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. in Onset Fire Department located at 5 E Central Ave., Onset.

The seminar will give guests the information they need to ensure the safety of the community and the public water supply.

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