

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Hospital property discussed at joint meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
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WARE – The Hospital Review Committee held a joint meeting with the Historical Commission to share updates about the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 11 meeting, Building Commissioner Anna Marques provided information

she gathered during an unscheduled walkthrough of the hospital on March 15 and another more recent walkthrough.

Marques said the second walkthrough was in response to a call the Fire Department received for a pulled alarm. She said there have been a lot of false alarms calls to the property.

"I got to see the room that was abated," Marques said. "A week

and a half prior it was closed off." This room "shows potential" Marques said.

The abatement contractor, American Environmental, is about halfway done with the Wetherby building. Marques said chandeliers and other features have been removed from the building due to concerns about what would happen to them.

Marques said someone from

the Department of Environmental Protection, the agency overseeing the asbestos abatement, also toured the building and conducted that inspection. Marques said she couldn't go in some of the areas that the DEP inspector could.

Marques said the DEP did issue a notice of noncompliance with conditions of what needs to be fixed. It was not enough to shut-down the abatement process.

The notice of noncompliance, "did not warrant stopping the project," Marques said.

Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch asked if the removal of the asbestos would make the site more appealing to potential developers.

Marques said in her opinion, it would.

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## School district recognizes staff and students

By Paula Ouimette  
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WARE – Superintendent Michael Lovato recognized students who have achieved perfect attendance during the school year, and gave out several awards to both staff and students.

"We've done a lot this year, working with our administrators and our teachers to really remind students, and our teachers and families how important it is to be here every day," Lovato said. "But we think about the academic excellence that we expect of our teachers and that we expect from our students, it starts with coming to school."

At the School Committee's April 10 meeting, Lovato said having perfect attendance is not easy for students to earn, and he asked administrators to recognize those that have.

"We have five kids tonight with perfect attendance and without question, what they've been able to do is subpar to nothing," he said.

Please see **RECOGNIZE**, page 5

## Spaghetti fundraiser is a homerun

Supper benefited youth baseball/softball program

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School hosted a spaghetti supper to benefit the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program.

This was the second annual spaghetti supper where all proceeds go to support youth baseball and softball. The supper included spaghetti and meatballs, dinner rolls and a salad.

After the meal there was also a variety of cookies available to enjoy.

In addition to the meal, raffles



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

A spaghetti supper took place at Quaboag Regional Middle High School to support the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball.

were going on for guests to participate and win some fun prizes. There were more than 20 items donated by local businesses con-

sisting of gift cards and gift baskets.

There was also a baseball set to be won during the raffle.

Vice President of the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program is Heather Gough who kept busy during the fun supper. Gough

was handing out a lot of uniforms to parents and their kids who par-

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 7

## FinCom gives FY 25 budget presentation

By Paula Ouimette  
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WARE – Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette presented a high level overview of the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget to the Selectboard.

"At a high level, our reserves are in a good financial standing," he said at the April 16 meeting. "We do have a strong free cash account. We are well positioned to go forward in FY 25, not only to meet the operational needs of the town, but to look to some of the future capital needs of the town."

He said the town is about a \$40 million business enterprise, based on what is received from residents, state grants, offset fees and other things, in the projected fiscal year.

"With that, we operate a town that provides a good level of service to the residents, but some decisions had to be made in fund-

ing the FY 25 budget and not every department head was able to get every request recommended," he said.

Willette recognized Town Manager Stuart Beckley and former Town Accountant Tracy

Please see **FINCOM**, page 7

## Capital Planning reviews sewer dept. requests

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARREN – The Capital Planning Committee went over sewer improvement project requests.

Attending the April 9 meeting was Sewer Chief Operator Ralph Zebrowski sharing the list of requests made by him and the Sewer Commissioners. Several projects revolve around pumps for sewer operation.

One of the requests is for copper reduction. The Capital Planning Committee wanted to figure out if copper reduction is an operation cost or if it falls under capital planning.

From what was discussed between the committee and Zebrowski the copper reduction project would be an operational cost.

Zebrowski is also looking to buy another pump that is up to date. Currently there is a \$25,000 stub for a pump and Capital Planning wants to know the actual cost of the pump. Zebrowski will look into the cost of the pump and inform the Capital Planning Committee as soon as possible.

When asked how long this pump installment will take, Zebrowski estimated the whole process will take a week to get into the system.



**THE CURRENT ALARM IS COMPLETELY USELESS."**

**RALPH ZEBROWSKI**  
SEWER CHIEF OPERATOR

Another project request was for an affluent chlorine alarm. This project was listed as a mandated project.

Zebrowski needs a new chlorine alarm to replace the current one that has supposedly ran its course.

"The current alarm is completely useless," Zebrowski said.

Another request for a pump is also a potential mandated project for the town's sewer plant. The operation of this pump helps remove sludge and can be shipped out. The concern Zebrowski has is the parts to replace current parts for the pumps are costly as is the installation.

Please see **PLANNING**, page 5

## Ridge Shinn is on a mission to regenerate the land

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

Finally, a day that felt like spring here in western central Massachusetts.

I was in Hardwick Center to meet with Ridge Shinn and it was warm enough that we could take seats, and sip coffee on the porch of Mimi's Coffeehouse.

Though many in farming in our neck of the woods know of Shinn, most of the citizenry don't. Shinn is a bit of a radical in that he advocates raising beef on a 100% grass diet.

The man has had long experience with livestock. In the late 1970s he was a founder of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy (now: The Livestock Conservancy). He was as important

as anyone in promoting breed preservation.

Since, he has been busy promoting the idea of grass-fed beef in different ways.

Shinn was a founder of the New England Livestock Alliance, Hardwick Beef, Big Picture Beef and other entities. He grazed cattle on a local land trust property and ran Hardwick-based Big Picture Beef.

What he is doing currently is different, but is still in the livestock game.

Shinn is executive director of Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative. The goal is to partner with farmers to support transitions to regenerative grazing and pasture management practices.

Please see **MISSION**, page 6



Submitted Photo

## LIONS CLUB WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER

The Ware Lions Club welcomed its newest member, Cynthia Gravel, recently. Shown with Gravel is District Governor Curt Jameson, who performed the induction, and Ware Lions Club President and Gravel's sponsor, Judy Fair.

### BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
7am-12pm  
at ReSource Waste,  
198 East Street, Ware



#### ITEMS FREE FOR DISPOSAL

- Loveseats, Chairs & Couches
- Box Springs & Mattresses
- Power Equipment
- (Must be drained of all fluids)
- Etc.



#### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Food Waste
- Liquids, Fluids
- Paints and Oils
- Yard Waste (Brush & Leaves)
- Hazardous Waste



#### ITEMS WITH FEE

- Truck Tires \$75
- Loader/Tractor Tires \$500
- Passenger Tires \$30
- Freon Units (Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Etc.) \$22
- Television, Computer Monitors \$40

#### OPEN TO WARE RESIDENTS ONLY

Made possible by a partnership between ReSource Waste Services and the Town of Ware.





# SPORTS

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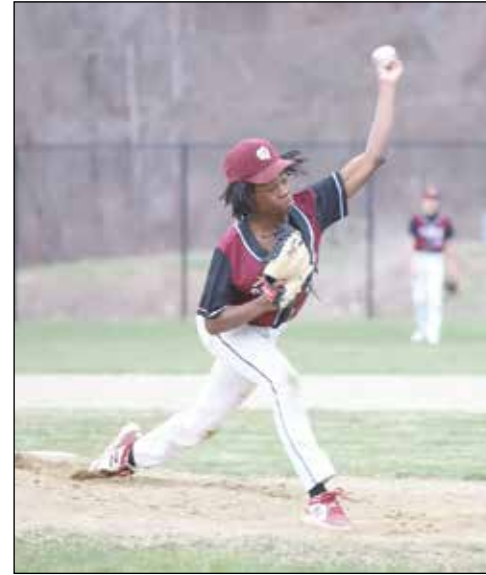
Jack McKeever fields the ground ball to second base.

## Ware offense scores big win

**PALMER** – Last Wednesday night, the Palmer High School baseball team, which nearly did not have enough players to start the season, suffered a 13-2 loss against rival Ware. The Indians scored six runs in the third inning to take a lead and Palmer came back with a pair. But the Indians were able to run away with the game from there. Palmer is out to an 0-3 start while Ware is 2-1 to start the year.



John Mumper makes the throw to first.



Giovanni Twomey fires a pitch to the plate for the Cougars.



Brasen Sauriol fields a ball to left field.



Nathan Kaczuwka sends a pitch to the plate.

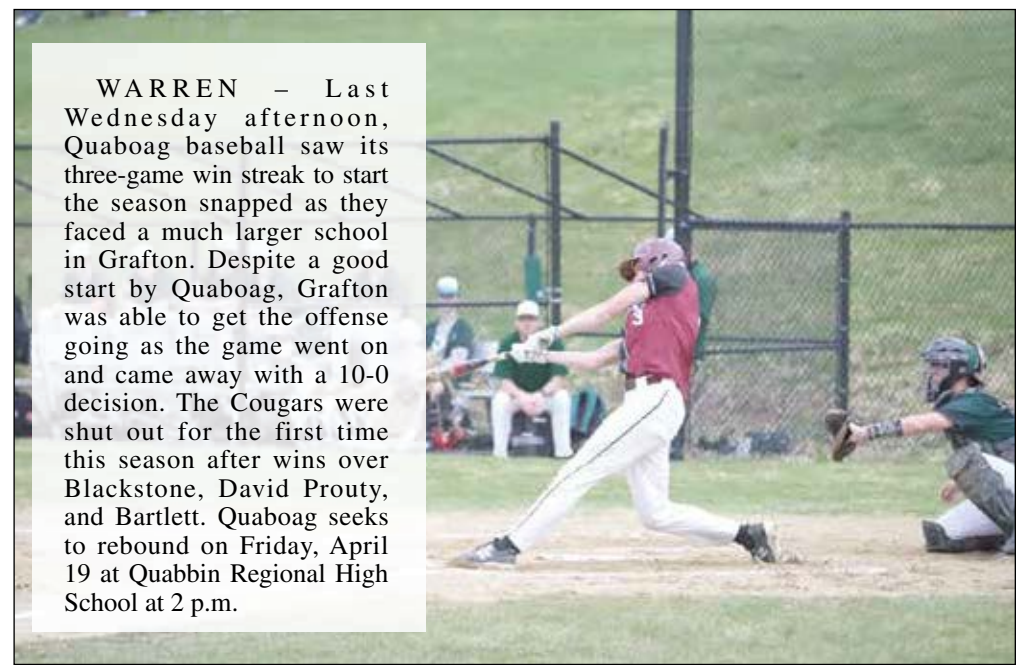


Kyle Kaczuwka slides into third base.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Cougars suffer first loss

**WARREN** – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag baseball saw its three-game win streak to start the season snapped as they faced a much larger school in Grafton. Despite a good start by Quaboag, Grafton was able to get the offense going as the game went on and came away with a 10-0 decision. The Cougars were shut out for the first time this season after wins over Blackstone, David Prouty, and Bartlett. Quaboag seeks to rebound on Friday, April 19 at Quabbin Regional High School at 2 p.m.



Ryan Fernandez swings and connects.

## Ware baseball heads to Hartford

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

**WARE** – Its one thing to play under the lights. Ware High School baseball players have done that before at Memorial Field.

It's another to play under the lights of a professional baseball field.

That's what the Indians will be doing on Friday night, April 19 as the Indians head for Dunkin Donuts Park in

Hartford, Conn., home of the Hartford Yard Goats, a Double-A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

Several teams throughout Western Massachusetts have played games there during the past couple of years, including Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, and Minnechaug.

Ware will face a familiar rival in Monson High School at this game, and

efforts to make this special game a reality fell on Marilou Kaczuwka, mother of two players on the team.

"I started the effort of putting this game together back in April of 2022," Kaczuwka said. "With the help of Coach (Scott) Slattery, we got the athletic director on board with the idea in the spring of 2023. I knew some parents in Monson so I reached out to them to see if they would be interested in playing against

Ware at Dunkin Donuts Park – with no hesitation they were in."

The school committee was presented with the plan, and approved it.

The cost was a little more than \$3,800 for the package that includes a night game, an open concession stand, use of the indoor batting cage to prepare for the game, the video board complete with

Please see **WARE**, page 10

## Rams double up on Mustangs

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Using neighbor South Hadley High School's turf field, Granby boys lacrosse hosted Monson last Monday night. The Mustangs, which co-op with Pathfinder, fell on the road 12-6 to the Rams. The Rams were led by Riley Goodhind with four goals and three assists. Kamdyn Lopez and Connor McDonnell had three goals and two assists each. Monson is 1-1 this season while the Rams are out to a 2-1 mark.



Landon Couture sprints for the opposing goal.



Samuel Lauzier looks to make a pass on the run.



Osvaldo Nieves sends a pass up the field.



Brody St. Martin observes the offensive area looking to make a pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Panthers rebound from with win

**BARRE** – Last Tuesday afternoon, Narragansett Regional High School visited Quabbin Regional baseball. The Panthers scored a big 10-6 as they saw their offense get going for the first time this season. The Panthers were shut out in their opener. The Panthers saw their record go to 1-2 with a loss at Lunenburg, but it was very competitive as the Panthers were edged 9-8. Quabbin hosts Quaboag on Friday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

## Tough start for Panthers

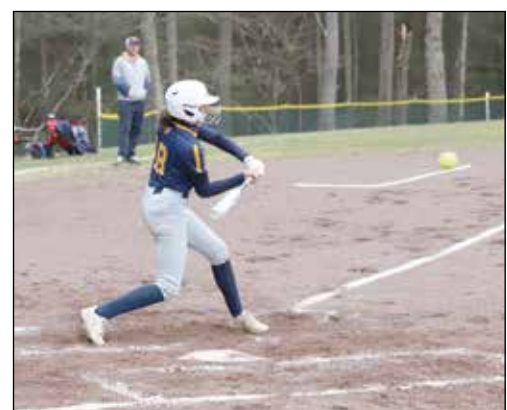
**BARRE** – Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Quabbin softball suffered consecutive losses. The Panthers lost to

Narragansett 13-5 and fell 24-5 against Lunenburg on the road. For the Panthers, they are now 0-3 on the season and

had one game postponed by rain. The Panthers look for their first win on Friday, April 19 against Quaboag at 2 p.m.



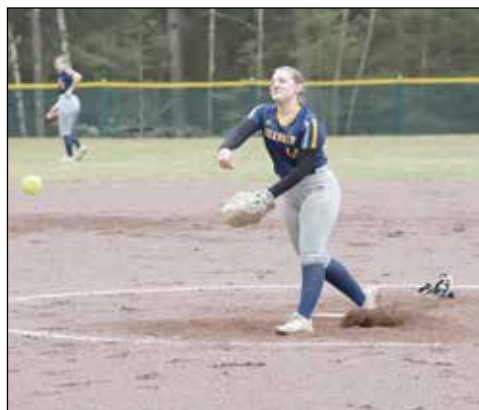
Lilly Swett watches a pitch cross the plate.



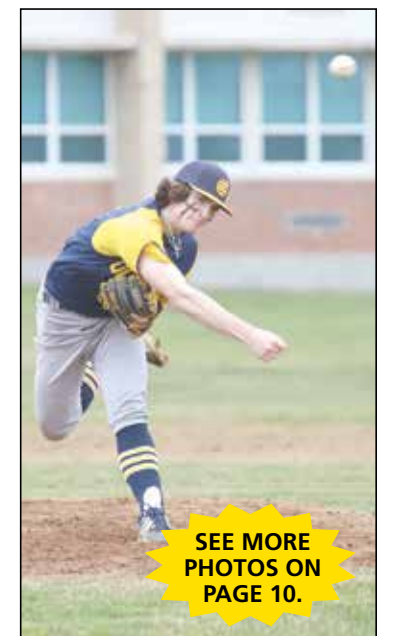
Kherington Deschenes connects on a base hit.



Mady Breault sends a pitch away.



Catcher Haleigh Parkinson throws down to second.



Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli