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Mill-Health District

Walking tour highlighted redevelopment opportunities

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – A group of community members joined representatives from the BSC Group and MassDevelopment for a walking tour of the Mill-Health District, to highlight areas that could be

redeveloped.

The Saturday morning tour was led by BSC Group Senior Planners Adam Duchesneau and Aqsa Butt; along with MassDevelopment's Vice President of Real Estate, Ben Murphy; the town's Director of Planning & Community Development, Paralee Smith; and Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

Duchesneau said the purpose of the tour was to look at what should be preserved, and what should be changed. He said walking through the district gives people a bet-

Please see **MILL-HEALTH DISTRICT**, page 6



Aqsa Butt, BSC Group senior planner, spoke with residents about needs in the neighborhood.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Participants in this past Saturday's Mill-Health District walking tour looked out at the Ware River from the South Street bridge.

Public hearing held on Stormwater Management Plan

By Ryan Drago
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WE NEED TO BE PREPARED. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ALL OUR VULNERABILITIES ARE."

JEREMY OLSON
HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

WARREN – A public hearing was held at the Warren Senior Center to address the Stormwater Management Plan.

This plan was put together through the collaboration between the town, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Weston & Sampson.

Speaking during the introduction was Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson, who talked about the town's plan for a flood resilient future.

The town has been working through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program, which is used to prepare communities for possible vulnerabilities in the future. Olson said the one of the biggest vulnerabilities the town has is flooding.

Part of this plan is to look at the infrastructure in the town and see "where are we vulnerable," he said.

"We need to be prepared. We don't know where all our vulnerabilities are," Olson said.

The Stormwater Management Plan will help identify and assess the flood

prone areas in Warren. The overview of this project includes public involvement and community engagement, inventory of current and anticipated future flooding events, identification of a watershed resilience project and a watershed resilience plan.

The plan will help residents understand what the future risks are. With spring being a rainy time of the season, flooding is common in areas in Warren and West Warren.

Speaking about the components that make up this plan was Community Development Planner for CMRPC, Shannon Sullivan.

Please see **STORMWATER**, page 7

PB OK'd special permit for shared driveway

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Planning Board had a public hearing regarding the special permit application of Daniel Strum of Strums Construction Services LLC.

The applicant is looking to construct a common driveway from West Main Street on Lot 3. A common driveway seems ideal because of the access to other lots.

Director of Planning & Community Development, Paralee Smith read a comment that was made by an abutter located across the street from the property. The abutter had a concern regarding drivers being able to see the pitch of the driveway and not having the line of sight.

"Concerns are duly noted," Planning Board

Please see **SPECIAL PERMIT**, page 11

Tax classification hearing held at joint meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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WARE – The Selectboard held a joint meeting with the Board of Assessors to discuss the tax rate for fiscal year 2027, and hold a public hearing as to whether it should be a single rate or a split rate.

According to the boards, a single tax rate would mean every property gets charged the same rate, while a split tax rate puts the burden on commercial businesses in the town, lowering the cost for residential properties.

They mentioned that there is not a large commercial presence in the town, and a

single tax rate usually makes the most sense when commercial properties are lacking.

The Assessors noted that 86% of properties are residential, and it would take a large increase for commercial taxes to make a difference for residential.

According to the Assessors, the total assessed

value of all properties in Ware totals about a billion dollars, and the proposition 2.5 makes it so the tax rate cannot be raised by any more than 2.5% of that assessed value.

They said the maximum levy for this year is \$18 million, and they plan on raising it by nearly the maximum, leaving only a \$7,000 buffer.

The tax rate was estimated to be about \$14.49 per thousand dollars the residence is worth, and that tax bills for the fourth quarter of FY 26 are expected to come out on May 1, and due 30 days from that date, where taxpayers will likely see an increase, but the effect should lower in the first quarter tax bills for FY 27.



Dick Whipple is the Treasurer and Tracy LaRosa is the Secretary of the Friends Group of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

Information Fair held at Barre/Hardwick Sr. Center

By Ryan Drago
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BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center hosted an Information Fair for seniors this past week.

This was the fifth time an information fair has been held at the Senior Center.

During the event, Senior Center Director, Betty-Jo O'Brien shared that it was her two-year anniversary as Director.

The Information Fair consisted of 22 vendors in total, with new vendors featured. National Grid was

Please see **INFO FAIR**, page 5

Quaboag Theater performed 'THE LION KING JR.'

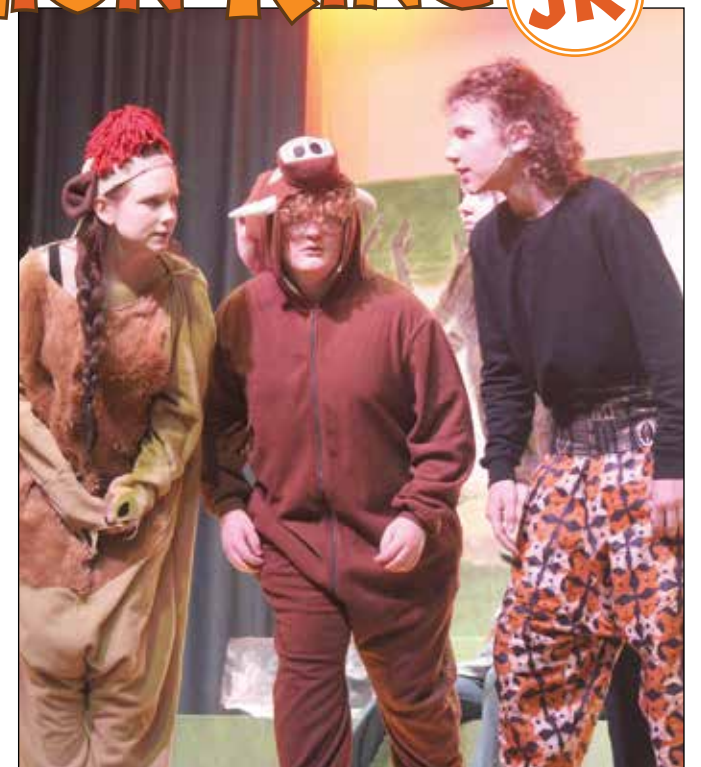
By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – The cast of "The Lion King Jr." brought the "Circle of Life" to the Quaboag stage this past weekend.

This production was based off the Broadway production as well as some influence from the timeless Disney film. "The Lion King Jr" was directed by James Joinville with Christine Taylor as Assistant Director.

Several students had the opportunity to be Blocking Directors and Choreographers for the show and both Joinville and Taylor agreed they have worked so hard to make this show possible. The cast gave the crew of Juniors and Seniors

Please see **LION KING**, page 7



Timon, Pumbaa, Simba and Nala planned to get by the hyenas.



SPORTS

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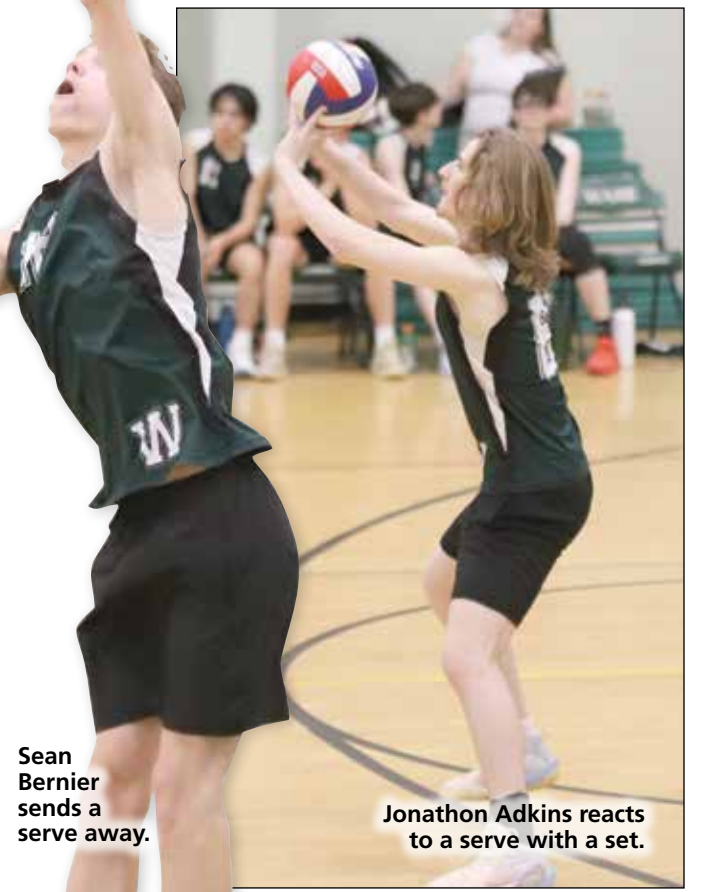
Indians beat Veritas Prep



Ryder Cahalan tips the ball over the net.



Brayden Compton gets the block for the Indians

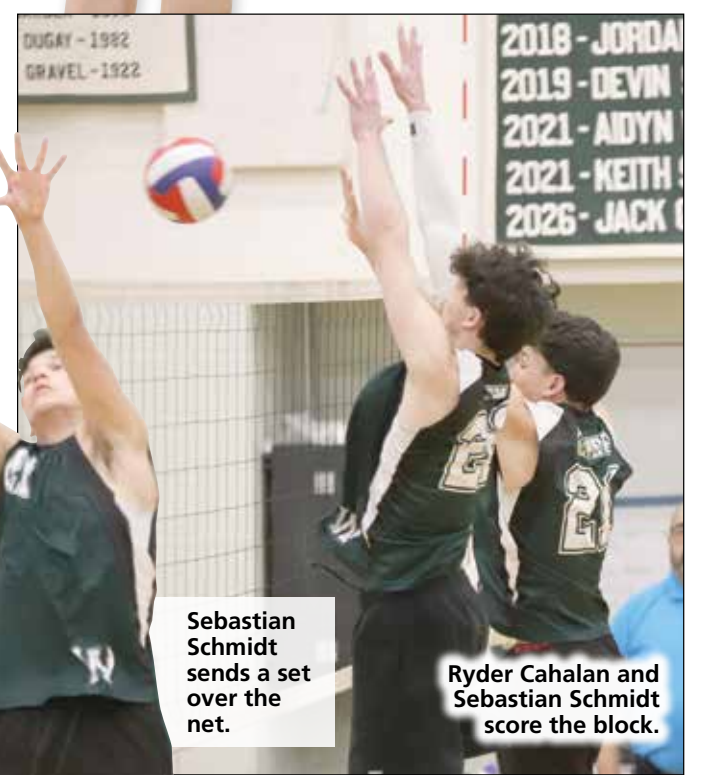


Sean Bernier sends a serve away.

Jonathon Adkins reacts to a serve with a set.



Dalton Marquis gets the spike away.



Sebastian Schmidt sends a set over the net.

Ryder Cahalan and Sebastian Schmidt score the block.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

WARE – On Friday, Apr. 17, the Indians boys volleyball team picked up another win, defeating Veritas Prep 3-1 and improving to 7-1 on the regular season. The Indians lost the first set, then finished the next three sets off to get the win. Ryder Cahalan had a great game with 17 kills and 12 digs. Sean Bernier had 31 assists. After losing to Granby in their season opener, Ware has won seven straight games. They are in action at Southwick on Thursday, Apr. 23 at 1 p.m.

Ware grabs walkoff win over Hampshire Regional

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Trailing by a run entering the bottom of the seventh inning, the Ware Indians put-together a one-out rally in a Suburban West Division contest against Hampshire Regional. The rally was capped off with a two-run double to right field by senior Kyle Kaczuwka giving the Indians a dramatic 6-5 walkoff win over the Raiders at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

"We were down by a run in our last at-bats and we battled back," said Kaczuwka, who was the Indians starting pitcher in the second game against the Raiders in a span of 48 hours. "This is a huge win for us because we really didn't want to lose to them again."

The Indians, who had a 5-3 overall record following the walkoff victory, traveled to Westhampton two nights earlier. They were trailing, 3-0, after the

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Pioneers still searching for first win

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder fell to host Palmer 8-3 at Palmer High School. For Pathfinder, Taylor Thorton and Addison Doktor had two hits each. Doktor drove in two of Pathfinder's runs. Hannah Roy, Kylee Lukas and Amhia McElreavy had three hits each. Jaclyn Swiatowski had three RBI. Jill Holbrook pitched a complete game, allowing three runs and eight hits, striking out five. The Pioneers are 0-7 while Palmer improved to 2-5 for the year.



Addison Doktor winds back for a swing.



Taylor Thorton throws a strike over home plate.

Turley photos by Maddox Baer



Taylor Thorton sets to swing.



Ellisyn Gelinas pulls back for the throw.



Elisyn Gelinas pressures the runner.

Panthers fall to St. Bernard's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Things didn't exactly go Quabbin Regional's way in their non-league home baseball game against St. Bernard's of Fitchburg.

The Panthers had runners in scoring position in each inning that they batted but only scored five runs. They also struggled defensively, allowing five unearned runs, which helped the Bernardian's secure a 10-5 victory last Thursday afternoon.

"We left five guys on base in the first three innings. The defense also made four costly errors," said Quabbin head coach Mark Battista. "We just didn't play clean baseball today and it's very frustrating."

The Panthers, who posted an 8-0 victory at St. Bernard's last April, entered the home contest with a 3-2 overall record. They were hoping to move two games above the .500 mark for the first time this season.

"We just need to start playing better baseball," Battista added. "We now have a week off before

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10