

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Board OKs new cemetery fees

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**HARDWICK** – Cemetery Commissioner Paula Roberts said she sent out the scope of cemetery services to three local landscapers and received one response from Lori Crevier, who has had the bid for the last three years.

At the Select Board's April 22 meeting, Roberts said Crevier's bid for fiscal year 2025 is \$24,900.



**EVERYTHING ELSE THAT WE DO, IS FROM THE FUNDS THAT WE CHARGE TO THE FAMILIES WHO ARE BURYING THEIR LOVED ONES AT THE CEMETERY."**

**PAULA ROBERTS**  
CEMETERY COMMISSION

Roberts also provided an updated cemetery fee schedule to the board, explaining that the fees provides the primary support for the Cemetery Commission's budget, outside of landscaping and electrical, which are funded through the town's budget.

"Everything else that we do, is from the funds that we charge to the families who are burying their loved ones at the cemetery," she said.

Roberts said the increased fees will help cover the needs of the commission, including the care, labor and upkeep of the cemeteries.

The board accepted the Cemetery Commission's recommendation to award the bid to Crevier, in addition to adopting the new fee schedule.

### Letter from Nipmuc Nation

Board of Health Chair Judith Kohn read a letter she received from Kathryn Akuahah Wheaton, interim Tribal Councilor of the Nipmuc Nation, objecting to the use of Muddy Brook land for a landfill.

The letter states in part:

"We Nipmucs have always and do respect, honor and care for our homeland territory, its lands, fresh waters, animals, birds, trees, vegetation, flora, fresh air, fishing and farming, etc. The town of Hardwick, its citizens, are living on the land of one of our historic bands...we Nipmucs have the divine, inherent right and responsibility to take care of our land and

Please see **FEES**, page 5



All the kids got to volunteer during the fun science experiments presented by Amaris Montoya of Talewise.

## Ware Library hosts TALEWISE presentation

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WARE** – The Young Men's Memorial Library welcomed Amaris Montoya of Talewise to present fun science experiments for kids.

Talewise offers interactive, educational S.T.E.A.M. children's programs for libraries,

schools, preschools, scouts, camps and recreation. Talewise is where learning is powered by stories and Montoya incorporated a fun story that got kids engaged in science experiments.

The Friends of the Library sponsored the event to welcome Talewise for kids to enjoy the world of science. The presentation featured Montoya and a series of experiments that are

connected to a fun story.

The name of the story was called "Saving the Earth Together" by Ken Nicholas. This story is part of a traveling science presentation presented by Talewise that is based out of New Jersey.

Throughout the story, Montoya asked for volunteers

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 8

## Historical Commission reviews Mary Lane Hospital alternatives

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com



**THE TOWN IS VERY FOCUSED ON HAVING HEALTHCARE."**

**LYNN LAK,**  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**WARE** – The Historical Commission went over alternative uses for the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 22 meeting, the commission discussed what was going on with the property as of now and what they have done to reach a solution.

Since their last meeting, 33 letters were sent out to acute healthcare organizations. The plan is to find out if any of these organizations may be interested in developing the property and providing a medical service to the town.

The commission also reached out to Way Finders out of Springfield.

Way Finders works to strengthen housing stability and economic mobility, and to build thriving neighborhoods in communities throughout western Massachusetts, including the Church Street School Senior Housing apartment complex.

The commission had learned that Way Finders has worked with Baystate Health in the past. The commission hopes Way Finders will reach out and observe the property. One of the main needs the town wants is a healthcare service and Way Finders is one of the initial sources that could make it happen.

"The town is very focused on having healthcare," Historical Commission Chair Lynn Lak said.

The question Lak had for her fellow commission members, is

should the commission look at other options, not just healthcare.

The demolition delay on the Mary Lane Hospital property will end in October and there are about five and a half months left in the delay. Therefore, the commission is looking at other outlets.

One of the outlets being considered for the space is breweries.

The land has plenty of space for other uses including breweries. However, the commission wants to discuss as a team if an outlet like a brewery is a use the town would want to have.

Commission member Claudia Kadra said she sent out 18 letters to all urgent cares that may be interested in expanding and placing a spot in Ware. Other than urgent care the other closest connection to a healthcare service would be through Way Finders.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley commented via Zoom and mentioned all zoning options for the property are being reviewed. In other words, alternative uses are

Please see **MLH**, page 5

## Barre Senior Center welcomes new director

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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**BARRE** – Barre Senior Center welcomed newly appointed Director Betty-Jo O'Brien of West Warren.

O'Brien was appointed to the role on April 15 and brings a lot of knowledge and an extensive background to the director's job. Prior to being the director of the senior center O'Brien was the town assessor of Warren for a year but soon an opportunity came at a good time.

O'Brien is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has worked in caregiving and veteran affairs. O'Brien has also worked as an ambassador for the American Cancer Society.

In addition, O'Brien wants to continue offering education, training and strategic planning at the senior center. The center currently has kitchen staff, two

management for 25 years.

O'Brien is excited about her new journey as the director of the senior center and envisions a positive future for the center and their senior residents.

"Making a positive impact," O'Brien said. "Helping seniors is my passion and I want to work collaboratively with the community."

O'Brien hopes to work on offering more resources and programming at the senior center as she eases into the new role and a series of important tasks.

O'Brien describes the Barre Senior Center as a "nice, warm and friendly place." As the director, O'Brien will be working on planning events, administrative responsibilities and budgeting.

O'Brien worked in property

Please see **DIRECTOR**, page 2



Betty-Jo O'Brien

## Cedarbrook welcomes author Rose Grant

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WARE** – Cedarbrook Village hosted a lunch and learn for residents to meet author Rose M. Grant.

This program was open to the community and was part of a working partnership between Cedarbrook Village and the Ware Senior Center. Ware Senior Center Social Worker Janine Leis talked about receiving a grant they received from WestMass Elder Care to support caregiver programming.

"The goal is to focus on caregivers' support," Leis said.

The lunch was provided by Cedarbrook Village and offered salads, pasta, sandwiches and cookies.

After lunch the guests were greeted by Grant who was invited to speak about her book and talk about her experiences as a caregiver. Grant is a former high school science teacher with degrees in biology from the University of Massachusetts.

After her 38 years of teaching, Grant spends her retirement as a volunteer for the Trustees and the Alzheimer's Association. Grant spent most of her life in Fall River, and is now residing in Ware.

Grant had her book "I Left My



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Cedarbrook Village welcomed Rose Grant, left, to talk about her book "I Left My Memory on a Bus Somewhere: A Bittersweet Journey Through Alzheimer's Disease".

Memory on a Bus Somewhere: A Bittersweet Journey Through Alzheimer's Disease" published back in 2014. The book follows Grant during her time helping her husband John "Jack" Grant and includes a memoir of her husband's

12-year journey with Alzheimer's Disease.

This presentation during the lunch and learn was a great way for Grant to introduce herself to the

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 6

### 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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## Ware wins first game at Dunkin' Park



Shortstop John Mumper fields a grounder to short.

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

HARTFORD, CT — Several high school baseball teams from Western Massachusetts have played a game at Dunkin' Park in Hartford during the past several years.

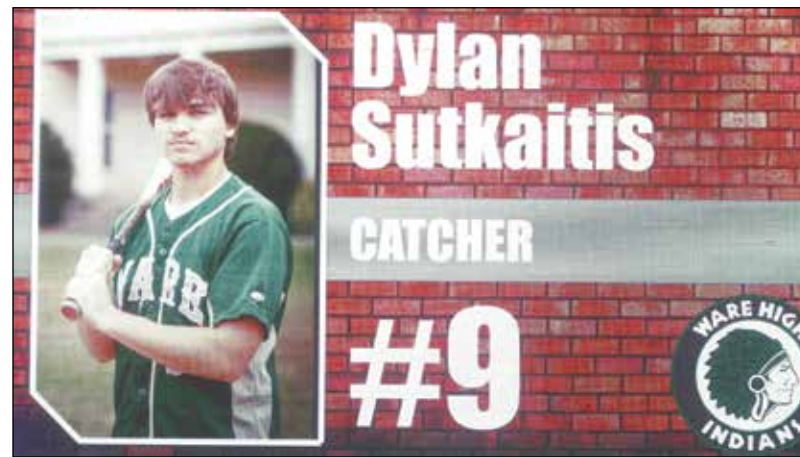
Monson and Ware made the trek south to the home of the Hartford Yard Goats, who are the Double-A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, for the first time last Friday night.

While it was a very memorable experience for both teams, the bus ride back to Massachusetts was a little more enjoyable for the Ware players.

The Indians broke open a close game with a six-run fifth inning en route to an 11-3 victory over the Mustangs in a Suburban Central Division contest on a chilly night.

"It was a lot of fun playing a game in a minor league stadium," said Ware head coach Scott Slattery. "I would like to give a shoutout to the parents who helped fundraise for this game. The kids really enjoyed it a lot."

While it was the first time that Monson had played a game at a minor league ballpark, the Indians lost to Norton, 7-4, in the 2010 Division 3 state finals at LeLacheur



The video board in left field was in full use at Dunkin' Park. Dylan Sutkaitis is shown when he comes to bat.

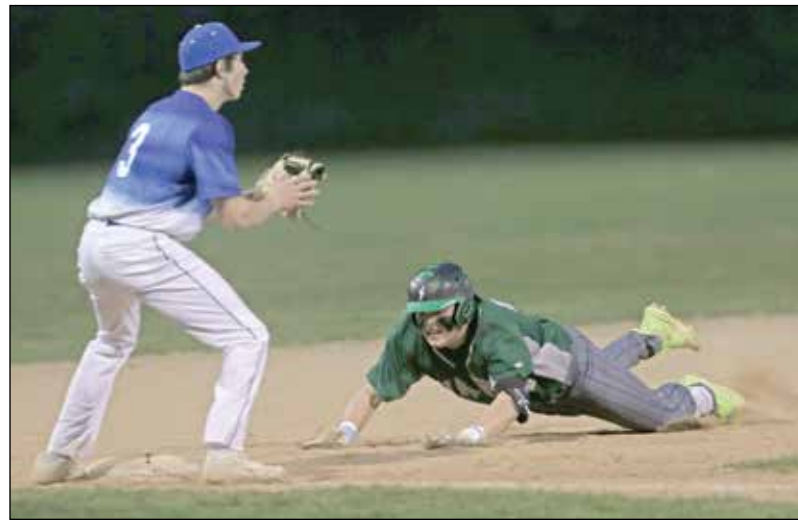
Park in Lowell, which used to be the home of the Lowell Spinners, the single A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

The winning pitcher in last Friday's contest was sophomore Brady Guimond. The righthander replaced his classmate Jack Gaudreau on the mound at the start of the fourth inning. Guimond retired all nine batters that he faced. "This was a very special moment for us and it's an experience that I'll always remember for the rest of my life," said Guimond, who start-

ed the game at third base. "Playing a game on this field makes you feel like you're a big leaguer. It was also my first win of the season."

The victory improved the Indians overall record to 4-1. They

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 11



Kyle Kaczuwka makes a headfirst dive into third.



Jason Mumper slides safely into second base.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jack Gaudreau pitches in the game for the Indians.

## Indians complete comeback, edge Knights 3-2

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Just when it looked like the Holyoke boys varsity volleyball team wouldn't have very much trouble sweeping Ware for the fifth time since 2021, the Indians came storming back.

After losing the first two sets -27-25, 25-19- the Indians took the final three sets—25-21, 25-17, 16-14—giving them a 3-2 come-from-behind victory at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium, last Tuesday night.

"We've never defeated Holyoke since I've been a member of the Ware boys' volleyball team," said Ware senior captain Remy Cahalan, who's a five year varsity player. "It just feels amazing to finally beat these guys, especially at home. It was great team effort tonight, and it's a reverse sweep."

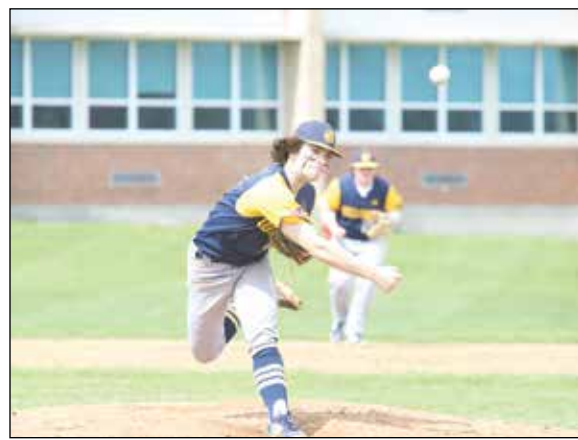
The non-league home win improved the Indians overall record to 5-3.

The Purple Knights, who had won five straight matches since losing to Gramby in the season opener, had a 5-2 mark.

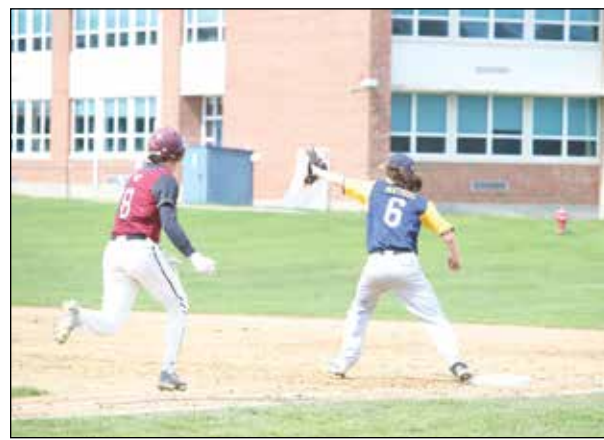
"This is a frustrating loss for us because we held a 2-0 lead in the match," said Holyoke assistant varsity coach Josh Abrams. "We just made a couple of costly mistakes. I wish we could play them again during the regular season."

Longtime Holyoke varsity coach Paula Conway didn't make the trip to Ware High School.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Adam Adams works to the plate against Quaboag last Friday.



Martin Stoddard catches the out at first base.

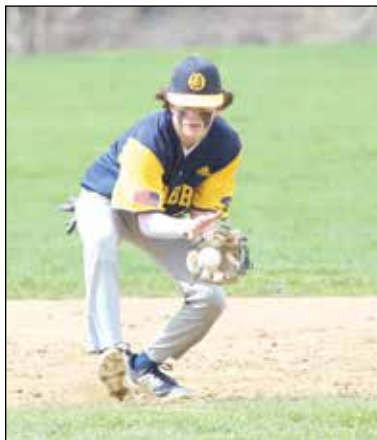
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Quaboag upends Quabbin baseball

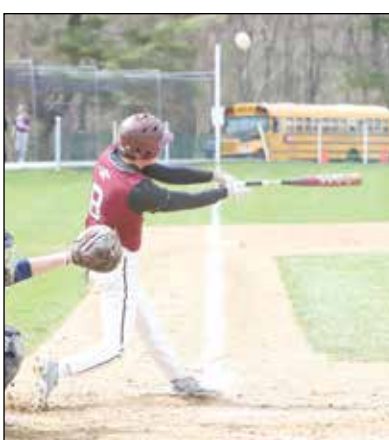


Martin Stoddard swings and connects on a pitch for the Panthers.

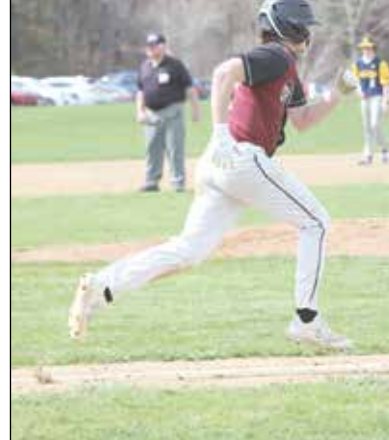
BARRE — Last Friday afternoon, Quaboag defeated Quabbin Regional 13-0. The Cougars were able to take advantage of a couple of miscues by the Panthers in the early innings. The Panthers offense was able to put some runners on base, but struggled to bring them around in the matchup. The Panthers are 1-3 and next face Gardner on Monday, April 29 at 3:45 p.m. Quabbin improved to 3-1 on the season and is in action on Friday afternoon, hosting Doulgas High School at 3:30 p.m.



Aiden LaPointe fields a ground ball on the bounce.



Matt Tiberii fouls off a pitch.

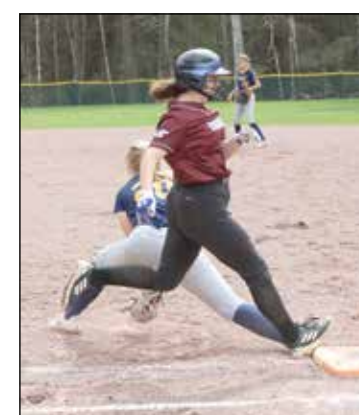


Brasen Sauriol hustles down the line.



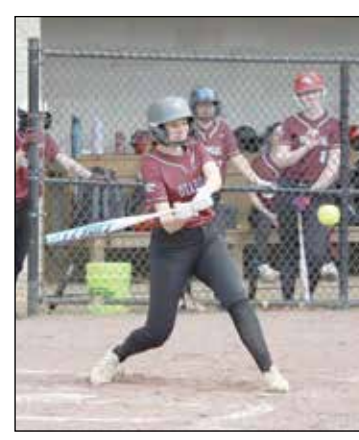
Ryan Fernandez pitches for the Cougars.

## Panthers take care of Cougars



The Cougars have also had three rainouts this season.

BARRE — Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin Regional softball defeated visiting Quaboag 18-3. The Quabbin offense got things going early, taking advantage of a couple of walks as well as a couple of miscues in the field break the game open. Quaboag would grab a few consecutive hits to get some runs on the board. But Quabbin broke away and eventually would put the game away. Quabbin got its first win of the season against three losses while Quaboag went to 0-4 on the season.



The Cougars were able to put three runs on the board in the defeat.



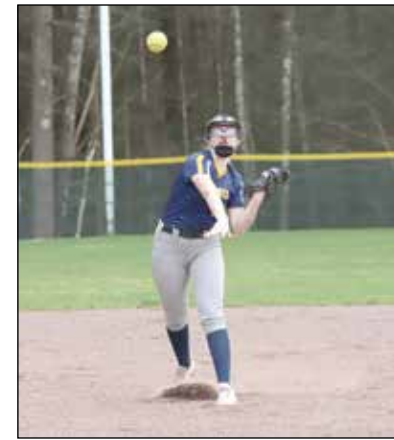
The Cougars are out to an 0-4 start in 2024.



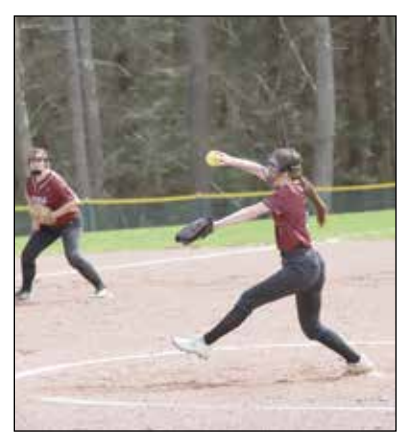
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Ana Dunn crosses home plate.



Kai Schuster swings and connects on a base hit.



Jordan Blanchard fires to first for an out.



The Quaboag softball team plays at Quabbin last Friday afternoon.



Chloe Dennis hustles down the line after making contact.