

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 15 16 Pages (Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100 \$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Suicide prevention walk exceeds goal in first year



Team Ethan led the first ever Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held at Grenville Park this past Saturday.

Out of the Darkness walk unites families and community

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – When Kristen Murphy was planning the first ever Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to bring awareness to suicide and help prevent it, she was hoping to reach 100 participants.

This past Saturday, over 130 people joined her and co-organizer School Resource Officer Jeannine

Bonnayer at Grenville Park, raising over \$4,600 to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, an organization that Murphy and her family has received support from following the suicide of her son, Ethan Donnelly, last year.

At the start of the walk, Murphy thanked all of the participants for their support, as well as the businesses and organizations who sponsored the event. She thanked the Knights of Columbus for providing free hot dogs, and Ethan's father Shawn's band, Lyle's Leftovers, who performed throughout the day.

Please see **WALK**, page 6



School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer (left) stands with the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Special Events Manager, Heather Claflin.

ATM lacks quorum, rescheduled to June 10

WARE – This past Monday evening's annual town meeting failed to reach a quorum by just 10 voters, and has been rescheduled.

The annual town meeting will now be held on Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Ware High School.

Voters will take action on 27 articles, four of which are expected to be dismissed. A quorum of 100 registered voters is required in order to open the meeting and conduct necessary town business, including setting the fiscal year 2025 budget and addressing town infrastructure needs.

Cougar Fridays



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette and Superintendent Stephen Duff alongside the Quaboag cougar mascot during Cougar Fridays.

Quaboag school mascot greets students and staff

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Every Friday morning, the students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School are greeted by their school mascot.

Friday morning is now known as Cougar Fridays as the cougar

mascot is awaiting students and staff at the student drop off.

Behind the cougar mask is student Kyle Withers. Every Friday morning, Withers gets up early and joins Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff while he is on traffic duty for student drop off.

Withers has participated in Cougar Fridays throughout the school year and enjoys greeting students each week. Every Friday morning, he stands out waving and sometime holding out a cool sign.

Please see **COUGAR**, page 7

QHSUA welcomes new director

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

Members of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance welcomed the new Prevention Director, Emily Kirby, following the retirement of Gail Gramarossa.

At the May 13 meeting, Kirby

introduced herself and shared information about her education and experience with substance use and harm reduction.

"We are in a complete void," Kirby said, in terms of harm reduction in the Quaboag Hills area.

Kirby said there is no local access to syringes, with the closest being Amherst and Worcester.

She said there is also a need for more sharps disposals.

Kirby grew up in Berkshire County and has a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a master's degree in public health and public policy. She has worked for WIC, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Berkshire Harm

Please see **QHSUA**, page5

State Auditor seeks signatures for November ballot question

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has one wish for her birthday on June 5, and that's to gain the 13,000 signatures needed to get a question on the November ballot.

This ballot question would allow voters to compel the Legislature to be audited. The audit would be performative, and also look at how tax dollars are being spent.

"This is the same type of audit we do for every other entity," DiZoglio said. "Legislature is the only one refusing."

Last fall, over 75,000 residents across the commonwealth signed a petition after DiZoglio's request to audit the Senate and the House of Representatives was denied by the House Speaker and Senate President.

DiZoglio and her office staff have been traveling to towns and

Please see **BALLOT**, page5



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
State Auditor Diana DiZoglio speaks with residents at the West Brookfield Town Hall on May 5. DiZoglio is seeking signatures to get a question on the November ballot regarding an audit of the state Legislature.



Ware High School senior Zoey Bain poses for a photo with her parents Matthew and Tiffany in front of her painting, which is displayed above the front desk in the Central Office.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Ware High senior gifts artwork to school

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Graduating senior Zoey Bain has left a lasting legacy at Ware Public Schools, with the gift of a painting, which was unveiled at Central Office last week.

On May 8, Bain was joined by her parents Tiffany and Matthew Bain, along with her grandmother, her art teachers, and many more school staff and administration, to celebrate the completion of her colorful painting that immediately draws the eye of anyone entering the building.

Superintendent of Schools

Michael Lovato thanked Bain for her contribution to the school district, adding that he hopes to add more student artwork to Central Office in the near future.

"I recognize that it's a piece of you," Lovato said to Bain of her painting. "Thank you."

Please see **BAIN**, page 3

Inside this edition:

Viewpoints.....	4	Public Notices.....	13
Warren.....	5	Classifieds.....	14
Sports.....	9		
Police/Fire.....	12		



SCHOOLS
Students get Credit for Life
Page 8



SPORTS
Indians/Cougars take Polar Park
Page 9



COMMUNITY
Rain barrel program offered in Ware
Page 14

Connect with us

WareRiverNews

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

OUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

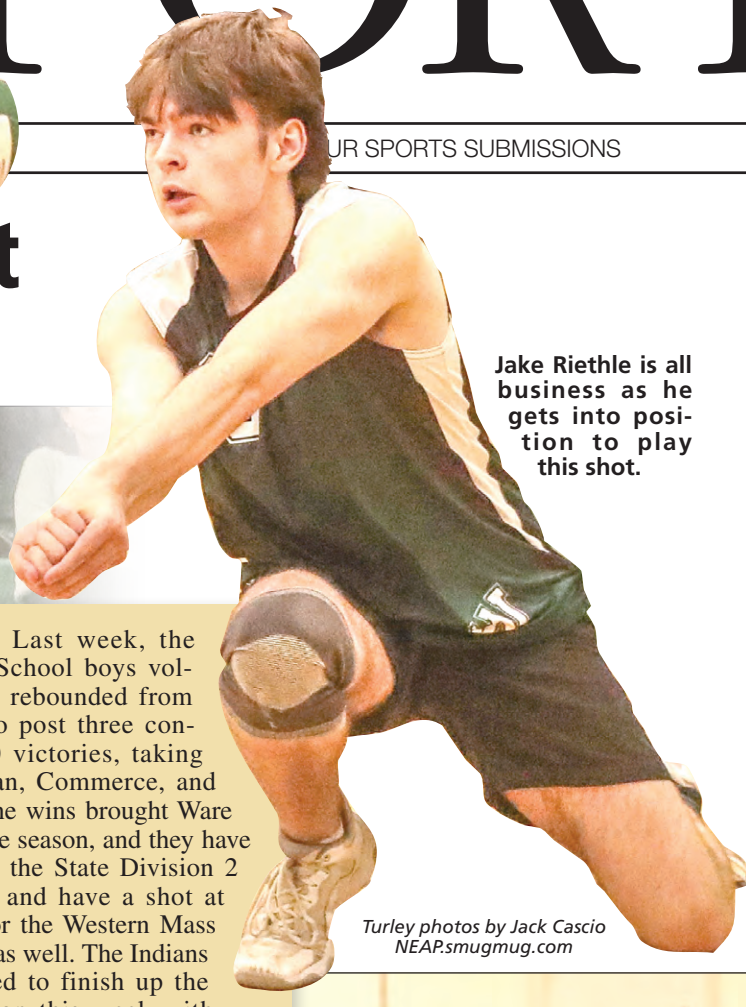
Three straight wins put Indians in tournament



Jonathon Adkins readies to set up the next shot.

WARE – Last week, the Ware High School boys volleyball team rebounded from a 3-2 loss to post three consecutive 3-0 victories, taking down Duggan, Commerce, and Chicopee. The wins brought Ware to 10-6 on the season, and they have qualified for the State Division 2 Tournament and have a shot at qualifying for the Western Mass Tournament as well. The Indians are scheduled to finish up the regular season this week with playoffs beginning next week.

Jake Riethle is all business as he gets into position to play this shot.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com



Nathan Harmon seems to deflate the ball with this power shot.



Remy Cahalan rises high above the net for this spike.

Indians, Cougars invade Polar Park

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER— During the course of the regular season, several high school baseball teams had the opportunity to play a game at Polar Park in Worcester.

Two of those teams were the Ware Indians and the Quaboag Cougars. The rivals battled each other on the beautiful home field of the WooSox, who are the Triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, last Monday afternoon.

With the help of a couple of unearned runs in the top of the first inning, the Indians players enjoyed their bus ride back to Ware following a 4-2 victory.

“It was very nice getting a chance to play a game at a local Minor League ballpark,” said Ware head coach Scott Slattery. “The parents from both schools did a very good job of organizing this game for us. I would love to play another game at a Minor League Park next year.”

The booster clubs from the two high schools helped out a lot, but former Quaboag School Superintendent Maureen Binienda played a major role in making sure the baseball game between the two teams would take place at Polar Park this year. Binienda, who’s currently the interim Superintendent of the Easthampton Public Schools, was previously the Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools. She contacted the people in the WooSox organization about playing a game at their ballpark.



I WAITED A WHOLE YEAR, BUT IT JUST FEELS GREAT TO BEAT MY FATHER’S TEAM. HE HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH THROUGHOUT MY BASEBALL CAREER. IT WAS A FUN GAME TODAY. WE’RE VERY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS GAME POSSIBLE FOR US. IT WAS A COOL EXPERIENCE.”

BRADY GUIMOND
WHS SOPHOMORE

Current Quaboag School Superintendent Steve Duff announced each batter during the game.

Quaboag sophomore Madison Schreier also did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem before the start of the game.

While it was a memorable day for the players from both teams, it was a little bit extra special for Ware sophomore righthander Brady Guimond. His father, Brian, is the longtime Quaboag varsity baseball coach.

Please see **POLAR PARK**, page 11

Girls tennis sweeps a doubleheader

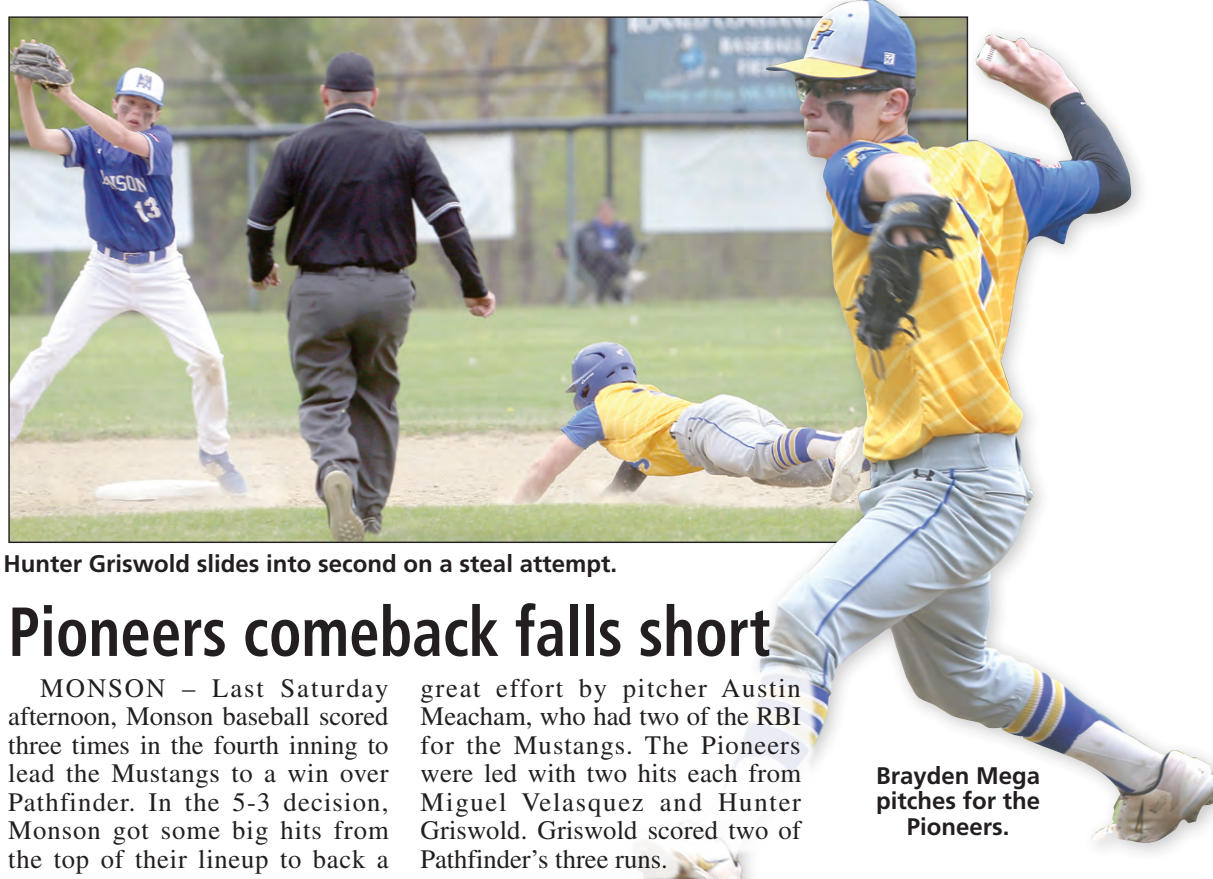
BARRE – Doubleheaders are more of a baseball thing, but Quabbin Regional girls tennis had a split doubleheader last Friday afternoon as the Panthers hosted two different teams and played consecutive matches. First, the Panthers would sweep Doherty High School 5-0. Following that, the Panthers got a 4-1 win over Tyngsborough.

In the win over Doherty, Annabelle Magill, Camryn Orsini, and Carlee Rich all picked up singles wins. Both doubles teams were also victorious.

In the Tyngsborough match, Magill and Rich both scored wins and the doubles teams of Farrah Wojcik and Kalina Dyer and Madelyn Stauder and Elizabeth Matheson both won as well.

The wins were followed by a 5-0 sweep of Gardner High School. Dyer got a match in singles action against Gardner and picked up a 6-2, 6-0 win. Magill and Rich also won singles matches. The doubles team of Mia Ducos and Haley Ayer got a win in the match. Quabbin girls tennis is now 13-1 on the regular season.

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request



Hunter Griswold slides into second on a steal attempt.

Pioneers comeback falls short

MONSON – Last Saturday afternoon, Monson baseball scored three times in the fourth inning to lead the Mustangs to a win over Pathfinder. In the 5-3 decision, Monson got some big hits from the top of their lineup to back a

great effort by pitcher Austin Meacham, who had two of the RBI for the Mustangs. The Pioneers were led with two hits each from Miguel Velasquez and Hunter Griswold. Griswold scored two of Pathfinder’s three runs.

Brayden Mega pitches for the Pioneers.



Miguel Velasquez fires a throw across the diamond.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Edward Szostek beats the throw to the base.

Panthers suffer pair of defeats

BARRE – Last Thursday and Friday, the Quabbin Regional High School softball team took a pair of losses, falling to Montachusett Regional 10-8, then losing to

Littleton on the road 10-0. The Panthers are now 2-11 on the season and had three games remaining on its regular season schedule.



Catcher Abby Rogowski makes a throw down to second.



Juliana Guilderson makes a pitch for the Panthers during recent action.



Lilly Swett picks up a soft hit to right.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kherington Deschenes swings and connects.

Wilbraham Monson Academy names new hockey coach

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham & Monson Academy is pleased to announce Lawrence Biondo has been named Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Hockey program beginning with the 2024-25 season. Coach Biondo will take the

helm with a strong foundation of current and new student-athletes and support from the entire WMA community. The Titans compete as a full varsity member of the New England Prep School Athletic Council.

“Coach Lawrence Biondo is a prep school person, through and through,” Head of School Brian P. Easler said. “He played at prep school, has coached at prep schools, sent all of his kids to prep schools, and now he chose to

return to prep school teaching and coaching after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He is fully committed to WMA and the development of our hockey

Please see **COACH**, page 10