

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 140 No. 13

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Dept. heads discuss budget

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Select Board invited department heads from the Highway Department, Fire Department, Police Department, library and general government to a meeting on May 11 to discuss whether they could make additional cuts to their fiscal year 2027 proposed budgets.

The board spoke first to Martin Gryszowka, who is the highway superintendent. He said there are not many more places the department can cut from, other than various amounts of a few thousand.

He said there have been price increases but no budget increases.

Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf asked about the open position for a truck driver and laborer, and how it has not been filled for some time. Schaaf asked if the department would be willing to amend that position to part-time.

Gryszowka said having nobody in that position is burning him out, and said he would not be able to

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Ware baseball legend and former MLB player Billy Jo Robidoux threw out the first pitch at Ware Youth Baseball and Softball's opening day ceremony on May 16.

Youth Baseball/Softball holds parade and ceremony

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Ware Youth Baseball and Softball welcomed the arrival of opening day with a parade and ceremony at Grenville Park.

This longstanding tradition took a temporary hiatus after 2019, returning last year with an outpouring of support from the community.

President Shawn Clark thanked everyone for attending the May 16 ceremony, as well as the parents, players

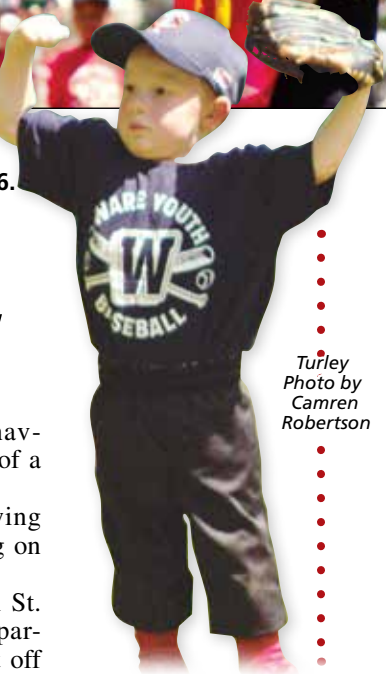
and coaches.

Baseball is about having fun and being a part of a team, Clark said.

"It's just about showing up, lacing up and playing on a team," he said.

Fr. Piotr Pawlus from St. Mary's and All Saints parish gave a prayer to start off the ceremony, saying, "Bless this sport...where friendships will grow and memories be made."

"Sports are not only about winning games, but also about building character," Pawlus said.



Turley Photo by Camren Robertson

A T-baller flexed his arms to show he was ready to play ball.

Clark took the time to recognize and acknowledge the

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 9

School committee votes to close school

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee voted Monday to cease operations at West Brookfield Elementary School following the conclusion of this school year.

At the May 18 meeting, Superintendent Stephen Duff said this follows meetings with the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee, who say the town cannot afford to put forward the School Committee's approved budget, and the only option the town could afford was the closing of the elementary school.

Duff said this followed the town of West Brookfield already making cuts and finding out they were still \$75,000 short of having a balanced budget to present at town meeting.

Duff said the district estimates that closing the elementary school will lead to 70% of students enrolled through school choice leaving, resulting in a loss of \$350,000 of revenue. He said another consequence of this would be foundation students choosing out.

Duff said if Warren Community Elementary School is the only school, class sizes would average at 21-29.

Many residents came up to speak during the public session, which happened before the vote was taken to

express their concerns with the option of closing the school. One resident named John said closing the elementary school could lead to a lot of loss down the road, saying that nobody is going to send their kids to Warren schools with a 45 minute bus ride or 25 or more children in one classroom.

Jordan Brooks, another resident, said he was ready to "jump ship" and switch over to the North Brookfield district, and thinks Warren will be in trouble with the decision to close the school.

A resident named Maureen asked if there were any amendments to the regional agreement that would require town meeting votes of both towns to cease operations at the school.

The School Committee chair said according to the regional agreement, which is nearing 40 years old, the vote comes down to the committee and requires a ¾ majority.

Richard Eichacker, the chair of the Warren Board of Selectmen said Warren can afford option three, which is closing the school, but would likely need to pass a proposition 2.5 override to afford the level funded budget.

Two students said they understood the concerns of the citizens, but said they attended school in the district and had larger class

Please see **SCHOOL CLOSING**, page 5

A trip through time

Walking tour explores mill village and its history

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Cheryl Wolfe led a walking tour of the village of Gilbertville this past Sunday, exploring its history through architecture



Cheryl Wolfe pointed out architectural details in the Stone Church Cultural Center (formerly the Trinitarian Congregational Church) during a walking tour of Gilbertville held this past Sunday.

and industry.

This program was sponsored by the Gilbertville Public Library and the Paige Memorial Library and it took participants on a journey to view some of the 75 historic buildings in the village.

Wolfe said she gathered her information for the tour from books by Clair W. Dempsey and Emily Bancroft.

"They spent years studying this," Wolfe said.

Many of the sites toured on May 17 were built by the George H. Gilbert Manufacturing Company starting in the mid-1800s when he bought the tract of land known as "The Gore."

"To encourage workers he built a mill town," she said.

The tour started with a slide presentation in the Gilbertville Public Library, which was constructed for the village's 1,500 mill-workers with money from an endowment from the Gilbert family.

This endowment has since run out after supporting the library for over a century, and efforts are being made to merge the town's two libraries, and have the town take ownership of the building.

"Our future is in jeopardy"

Please see **TOUR**, page 7

Tri-Parish Community Church holds annual sale

By Ryan Drago
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HARDWICK – The Hardwick Common was busy this past weekend with the Tri-Parish Community Church's annual Plant, Bake, Craft & Tag Sale taking place.

This was the 20th year the Tri-Parish Community Church has held this annual

sale which is all made possible by a volunteer effort. This event benefits the Tri-Parish Community Church's operating expenses.

Members of Tri-Parish Community Church were hosting a plant sale and a bake sale on the Hardwick Common, and the weather was perfect for the occasion.

Please see **TRI-PARISH**, page 3



Doug Swanson of Dragonfly Wood Arts of Hardwick was one of the craft vendors during the 20th Annual Tri-Parish Community Church Plant, Bake, Craft and Tag Sale.

A decade of faith, learning and community

Catholic school celebrates 10 year anniversary

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – It's been 10 years since St. Aloysius Catholic School opened its doors, and the "little school that could," continues to grow and offer a learning experience that is enhanced with community activism and faith.

Back in the spring of 2016, parents from St. Mary's School in Ware searched for a space to start a new



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

St. Aloysius Catholic School combines traditional and modern learning for students in preschool through eighth grade.

Catholic school, following the announcement that St. Mary's School will be closing.

They soon settled on the vacant St. Aloysius School at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville.

St. Aloysius School provided an education to area children from around 1900 to 1970, before closing. Since that time, it sat mostly unused in the shadow of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, just overlooking the Ware River.

St. Aloysius Catholic School Finance Manager/Enrollment Coordinator Roberta McQuaid and other parents visited the school and knew it would be the right fit

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SPORTS

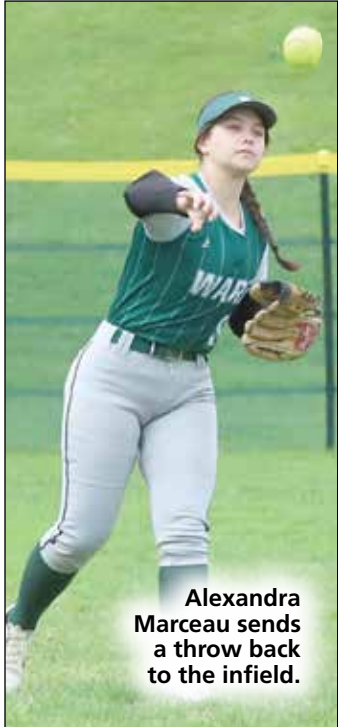
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Indians fall at home

WARE – Last Friday afternoon in a makeup from a rainout, Ware High School softball was defeated by Pioneer Valley Regional 13-1. Ware got a 1-for-2 performance from Naomi Torres. The Indians fell to 5-10 on the regular season.



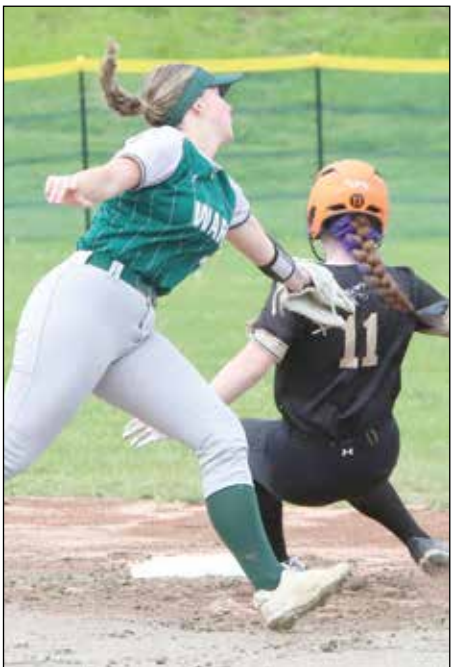
Alexandra Marceau sends a throw back to the infield.



Lucy Hebert delivers a pitch.



Ware tries to record an out in front of the plate.



Madisyn Slattery tries to tag out a runner.



Reaghan Jacobs makes an easy throw to first.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Olivia DiRienzo catches the out at first.

Boys volleyball strong heading for tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Between 1989 and 2004, the Ware boys' volleyball team won a total of eight league titles.

The Indians also captured the league title in 2022.

The members of this year's squad had the opportunity to finish the regular season in sole possession of first place in the West Division standings. However, the Indians wound up having to share the league title with the Veritas Prep Charter School.

"We're playing in a new league this year, which has helped us," said Ware head coach Steve Jarvis. "We do have a talented group of players, and it has been a very successful season."

The Indians (17-2) began the regular season with a 3-0 non-league loss at Granby High School before reeling off 16 consecutive victories.

"We weren't ready to play Granby in the season opener," said Ware senior Ryder Cahalan. "We're hoping to play Granby again during the postseason tournament."

The Indians long winning streak came to an end following a 3-0 loss at Veritas Prep, last Wednesday.

The two teams finished the regular season with 11-1 league records.

Ware posted a 3-1 home win against Veritas Prep in their first meeting of the

regular season back in the middle of April.

The Indians rebounded from last Wednesday's league loss with a 3-0 home win versus Commerce the following afternoon.

Ware entered the Western Mass. Class C tournament as the third seed. They were scheduled to face second-seeded Veritas Prep for the third time this spring in the semi-finals on Monday.

The winner of the semi-final match-up will be facing either top-seeded Granby or fourth-seeded SICS in the championship match.

"I like the concept of still having the Western Mass. tournament before the state tournament," Jarvis said. "We're looking forward to competing in both tournaments."

The Indians, who were ranked 14th, will also be one of the teams competing in the Division 2 state tournament.

The last time that Ware qualified for both tournaments was in 2024.

The other are members of the senior class are Adrain Montone, Jonathan Adkins, Brayden Compton, Jadrien Berthiaume, Sean Bernier, Shaymus O'Connor, and Daniel Ramirez.

"We always like to have the senior's work with the younger players on the team," Jarvis said. "The seniors are our leaders, but it's a close knit team."

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 12

Pathfinder suffers home loss to Granby

PALMER – Last Monday under the lights of Legion Field, the Granby High School baseball team had a 10-run third inning and it powered the Rams to a 17-4 win over Pathfinder that ended after five innings because of the mercy rule. Brandon Carillon and Anthony Santiago had three hits each. Carillon had five RBI. The Rams are just 4-12 on the season while Pathfinder fell to 1-13.

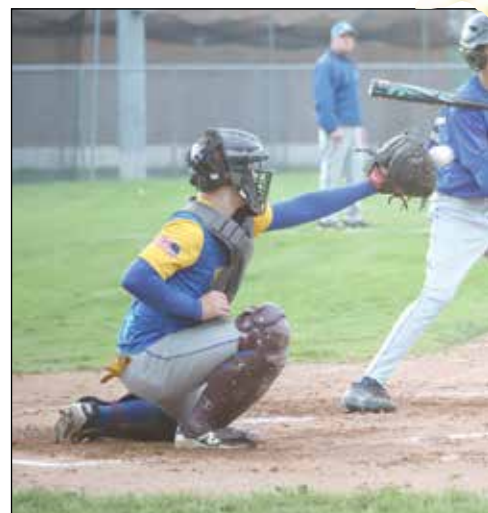


Above, Zachary Smith delivers a pitch for Pathfinder. Right, Aiden Girard slings a throw to first.

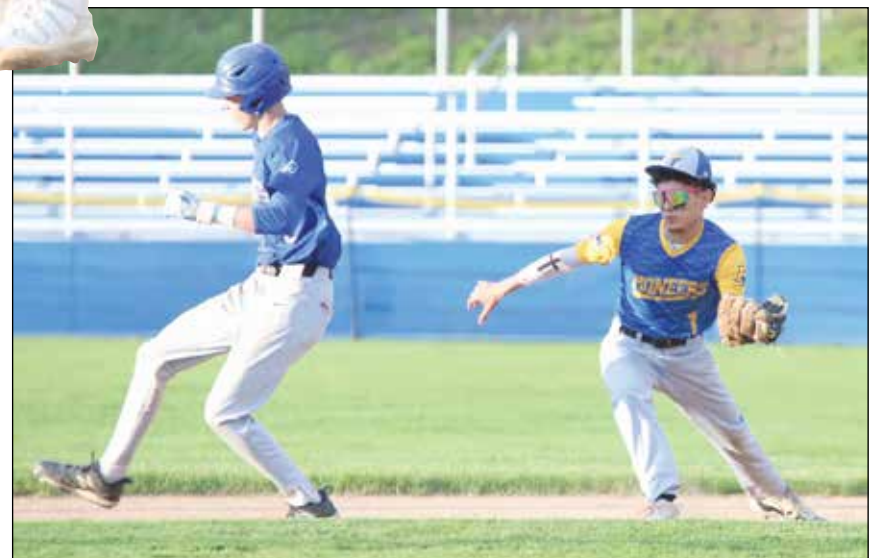
Dayne Shanley brings in a pickoff throw.



Brody Wetnicka sends a throw across the diamond for the Pioneers.



Joseph Szostek tries to frame a strike.



Ian Suari Nieves looks to tag out a runner.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI