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MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

Ware Remembers

16th annual event held before Memorial Day

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The 16th annual Ware Remembers ceremony took place this past weekend as part of honoring Memorial Day.

This annual event is made possible by the Ware Historical Society, the Ware Veterans' Council and the Ware Boy Scouts.

Due to weather conditions, the event was held inside the Ware Town Hall. Although the event couldn't be held outside in front of the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, a field of flags were still displayed outside the center point of the community.

The event began with the color guard marching through the grand hall of

Please see **WARE REMEMBERS**, page 7



Veterans marched into St. Aloysius Cemetery to lay a wreath for Memorial Day. Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



Joe Szczepanek placed a wreath at St. Aloysius Cemetery

Remembering those who gave all

Hardwick honors the fallen

HARDWICK – On the Sunday before Memorial Day, residents of town gathered to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Despite the weather, an assembly of veterans, police, fire and town officials laid wreaths at the town's memorials to honor those who gave their all for freedom. A dedicated

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Ware held annual parade and ceremony



The parade marched down Maple Street to recognize the sacrifice of the fallen on Memorial Day. Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – This year's Memorial Day ceremony was held inside the Town Hall, led by Master of Ceremonies Brandy Brusco.

American Legion Post 123 was the leading post for this year's ceremony, and the service opened with a performance of the National Anthem by Carol Zins, Jane Sterndale and the Weir River Concert Band. Phil Hamel was this year's parade marshal.

Doug Maxfield from the American Legion, gave the opening prayer and Craig Simmons read a poem

Please see **PARADE AND CEREMONY**, page 7

Remembering why on Memorial Day

Town honored the fallen with annual parade

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The town came together this past weekend with the annual Memorial Day parade.

The march began at St. Paul's Cemetery and featured town departments, the school band, youth clubs, state and town officials. The first stop of the parade was at the Common, a place where dozens of families came together

to witness the parade.

Veteran's Agent Michelle Durkee welcomed everyone who could attend this year's Memorial Day Parade. Joining the festivities was Town Administrator James Ferrera, members of the Board of Selectmen, state Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Todd Smola.

This annual parade is a beautiful display of honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice so people can embrace the freedoms they have today.

Smola was one of the speakers of the ceremony and

Please see **WARREN HONORS**, page 5



Shown from left are Selectman Richard Eichacker, Veteran's Agent Michelle Durkee, Selectman Derick Veliz (back), Selectman Raymond Kopacko and Town Administrator James Ferrera at the Veterans Memorial in West Warren. Turley Photo by Ryan Drago



A student prepared to place an American flag on the green in front of Hardwick Elementary School. Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Field of Flags

Students recognize sacrifice on Memorial Day

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Just prior to Memorial Day, students at Hardwick Elementary School participated in a tradition that is now in its third year, under the direction of retired

Principal Sue Musnicki.

Musnicki brought this tradition to the Quabbin Regional School District a few years ago when she was Co-Principal of Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre. Like the one in Barre, Musnicki hopes that Hardwick's field of flags will continue to serve as a reminder of the

Please see **FLAGS**, page 8



SPORTS

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kyle Kaczuwka takes a swing and fouls off a pitch.

Indians fall in tough battle

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— Since the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) revised its postseason tournament format in 2022, Ware and Hopkins Academy have developed a strong rivalry in the Western Massachusetts Class D baseball playoffs.

During the past four seasons, the two squads have met in the semifinals three times and once in the quar-

terfinals.

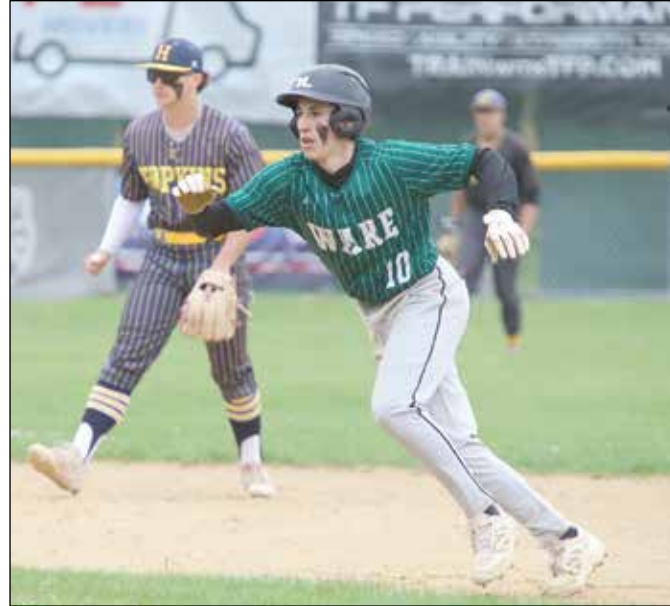
Last Saturday afternoon marked a new chapter in the rivalry series, as they faced each other in the Class D championship game for the first time. The top-seeded Golden Hawks emerged with a 3-1 win over the third-seeded Indians at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

“We proved that we could play with one of the best baseball teams in Western Mass.,” said Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark. “We did our best and I’m very proud of my players.”

The Ware players were hoping to celebrate a win in the Western Mass. title game for the third time since 2023.

The Indians (11-10) will now be playing in the Division 5 state tournament, which is scheduled to begin this weekend. “The seeds for the state tournament will be announced on Wednesday,” Clark added. “We’re looking forward to playing against any team.”

The Indians were ranked 11th in the Division 5 power rankings, which was released last Friday. They should be playing a home game at St. Joe’s Park in Thorndike in the round of 32.



Brodie Koczur takes a lead off second.

Indians set for state tourney matchup

WARE – It was a brilliant regular season for the Ware High School boys volleyball team. But the Indians ran into one team that they could not overcome in Veritas Prep High School. Veritas defeated Ware in the regular season, then less than a week later, defeated Ware 3-0 in the Class C semifinals, giving the Indians an overall 17-3 record for the season.

Ware now enters the State Division 2 tournament. Ware drew a matchup on the road against Burlington High School in the Round of 32. That matchup was set to take place on Wednesday, May 27 with Ware hoping to advance in to the Round of 16.

A year ago, the Indians advanced to the Elite 8 in the state tournament where they lost to Hopedale, 6-1, at historic Fino Field in Milford. Two weeks earlier, Ware lost to Hopkins, 7-4, in the Class D semifinals at Memorial Field in Ware. The Indians the home field is being refurbished this spring.

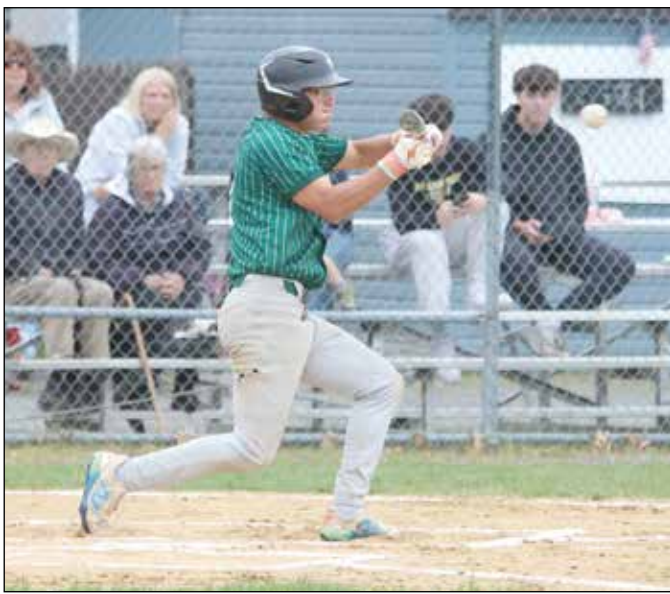
The Indians defeated the Golden Hawks in the 2023 and 2024 Class D semifinals before squeaking out a pair

of victories against Pioneer Valley Regional High School in the Western Mass. championship game.

Back in 2022, Hopkins posted a shutout victory versus Ware in a quarterfinal contest.

The last time that the Golden Hawks (19-2) brought home the championship trophy was in 2021.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Troy Dufresne squares to bunt.

Middle school track action



Penny Ouimette winds up to launch the discus.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Caleb Brouillet leads the pack in the one-mile race.



Landon Swindlehurst goes flying in the long jump.



Eden Fortier powers through her throw in the shot put.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional Middle School had outdoor track action, featuring contests in multiple events for the young Panthers. It was one of just a few meets scheduled for the middle school team this spring.



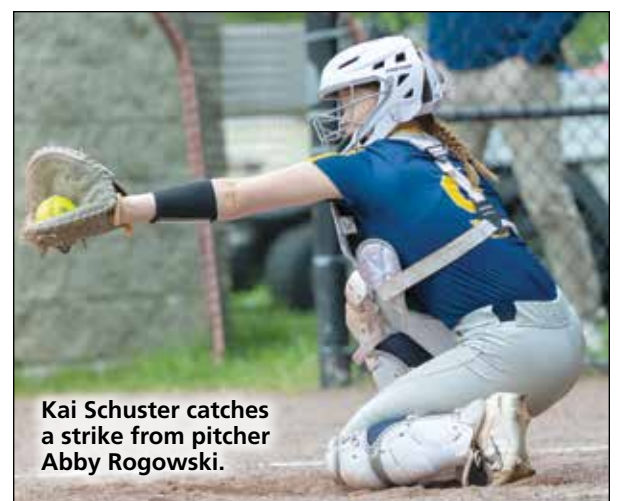
Kayla Despres propels herself for distance in the long jump.



Leona Barre stretches out as she easily clears the bar in the high jump.



Josie Castell slides and adds another run as she slides into home.

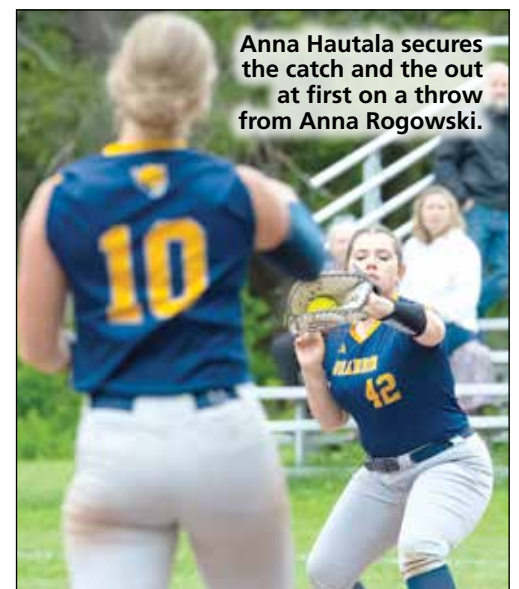


Kai Schuster catches a strike from pitcher Abby Rogowski.

Panthers score pair of wins



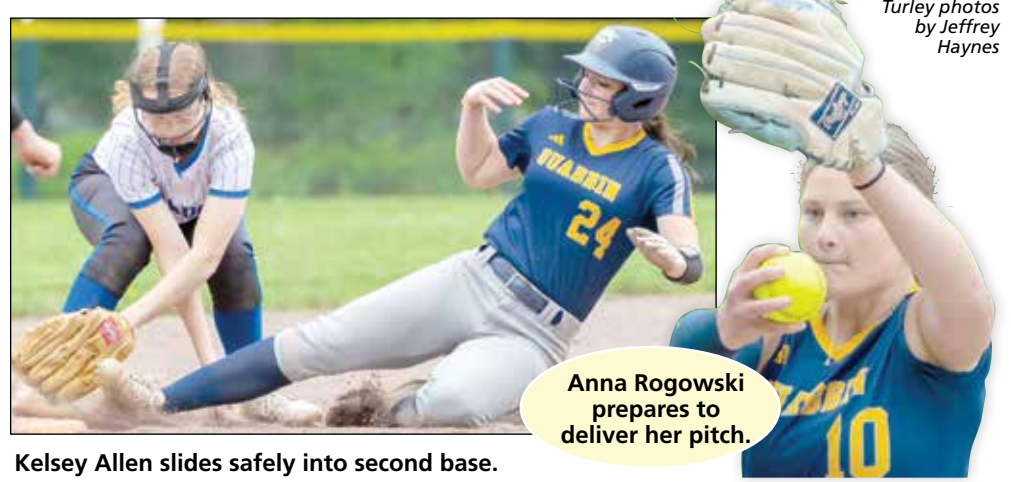
Izzy Doty braces as she is struck by an errant pitch.



Anna Hautala secures the catch and the out at first on a throw from Anna Rogowski.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional High School softball scored a pair of wins, defeating Bromfield last Monday afternoon 15-3 followed by a win over Murdock High School 17-1 last Thursday afternoon in a matchup that ended in the fifth inning.

Quabbin is on the borderline for qualification in the state tournament. The most recent rankings had Quabbin ranked at No. 35. With a sub-.500 record, Quabbin would need to finish in the top 32 in order to make the state tournament this year.



Kelsey Allen slides safely into second base.

Anna Rogowski prepares to deliver her pitch.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes