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★ ★ ★ CLASS OF 2026 ★ ★ ★



Amara Reis-Kim, left, and Ashton Winders posed with "Knick in 4" signs implying that the New York Knicks would win the NBA Championship in four games.

58th Commencement celebrated at QRMHS

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – It was graduation day this past weekend at Quaboag Regional Middle High School as the community celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026.

The ceremony was held inside the school gym as 84 seniors were about to walk and be celebrated to conclude their high school careers.

The Pledge of Allegiance as led by Class of 2026 Vice President Madelyn Bagg. The National Anthem was performed by Madison



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Class of 2026 graduate Olive Moulton is shown during her Salutatorian's Address.

Schreier.

Class Historian Ava Ostrout came up to welcome everyone to the ceremony. Class President Emma Dion came up to give her Class President's Address.

Dion thanked the teachers, staff and friends for all they have done during their high school careers. Dion also recognized the late Principal Casey Handfield for all his support during his time in the Quaboag Regional School District.

Dion reflected on her high school career and wanted to acknowledge a popular saying that is usually said by high school math teacher Mr. Reilly.

"Do what you know how to do."

Dion will always remember the selflessness that came from her high school as she and her class step into an uncertain future. After six years of being with the same group of people, Dion wanted everyone to celebrate the Class of 2026.

"We made it," Dion said.

The audience witnessed the musical selection performed by the Quaboag

Please see **QUABOAG GRADS**, page 6

Ware graduates focus on roots, growth

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Ware Junior Senior High School's Class of 2026 held graduation exercises to recognize the achievements of 63 students this past Saturday morning.

The Ware High School band performed "Pomp and Circumstance" as the soon to be graduates walked into the gym for the last time as students.

Interim Principal Megan Sears said this was a day of celebration, and that each class of graduates was unique.

"Each graduating class has its own story," she said.

Please see **WARE GRADS**, page 7



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Class President Madysyn Slattery and Class Historian Olivia DiRienzo led the class into graduation exercises

Quabbin High School graduates 103 students

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – After holding graduation inside last year due to heavy rain, the Class of 2026 had perfect weather for an outdoor graduation.

Led by the Quabbin Regional High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Color Guard, the 103 students marched out of the front doors of the high school for the last time on Friday, June 5. School Administrators, School Committee members and faculty followed the Color Guard of Logan Bruley, Brody Faucher, Kayleigh Fuller and Jillian LaMontagne.

Leading the soon to be graduates were marshals, Madeleine Boisselle and Ella Reeves.

Please see **QUABBIN GRADS**, page 11



Turley Photo by Mary Whitelaw

Alexis Holden and Aidan Mahoney walked together during the processional.

ATM approves budget, Quabbin resolution

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – Hardwick held its annual town meeting last Saturday at Hardwick Elementary School, where 134 residents voted on the fiscal year 2027 budget, a Quabbin Watershed resolution, bylaw changes and several transfers.

FY 27 budget

Article 12 on the town meeting warrant was for the operating budget. The Finance Committee did not recommend approval of the presented budget of \$7.295 million, which was presented by the Select Board, because it was being funded by two one-time revenues.

Christopher Culross, chair of the Finance Committee said one time revenues should go to free cash and stabilization funds, where the money can be used for capital projects.

Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer said funding the budget with one-time revenue is a standard practice, and the estimates made were conservative. He said the Select Board version of the budget keeps the town under the proposition 2.5 limit.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said the two one-time revenues

Please see **ATM**, page 3

Pool design article fails; charter updates OK'd

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Over 140 voters took action on 34 articles at the annual town meeting Monday night, approving updates to the town's charter, and turning down a motion to fund the design and engineering study for a new pool.

Moderator Kathleen Coulombe gave a history of town meeting in Ware and the commonwealth, and the role it played in the American Revolution.

"Massachusetts town meeting was a fundamental influence on the Declaration of Independence," she said.

The Massachusetts Government Act banned town meetings, and Ware was one of many towns that ignored the unjust ruling.

"It's outlived its life ... it's an accident waiting to happen."

- David Moriarty

"I am proud of Ware's upholding this important tradition," she said.

Pool articles
Article 28 sought fund-

ing for the design and engineering services to replace the Reed Memorial Pool and create a splash pad on that same property. This article appeared on the town meeting warrant again after having been previously voted down.

This time the \$120,000 cost was divided into \$70,000 from the pool's trust fund and \$50,000 from free cash.

Dave Moriarty asked if there were grants available to pay for the cost of the construction for the project, and Town Manager

Please see **ARTICLES**, page 7

Design plans shared for Cutter Park project

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – A meeting to discuss the Cutter Park Design Improvement Project was held at the Warren Senior Center earlier this week.

Presenting these plans were Landscape Architect Anja Duffy and Landscape Designer Jeff Taylor of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., who had some plans to share with the public. This group of planners have had meetings with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and have conducted surveys and

talking with neighbors and abutters to the property.

A poster of the new design for Cutter Park was displayed, and the designers were excited to hear what the public thought.

"We're excited to unveil for the first time to the public," Taylor said.

Off Main Street the plans featured a parking lot within the park itself. The parking lot design idea does feature Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and handicap accessible parking. This plan included two entrances coming into Cutter Park.

Please see **PROJECT**, page 5



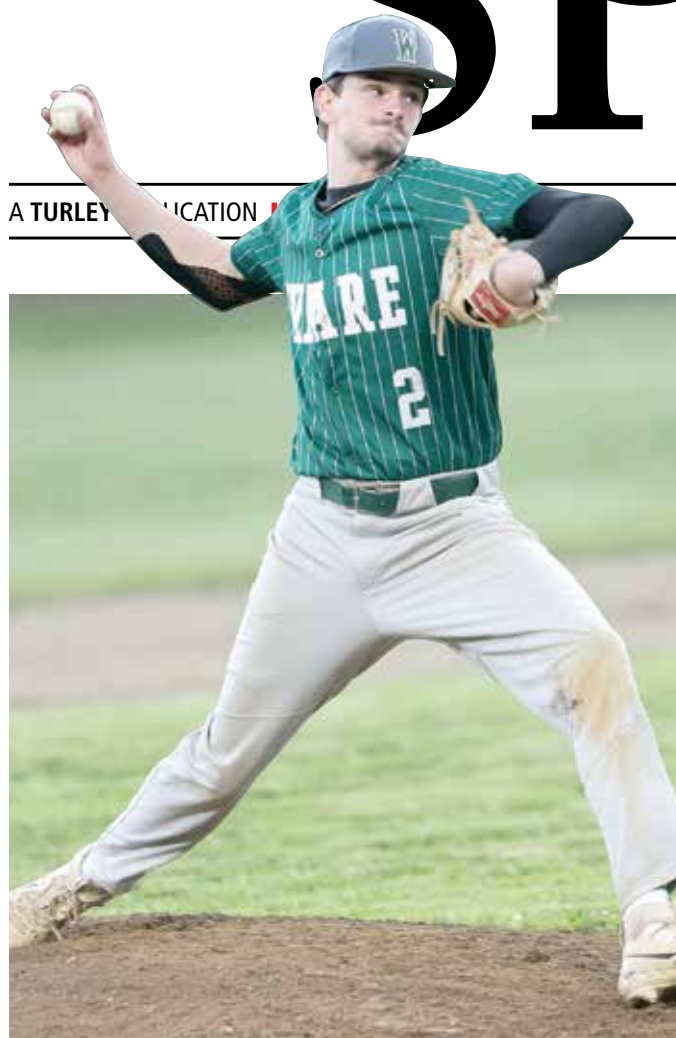
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Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brady Guimond sends a pitch home.

Indians edged out of state tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—The end of an era.

The seniors listed on the Ware varsity baseball roster have been teammates for many years. They were hoping to make one final run together in the Division 5 state tournament.

The 12th-seeded Indians postseason journey lasted just one game, as they suffered a 1-0 heartbreaking loss to the 21st seeded Keefe Tech Broncos in a round of 32 contest held at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on June 1.

"I've been playing baseball with my friends forever and I'm very sad that I won't be teammates

with them anymore," said Ware senior catcher Kyle Kaczuwka. "Baseball has always been my pride and joy. I've loved being a member of this team."

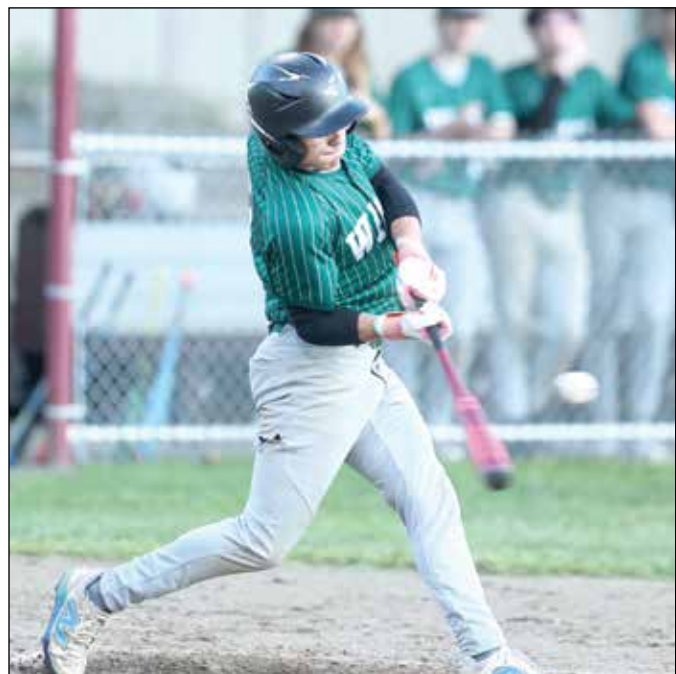
The other six Ware seniors, who graduated on June 6, are Troy Dufresne, Brady Guimond, Brodie Koczur, Jack Gaudreau, Alex Orszulak, and Marek Luongo, who was the team manager.

"There aren't very many schools our size that have a bunch of talented senior athletes," said Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark. "They just love playing the game of baseball and we're going to miss those guys a lot."

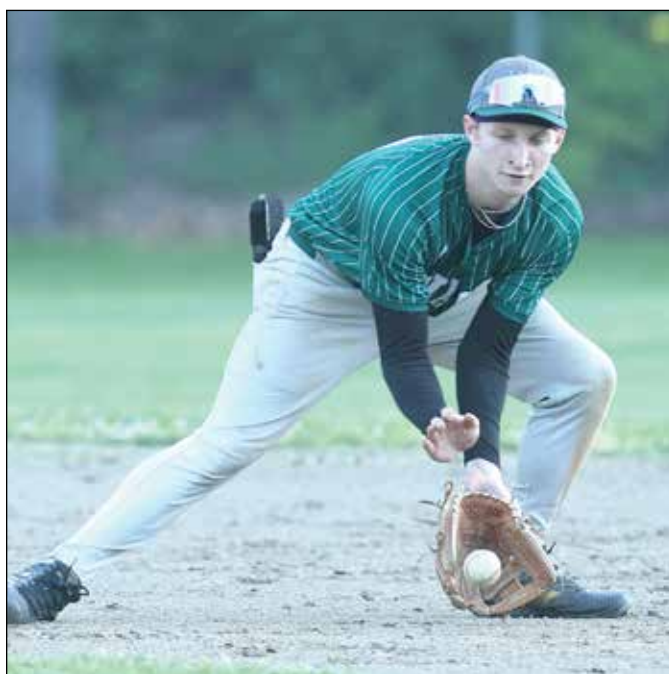
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Brodie Koczur tries to run down a baserunner.



Troy Dufresne connects on a hit.



Logan Millet fields the grounder.



Alex Orszulak brings in a pickoff throw.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Ella Reeves soars through the air in the long jump.



Zachary Thompson, center, dashes for the finish line as the crowd cheers the racers.



Hemily Halaby gains speed in the 100-meter race.



John-Paul McDuffie launches himself in the long jump.

Unified track holds final home meet

BARRE – On May 28, the Quabbin Regional High School Unified Track team

held their final home meet of the season, concluding another excellent season for

the program. The unified program will be back this fall with basketball.



Sam Breault turns into her throw of the shot put.



Honour Michael smiles as he nears the finish line in the 100-meter race.



Arianna Fagnoli runs the 800-meter race.



Kenneth Abram heaves the shot put.



Janelle Hutchinson hurls the javelin.

Newest Hall of Fame class announced

BARRE – Four athletes, two coaches, an outstanding contributor and a pair of championship teams will be honored at the eleventh induction ceremony of the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame to be held on Nov. 7 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware.

Dating back to the first induction held in 2006, this will bring the total number of honorees to 82.

The individual inductees include Louis Panaccione ('75), Eugene Rich ('95), Matthew Brunelle (2008), and Steffany Halfrey ('15), coaches Cheryl Adams (golf) and Debra Spinelli (field hockey, basketball), and athletic director/contributor Ted Gumula. In addition, the 1979 District champion field hockey team and the 1998-99 District champion and State Finalist boys basketball team will also be honored.

Here is a profile of the first four inductees:

Louis Panaccione (Class of 1975)

Louis Panaccione was one of the most outstanding cross country runners in the early history

Please see **HALL OF FAME**, page 13