

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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Willow wore her red, white and blue beads.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago  
RIGHT: Claudia Kadra and Nicole Croteau of Ware's 250th U.S. Celebration Committee helped out at the Chicken BBQ Fundraiser at St. Mary's Parish.

## Chicken BBQ fundraiser held at St. Mary's Parish

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARE – To prepare for the upcoming celebrations of America250, a chicken BBQ fundraiser was held at St. Mary's Parish this past weekend.

The chicken BBQ fundraiser was organized by members of the town of Ware's

250th U.S. Celebration Committee. Chair of the Committee, Nicole Croteau, said this was a big fundraising event to help support the full celebration and series of events that will take place in Ware to celebrate America's birthday.

Well over 100 tickets were sold for this fundraiser.

Croteau and her fellow committee members were

working during the event alongside members of the Knights of Columbus Ware Council 183.

"They were very supportive of the event," Croteau said.

The Knights prepared the meals inside the kitchen of St. Mary's Parish. The meal included BBQ chicken, baked potato, salad, dinner roll and a cookie for dessert. Guests

had the option to dine at the Parish or take their meals home.

The committee had merchandise for sale, including America250 themed T-shirts. Information on how to order a shirt can be found on the town website, www.townofware.com, or visit usa250ware.itemorder.com to place an order.

Please see **BBQ**, page 7

## Planning Board hears project proposal

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARE – The Planning Board met on June 4 to hear a project proposal off West Street near Cumberland Farms.

Michael Harris has talked about this project idea in the past with the Planning Board and provided a few updates about what's happening near 193 West St.

Harris provided some documents with improvements he'd like to make to the project.

There is a wetland concern in the area Harris is looking at and a survey is being done to determine the size. Once results are in, Harris will go to Conservation Commission and then present a plan to the Planning Board.

Please see **PROJECT**, page 6

## LandEspace opens at ArtWorks Gallery

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARE – The ArtWorks Gallery in Ware held an opening reception this past week for the new exhibit called LandEspace.

The focus of this exhibit is artists thinking of a place

where the natural or imagined places are where you wish to be or actually escape to.

"A place they'd like to escape to," Joyce Eichacker said.

Shona MacDonald was the juror for this exhibit.

Please see **GALLERY**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Living Museum by Anastasia Brown-Westphal is made of acrylic and paper collage.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Rich Eichacker performed on guitar and Roc Goudreau on keyboard.

## Concerts in the Park

Lions Club kicks off summer series

By Paula Ouimette  
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WARE – Last Thursday evening, the Ware Lions Club kicked off its summer Concerts in the Park series with a performance by local favorite, The Project.

Band members Cindy Colon, Rich Eichacker, Roc

Goudreau, Tom Trudeau and Brad Willard played a variety of classic songs for the large crowd at Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

The concert series continues on Thursday, July 9 starting at 6:30 p.m. with Wicked Biscuit. Other concerts include July 16, Bigelow; July 23, The Bridge; July 30, Charlie Lask and Forever Diamond with special guest Jimmy Mazz and Aug. 6, Woodshed.

Admission to concerts is free and concerts are weather dependent.

Please see **CONCERTS**, page 2

## Ferrera receives 'outstanding' rating

Selectmen complete TA's annual performance review

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen recently completed Town Administrator James Ferrera's annual performance review, which will be presented at the board's July 9 meeting.

The annual performance review evaluates the employee's daily work activities and provides both positive recognition of the employee's achievements, as well as feedback and suggestions for areas of improvement.

Performance dimensions are divided into seven categories, and the employ-

ee receives a number scale rating with 1 being "unsatisfactory" and 5 being "outstanding." Categories are Job Related Expertise; Communication and Customer Service; Quality of Work and Productivity; Initiative, Creativity and Problem Solving; Cooperation, Teamwork and

Leadership; Dependability and Attendance; and Supervisory/Staff Development.

This year, Ferrera received a cumulative score of 206 out of a possible 215, earning him an "outstanding" rating. His performance "consistently exceeds all exceptional standards."

Please see **FERRERA**, page 3



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Chefs Donna and Paula were busy preparing the chicken BBQ meals.

## Seniors enjoy Garden Party at Lucy Stone Park

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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WARREN – Seniors gathered at Lucy Stone Park for the very first Summer Solstice Garden Party.

As part of the celebration, seniors enjoyed a chicken BBQ meal, live music, balloon animals and cotton candy. June birthday celebrations also took place as over 50 seniors gathered on the beautiful grounds of Lucy Stone Park.

Council on Aging Director Sharon Meli shared that the purpose of having a Summer Solstice is to show the seniors what a lovely spot the park is after its recent revital-

ization. The town received a grant to renovate the grounds of Lucy Stone Park to make it into a visiting destination, which includes seniors.

"I had several of them tell me that they had no idea it was there, and how beautiful it is," Meli said.

The work was accomplished thanks to Tim O'Brien, Warren Conservation, Warren's Rural Improvement and numerous volunteers.

"It is a lovely space," Meli said. "It is a very special park, and I am so happy the seniors enjoyed the day there."

Please see **GARDEN PARTY**, page 8



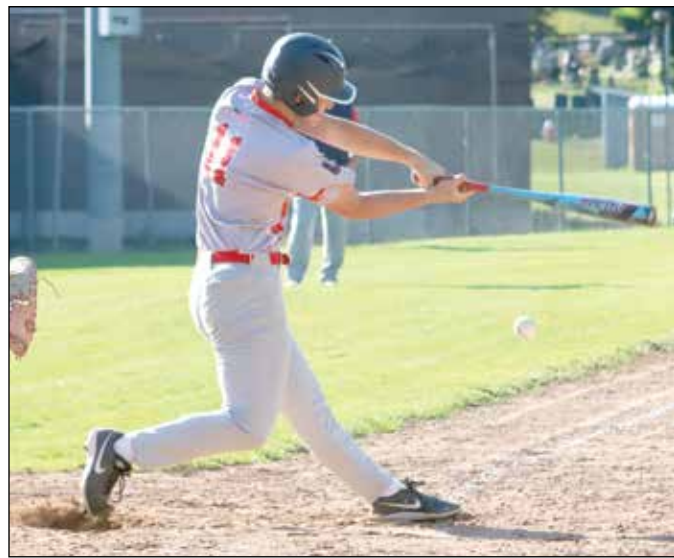
# SPORTS

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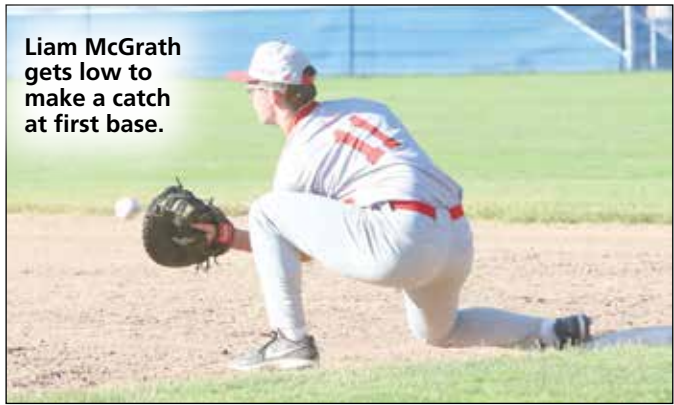
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## Monson Legion Post 241 falls at home to Aldenville



Liam McGrath sends a grounder to third base.



Liam McGrath gets low to make a catch at first base.

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER-- The final American Legion baseball game of the regular season at historic Legion Field in Palmer was a vintage pitcher's duel.

Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337, who only had nine players available for the road game, snapped its four-game losing streak by edging Monson Post 241, 1-0, last Wednesday night.

"We battled the entire game," said Matt Sutton, who was the winning pitcher for Aldenville. "I focused on staying calm on the mound, pitch to pitch, and this is a huge win for us."

Aldenville had a 2-4-1 record following the shutout victory, while Monson fell to 2-4.

The two squads were scheduled to face each other for the second time this summer at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on Wednesday night.

Monson is also scheduled to face Longmeadow Post

175 in another home game at St. Joe's Park on Thursday night, and West Springfield Post 207 at Veteran's Field in Monson on Monday night.

Last Wednesday's contest marked Sutton's first career victory as a member of the Aldenville Post 337 baseball team.

Sutton, who was a junior member of the Chicopee Comp's varsity baseball team this past spring, gave up only three base hits while striking out eight in his performance against Monson. The righthander issued four walks and hit a pair of batters in six innings. He threw a total of 102 pitches.

"I thought Matt pitched a great game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We've been mostly using him as a relief pitcher so far this season. He stepped up in tonight's game."

Please see **LEGION**, page 10



Brayden Mega sends a pitch away for Post 241.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

LEFT: Matthew Santos fires a throw to first from deep short.



Submitted photo

### QUABBIN ATHLETES MAKE THEIR DECISIONS

During the spring, several athletes at Quabbin Regional High School made some important decisions about their futures. The school hosted an NLI signing days where the students committed to playing sports at the college level. Pictured are: Wes Sanderson-Football at Curry, Collin Lindley - Track at Merrimack, Owura Ankoma-Mensah - Track at University of New Haven, Bianca Wilder - Soccer and Track at Mount Holyoke, Abi Falconi - Track at Franklin Pierce and Mia Ducos (not pictured) - Basketball at Skidmore.

## Mutiny shut out by Vermont Green FC

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Even though the New England Mutiny had already been eliminated from the USL W playoffs, they still had a chance to influence the race for first place in the Northeast Division entering the regular-season finale.

Had the Mutiny pulled off an upset victory against Vermont Green FC, the Hudson Valley Crusaders would have finished at the top of the Northeast Division table.

However, it was Vermont Green FC players and their rowdy supporters doing all the celebrating



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Trinity Clark collects a pass.

## Playoffs hopes still alive after Pioneers shutout

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Had the Western Mass. Pioneers failed to secure a victory in last Friday night's match against AC Connecticut, their playoff hopes would have vanished for the first time since they entered USL League Two in 2019.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive a little bit longer thanks to a hard-earned 1-0 shutout win at Lusitano Stadium.

"We didn't get the result that we wanted in our last match on Tuesday night, and we had a tie here last week,"

said Pioneers assistant coach Tomas Duben. "It was very important for us to get the three points and the win in tonight's game. We're still battling for a postseason berth."

Duben took over the head coaching duties from longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who spent last weekend coaching a Western United Pioneers U-16 girls' team at a tournament in Virginia.

Since 2024, Duben has a 3-0-1 record as the Pioneers

interim head coach.

"My playing career ended a couple of years ago because of a knee injury," he said. "I really enjoyed playing for this soccer team. I'm very grateful that Federico gave me this coaching opportunity and I'm still learning."

The Pioneers improved to 6-2-2 (20 points) following the home shutout victory, solidifying their hold on third place in the Northeast Division. They trail first place Vermont Green FC (10-0-1, 31 points) and second place NEC (10-1-1, 30 points). Only the top two teams in the Northeast Division qualify for the league playoffs.

Western Mass. finished at the top of the Northeast table in both 2019 and 2021. They made it all the way to the National Semifinals in 2021. They've finished in second place



Martin Echarren looks up the field.



Matiwos Rumley goes to meet the ball.

Alfred Baafi makes a backwards pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

during the past four seasons.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Pioneers only qualified for the USL PDL playoffs

once. AC Connecticut (1-10-0) had several scoring chances during the first twenty five minutes of the opening half, but Pioneers goalie Ben Alexander made the saves which kept the

match scoreless. "Ben played very well in tonight's match," Duben said. "The defense also gave him a lot of support back there."

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11