

WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 140 No. 20

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

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Public hearing held for PARC grant

By Ryan Drago
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WARE – The Parks & Recreation Commission met on July 6 at Grenville Park where the meeting began with a public hearing.

The hearing was to discuss the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant program and one of the proposals is for another pavilion to be added to another side of Grenville Park.

The Parks & Recreation Commission is looking for an additional pavilion to replace a small gazebo over by the bandstand. They're also looking to add access to the new pavilion, including access from the parking lot.

Parks Manager John Piechota said he also wants to add some drainage from the front of the hill.

The total cost for the project is around \$122,875.

The pavilion design would be similar to the existing pavilion that is over by the playground at Grenville Park.

The condition of the current seating space was talked about and it was described as being in fair condition. However, Piechota thinks it is slowly wearing off and a pavilion in its place would be beneficial to the park.

"A benefit to have a bigger space," Piechota said. "It would be an asset to the park."

The Parks Commissioners will take the possibility of preserving the existing space under advisement.

Concerns of Citizens

The Parks & Recreation Commission heard from a resident who wanted to

Please see **GRANTS**, page 2

Time capsule revealed during 250TH CELEBRATION

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – A celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary took place on the common on the 4th of July.

The community came together as the town hosted the unveiling of a time capsule placed underneath the gazebo. Many families whose relatives were around during the bicentennial celebration in 1976 arrived for the 250th celebration to see what was buried 50 years ago.

Prior to 1976, the town formed a Bicentennial Committee. Sharing this history during the celebration was Sue Como.

Please see **CAPSULE**, page 7



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
John Como and Tina Como are shown at the ceremonial ribbon cutting prior to the unveiling of the bicentennial time capsule that was placed underneath the gazebo in the center of Warren.

LEFT: A vintage sign to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. with the center piece being a design of the gazebo.

Story Time features pizza, dinosaurs

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Warren Public Library had a fun story time this past week featuring dinosaurs and pizza decorating.

Reading the stories was Patricia Lalli, who is a retired children's librarian. Lalli has been a substitute librarian at the Warren Public Library for the last few years and enjoys participating in story time.

Lalli read two books featuring pizza and dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are one of the

two main themes for this year's summer reading programming.

With dinosaurs being a child favorite, Lalli brought the book "Pizzasaurus" by Tammi Sauer and illustrated by Kyle Beckett. This book follows the unique Pizzasaurus who is known for his love of pizza and teaches kids about friendship and sharing.

Lalli brought another book called "A Pizza My Heart" by Steph Stilwell.

After story time, kids got to create their own pizza craft with stickers shaped like various toppings.

Kids have a lot to look forward to this summer by visiting the Warren Public Library during Summer Reading. Kids will be learning a lot about dinosaurs, archeology and paleontology.

"Digging up things you enjoy," said Gena LaScala.

Please see **STORY TIME**, page 6

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Patricia Lalli read "A Pizza My Heart" during story time at the Warren Public Library



Dinosaur origami

'Unearth A Story' with Summer Reading

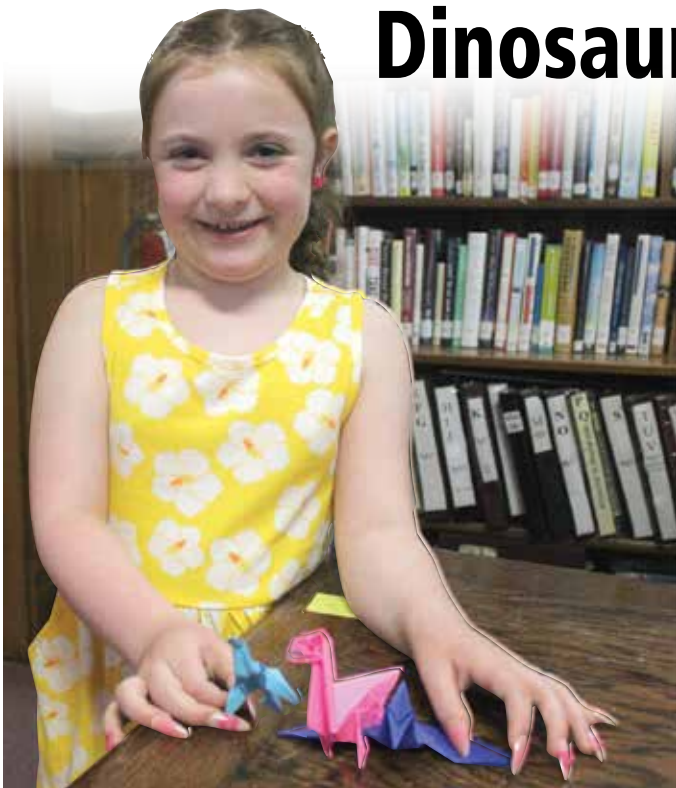
By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – The Warren Public Library hosted a dinosaur origami program this past week as Summer Reading has kicked off.

This origami activity is part of the library's 2026 Summer Reading Programming known as "Unearth A Story."

During this program, kids learned a lot about dinosaurs through various activities. The most recent activity was

Please see **ORIGAMI**, page 5



Sloane is shown with her origami dinosaurs that she made at the Warren Public Library. On the table were her origami brachiosaurus, pterosaur and plesiosaurus.

Lions host community service carnival to launch new club

WARREN – The public is invited to experience the service, fellowship, and community spirit of Lions

Clubs at the upcoming Lions Service "Carnival" on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the St. Stanislaus Polish Club, South St., West Warren, in conjunction with the Ware Lions.

The family-friendly event will showcase the many ways Lions Clubs serve their communities while offering a day of fun activities, food, and entertainment for all ages.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about

Lions Club membership and community service programs, as well as participate in free eye screenings.

Children can enjoy a bounce house and games, while complimentary refreshments – including snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, hot dogs and water – will be available for children while supplies last.

A highlight of the day will be a Cornhole Tournament beginning at noon. Registration and warm-up activities start at 11 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 per person, with cash prizes awarded to top competitors.

Participants may register in advance through the

Scoreholio app or sign up on the day of the tournament. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit local veterans.

"This event is a way we can make the community aware of what the Lions have to offer the community, and it is also part of a membership drive with the hopes of starting a new club in Warren," said Curt Jameson, past district governor of Lions Clubs District 33A and chair of the event.

The event is open to the public and admission is free. For more information, contact Jameson at curt6203@gmail.com.



SPORTS

Post 241 walks off against Aldenville



Theo Haley makes a throw to first.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Had Monson Post 241 shortstop Matt Santos come up with the game-winning hit against Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 at historic Legion Field, it probably wouldn't have meant as much to him as doing it a couple miles away at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two Senior Legion teams was still scoreless, entering the bottom of the seventh. With two outs and the bases loaded, Santos turned on a fastball and ripped it past the third baseman into left field, giving Monson a thrilling 1-0 walk-off victory last Wednesday night.

"The pitcher threw me a fastball. I knew I needed to get a base hit and win the game," Santos

said. "It's just a great feeling. This is also the first time that I've ever won a game on this field."

Santos, who recently received his high school diploma, was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Palmer High School. He was the 2026 recipient of the Karl Oliveira Memorial Tri-County Baseball Scholarship Award.

Oliveira, who passed away in 2021, spent many summers playing baseball at St. Joe's Ballpark for the St. Joseph's Saints in the prestigious Tri-County Baseball League.

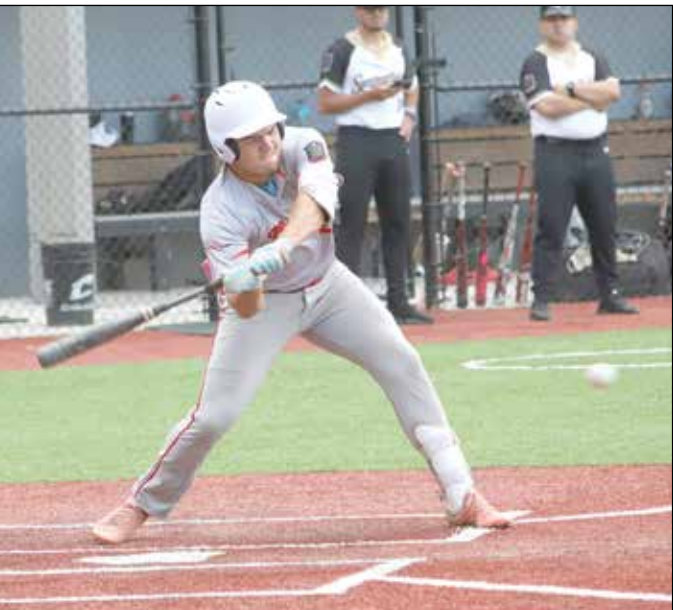
"Matt is a great kid and he's the perfect candidate to receive this year's scholarship award," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "Karl and I were teammates on the varsity baseball team at Palmer High School. This field was his shrine. Karl probably played 1,000 games

here and this is a very memorable night."

The Monson Legion baseball team normally plays their home games at Legion Field, but they were forced to

move last Wednesday game to St. Joe's Park due to a scheduling conflict.

Please see **LEGION**, page 10



Kyle Kaczuwka takes a swing at an outside pitch.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Brayden Mega signals to the batter as he leads off second base.

Pioneers, Black Rock battle to 1-1 draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just when it appeared that the Western Mass. Pioneers were set to close out a 1-0 shutout victory against Black Rock FC, a late lapse gave the visitors from Nashua, New Hampshire an opportunity to score the tying goal.

Black Rock FC converted a corner kick goal during the seventh minute of stoppage time and last Friday night's USL League 2 match-up held at Lusitano Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

The result all but ended the Pioneers' postseason hopes, eliminating them from the USL League Two play-offs for the first time since joining the league in 2019.

"I really don't know what happened at the end of tonight's game," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Almost everything has gone wrong for us this season."

It was the third consecutive tie between the two teams, who played a scoreless tie in the first meeting of the season on June 3. The two squads also played a 1-1 draw at Lusitano Stadium a year ago.

The Pioneers entered the final week of the 2026 regular season sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table with a 7-2-3 (24 points) overall record.

The Western Mass. squad were scheduled to play at AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before hosting the first place and undefeated Vermont Green FC, who have already clinched a playoff berth, in the regular season finale on Friday night.

NEFC (10-2-0), who joined the league a year ago, is sitting in second place with

30 points. They only need a tie against either last place Boston City FC or the Albany Rush to officially lock up a playoff spot for the first time. NEFC defeated the Pioneers, 4-2, at Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

Black Rock FC (5-3-3, 18 points) has the chance to tie for third place if they can win their final three matches and the Pioneers lose a match.

Each soccer team earns three points for a victory and one point for a draw.

Just like in their first meeting of the regular season meeting a month earlier, neither Black Rock FC nor the Pioneers scored a goal during the first 45 minutes of last Friday's contest.

Geronnimo Gomes had two of the shot attempts for the home side during the opening half.

At the beginning of the contest, Jackson Gould lined a shot from outside the top of the box that sailed wide of the net.

The Pioneers, who had four corner kicks in the first half, best scoring chance came during the 36th minute. That's when a shot taken by Vasco Teixeira clanged off the post keeping the match scoreless a little bit longer.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander didn't have to make any saves during the first half.

The Pioneers finally ended the scoreless drought with a free kick goal in the 65th minute.

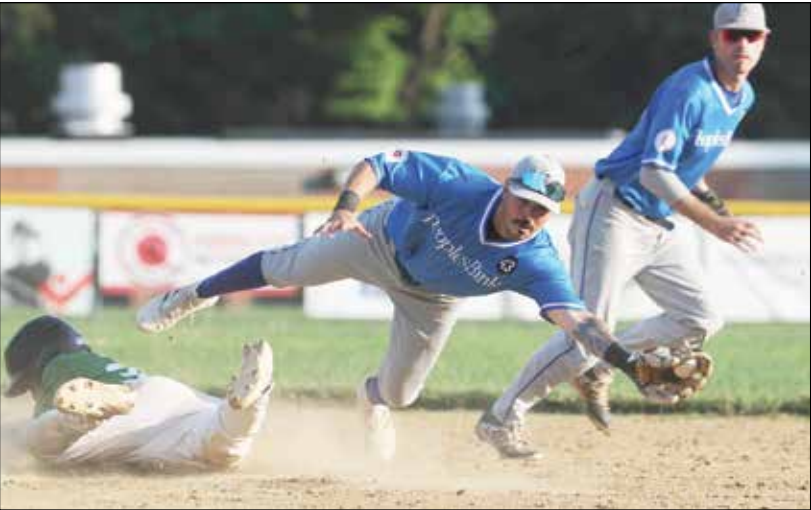
The duo of Ronan O'Brien and Shun Murasawa, who



Riley Priddy dribbles up the field.



Pete Hogan fires down to second to try and catch a base stealer.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brian Hungerford tries to keep a throw from getting to the outfield.

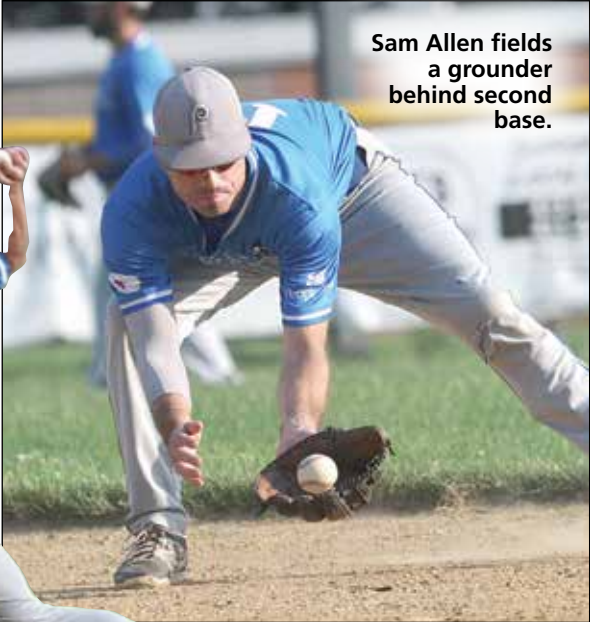
Bankers in control following Fourth of July holiday

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank is in control of the Tri-County Baseball League once again, as the longtime playoff champions and multi-time regular season champions stand at an impressive 11-1-1 so far this season. The Bankers have 23 points for the league lead with their main rivals, St. Joseph's, tugging behind with 22 points. Teddy Bear Pools holds third place at 17 points, while Turners Falls, the Spartans, and BankESB round out the standings, all with less than 10 points.

Last Monday, PeoplesBank played to their only tie of the season as they battled to a 2-2 draw with the Spartans. The game was called due to darkness at South Hadley High School. Action resumed earlier this week with games scheduled on Wednesday, July 8.



Jackson LaValley winds and fires for PeoplesBank.



Sam Allen fields a grounder behind second base.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Rey Rivera fakes a throw after making a play.



Cam Rivest, of Agawam, swings and connects.

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10