

WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 140 No. 21

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS



OLD TYME Baseball

returns to Hardwick

Haymakers and Wheelmen take the field

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – Vintage baseball made its return to Benjamin Roach Athletic Fields this past weekend.

This annual game was presented by the Paige Memorial Library and the Hardwick Parks & Recreation Committee. This tradition is part of the Paige Memorial Library celebrating 120 years on the common.

Library Director Julie Bullock talked about how the library has been on the common for over a century. The high school at the time used to house the library until the building sadly burned down.

Please see **OLD TYME BALL**, page 8



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

Players went over the rules of Civil War era baseball.

Board promotes Cacela to sergeant

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Police Chief Shawn Crevier requested the Selectboard appoint John Cacela to the open position of sergeant on the Police Department.

At the July 7 Selectboard meeting, Crevier said Cacela has been with the department for over 12 years and has “done a phenomenal job.”

He credited Cacela for his work with the DART program and making National Night Out an annual success for the town.

The Selectboard unanimously approved Cacela’s promotion to sergeant.

Lift assist fee proposal

Fire Chief Jim Martinez presented his proposal to charge a fee for lift assists at Cedarbrook Village of Ware. He said currently the Fire Department doesn’t have a way to recoup fees for this service, unless the patient is transported to the hospital.

He said they respond to all of these calls as required by law, or they call for mutual aid.

Martinez said lift assists at Cedarbrook are “costing us a great deal of money, time and effort.”

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 5

Selectmen review TA’s goals

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on July 9 and had a discussion of the Town Administrator’s annual performance evaluation and goals.

Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker began by addressing Town Administrator James Ferrera’s goals. Eichacker said Ferrera scored high marks in job related expertise, communications and customer service.

Ferrera also did well with quality of work and productivity. He showed a lot of initiative, creativity and excellence in problem solving.

“Everything looks positive,” Eichacker said.

The board reviewed Ferrera’s goals for the upcoming fiscal year. One of the five goals Ferrera has is to complete a glass project for the Shepard Municipal Building and have that project complete by December 2026.

Please see **GOALS**, page 7

Agencies search for missing man

Editor’s Note: Elliott Blackwell had not been located at the time of this newspaper’s printing on Wednesday afternoon. For current updates, please check the Warren Police or Fire departments’ Facebook pages.

Staff Report

WARREN – On Wednesday, July 8, at approximately 3 p.m., the Warren Police Department received a report of a missing 91 year old male, identified as Elliott



Submitted Photos

Elliott Blackwell, age 91, of 308 Cutler Road, went missing from his home on July 8. Public safety officials believe Blackwell may have gone walking in the woods behind his house, but are unsure what direction he walked toward.

Blackwell from his home at 308 Cutler Road, who was last seen at approximately

10 a.m. that morning.

He is 5’ 8”, has a thin build and suffers from dementia. The Warren Police Department believes Blackwell may have gone walking in the woods behind his house, but they are unsure what direction he walked toward.

Immediately after receiving the report, the Warren Police requested assistance from the Warren Fire Department as well as state and local police.

Units swiftly responded to the area,

Please see **MISSING**, page 6

Residents raise concerns to SB

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met Monday where several residents brought up concerns about parking and town practices.

At the July 13 meeting, one resident brought up concerns about parking near the Rose 32 Bakery, located at 412 Main St. in Gilbertville. The resident said that the road is a no parking zone,

and when cars are parked there it creates safety issues such as an inability to see pedestrians, people having to walk into the road and difficulty making room for emergency response vehicles.

According to the resident, this has been an ongoing problem for the past three years, and she alleges the Police Department has ignored her calls. She said there are few citations found in the police logs on Main Street, citing two written

warnings, four verbal warnings and three citations over a month period.

Select Board member Zack Spencer responded to her concerns, saying oftentimes the people parked on the street are only there for less than five minutes to pick up an order. He said if there is a complaint about a particular illegally parked car, they may be gone by the time an officer gets there.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3

Leaders present case for Quabbin funding

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Local leaders gathered at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to present their case to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority board of directors for additional funding for the towns bordering the Quabbin Reservoir.

The discussion centered on Senate bill S546 and House bill H1042, which would, in part, create a \$35 million trust fund for the dozen Quabbin towns to receive annual payments, and give the towns

more representation on the MWRA.

Attendees included state Rep. Aaron Saunders, state Sen. Jo Comerford, state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Todd Smola. Members of local leadership such as select boards from several Quabbin towns gave speeches, with the exception of Phillipston and Wendell.

The first to speak was Saunders, who represents the 7th Hampden District, including Belchertown. He talked about how the Quabbin is a water extraction operation, with about 180 million gallons

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 16



Submitted Photo

Hardwick Town Administrator Justine Caggiano spoke at the July 10 meeting.



SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSION www.sports.turley.com

Monson Post 241 baseball comes away with win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Despite wobbling defensively in the third and fourth innings, Monson Post 241 regrouped and fought its way to a gritty victory at Bullens Field in Westfield.

With the Senior Legion contest knotted at 6-6 with two outs in the sixth inning, Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka delivered an RBI single. He also scored a run during that frame, as Post 241 celebrated an 8-6 win over Westfield Post 124 last Thursday night.

“Most of the games haven’t gone our way this season,” said Kaczuwka, who’s the only player from Ware High School listed on the Monson Legion baseball roster. “We’re a big family and it feels very good to get back into the win column again.”

Monson had a 4-8 overall record following last Thursday’s road contest. “We did struggle defensively early in the game, but we were able to score a few runs” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “This is a very big win for us heading into the playoffs.”

Monson was sitting in fourth place in the Zone 3A standings. They were scheduled to close out the regular season with another road game against Belchertown on Monday night.

Brayden Mega was Monson’s starting pitcher against Westfield (6-6-1). He threw 30 pitches in a loss at Greenfield Post 81 the previous night.

“Brayden has a rubber arm, and he loves being in the spotlight,” Tripp said. “He only threw 30 pitches last night, which kept him eligible to start tonight’s game.”

The righthander allowed six runs (one earned) on five hits with three walks and two strikeouts during the first four innings.

Righthander Sebastian Mayberry, who began the

Please see **POST 241**, page 10

Here for Beer shuts out Monson Mustangs



Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women’s summer soccer action. The two teams were in a key matchup with both teams near the top of the Women’s Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cassie Ashwell sends a pass away.



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regular-season finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green’s long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Taryn Carriveau turns play around after taking possession.



AT LEFT: Rachel McKenna rushes for the ball.



Shean Smith socks a free kick away



Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

“We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and we’re trying to win the championship title.”

St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

“We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.”

Peoples, who fired a 6-0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouras, who’s the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error.”

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs,

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 10

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Greg Vouras fields a grounder.