

WARE RIVER NEWS

Vol. 140 No. 24 USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Celebrating 250 YEARS

CENTER: Tori Crevier rode her horse Sundance during the town's parade this past Saturday morning to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary.

Alan Whitney read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Town Hall.

Parade concludes town's weeklong celebration

Kathy Galford of the Ware Historical Commission wore a historic dress in the parade.

SEE MORE
PARADE
PHOTOS ON
PAGES 6 AND 7.

School Committee discusses cell phone use

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee members discussed implementing a new cell phone policy for the 2026-2027 school year, which would prohibit the use of cell phones during the school day campus-wide, from “bell to bell.”

Cell phone use by elementary-level students on school buses was also discussed, as well as the use of wearable

technology such as smart watches and Meta glasses by all students.

At the July 29 meeting, School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said it would be easier to relax the policy if state guidelines change regarding cell phone use, than it would be to tighten it.

The committee will vote on the policy at a future meeting.

Superintendent's report

Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said they have

candidates they are interviewing to fill vacancies in the high school, elementary school and preschool.

Wood said First Student bus company is preparing bus routes, but he does not anticipate any changes. He said some of the buses may have more students than others and they may have to reevaluate the need to add another bus.

“We were certainly full at the end of last year too, so this is not news to us,” Wood said.

Wood said work will occur

in the campus parking lots for several days in the early morning hours.

Director of Student Services

Wood announced that Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman has accepted another position at Pittsfield Public Schools, but she has prepared the school district for the transition.

“We have a bunch of the pre-work for the school year

Please see **CELL PHONE USE**, page 2

'Fireworks Spectacular' lights the sky

Donna Lee Honeywell sang the National Anthem during the Ware Fireworks Spectacular.

The annual fireworks show was bigger and better than ever to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary of independence.

WARE – The Fireworks Committee presented the annual Ware Fireworks Spectacular this past Saturday night at the Ware

Public Schools campus.

This free family event was supported by volunteers from the local business community.



Turley Photo by Camren Robertson

FAMILY FUN ZONE

Thomas Melchionne climbed the rock wall at Ware's Family Fun Zone.



Submitted Photo

Raffle prizes at Music Bingo were donated by The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc.

Family Game Night held at Ware Senior Center

WARE – The town's 250th U.S. Celebration Committee held a Family Game Night at the Ware Senior Center on July 27.

People of all ages enjoyed four games of Music Bingo, hosted by Wise Guys Trivia. Prizes were awarded to the winner of each round.

The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. participated in the Family Game Night by selling snacks and sodas to the large crowd. The Friends also offered chances for a 50/50 raffle and a raffle table with patriotic gift baskets.

It's Wine O'clock served beer and wine for the adults.

Music Bingo with Wise Guys Trivia went over so well that Sue LaBarge,

president of the Friends committee, said there was such a huge interest to have a special event of Music Bingo at the senior center again.



Elaine Nixon took home \$70 from the 50/50 raffle.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 1 6

SPORTS

Field hockey summer campaign continues

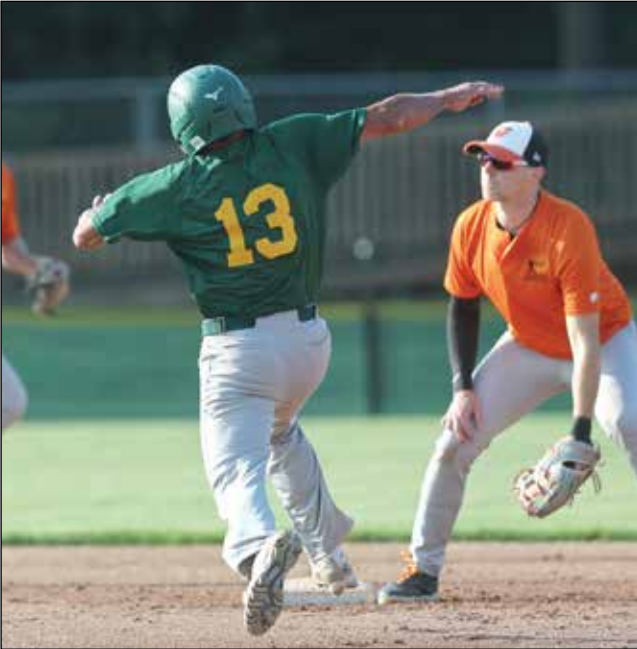


Alexis Gauthier gets ready to send the ball up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The summer field hockey program for high school students, hosted by South Hadley High School, continued last Wednesday with multiple teams in action for short games. Quaboag has been a regular participant in the summer league for the past few years.

Josie Hancock looks to drag the ball toward the goal.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ken Schubert heads into second base.

Valley Wheel regular season concludes

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record, going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for the tiebreaker advance-

tage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A's by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.



Submitted photos
Coach Alan Crane gathers his team for a time out during a summer league win over Nashoba securing his Quabbin Cagers first place finish.

Quabbin boys basketball takes summer action to Fitchburg

FITCHBURG – With the Auburn Summer Basketball League shut down for this year, Quabbin has been participating in a summer league held at GameOn in Fitchburg. Quabbin is currently 5-0 heading into the playoffs.



Quabbin center Matt Wade delivers the opening tap to his teammate in an opening win over Old Colony of Rochester.

LEFT: Junior guard Aiden Crane strips the ball away from a Fitchburg player.



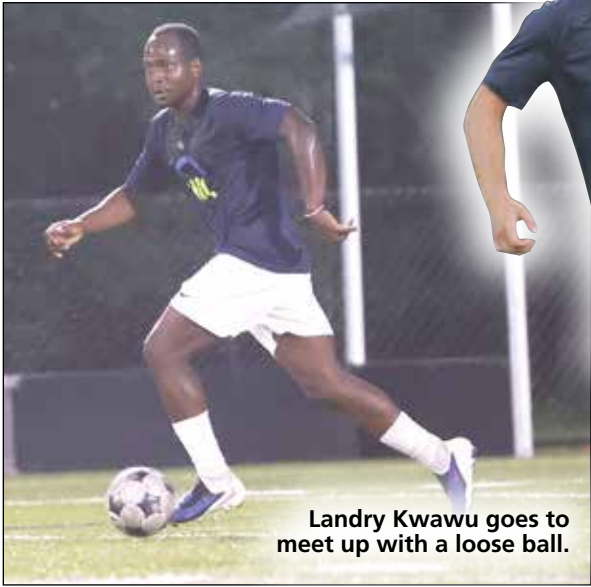
Sam Ribeiro takes a swing.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

CF Arbor reaches semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week's PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men's soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt. Carmel, which defeated CF

by a score a 2-0, ending CF Arbor's chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year's men's championship.



Landry Kwawu goes to meet up with a loose ball.



Troy Remillard outplays an opponent for the ball.

LEFT: Owen Dieterle heads up the field.



Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.

LEFT: Tyler Lewis advances up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com