

WARE RIVER NEWS

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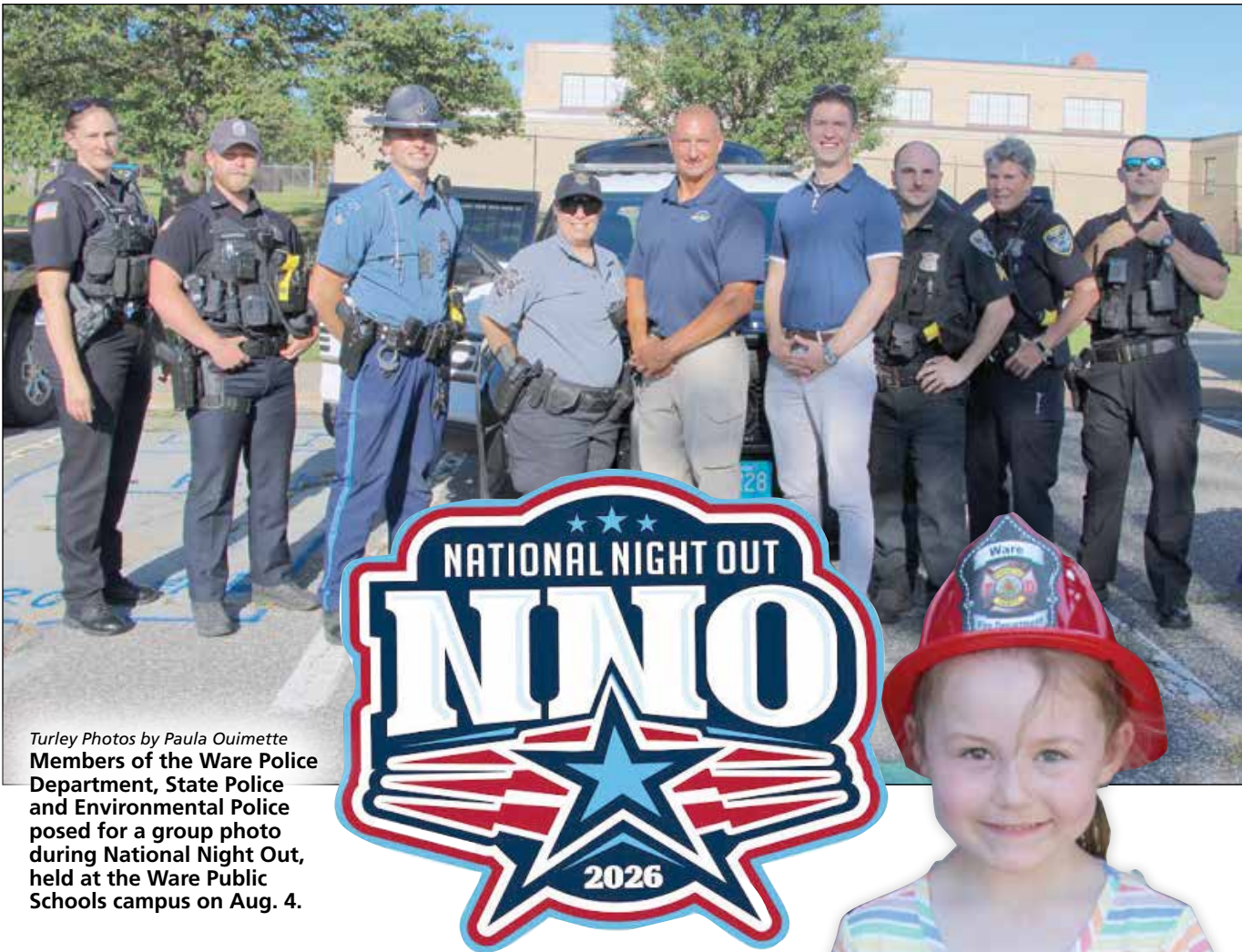
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Members of the Ware Police Department, State Police and Environmental Police posed for a group photo during National Night Out, held at the Ware Public Schools campus on Aug. 4.

Annual event highlights community, services

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – National Night Out, an annual event that connects people to public safety officials, town departments and local organizations and businesses, was held last Tuesday night.

Visitors to the Aug. 4 event, held at the Ware Public Schools campus,

enjoyed free activities, giveaways and food.

The town's Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks departments brought vehicles and pieces of equipment that people could explore and ask questions about.

Please see **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**, page 7

Isabella, age 5, work a firefighter's helmet while standing next to a firetruck

SB transfers license for Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Whistle Stop has a new owner, Dillon Sherwood, who announced at the Select Board meeting of Aug. 10, that the restaurant is set to open on August 12.

The Select Board officially transferred a common victualler's license to the restaurant. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said a liquor license is scheduled to be voted on at the board's Aug. 24 meeting.

Hardwick Community Fair

The Hardwick Community Fair is this coming Friday and Saturday, Aug. 14 and 15, and the board officially signed off on the special event application.

Caggiano said the Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health and Building Inspector among other departments have signed as well.

West Brookfield ambulance

The board reviewed the contract between the town and West Brookfield Rescue Squad, with Caggiano saying the agreement is for three years after negotiations, with a 4% increase every year based on calls

and training.

She said Police Chief Kevin Landine and Fire Chief Nick Gaumond are comfortable with the contract.

Select Board member Zack Spencer also said it does not matter to the state where a town gets their emergency services from, as long as they have it. Chair Jeff Schaaf noted that in Wheelwright, which is furthest out from West Brookfield, they still respond in a reasonable time-frame.

Vice-Chair William Tinker said the town should have talked with Barre during negotiations, saying they used to have a portion of the contract.

Warrant review

Tinker said he requested for the most recent accounts payable warrant to be included in the meeting packet for the whole board to review and ask questions on if needed.

Tinker said there is somebody on the warrant who does some of the town's technology and there is no information on how he is paid, or a W-9 associated with him, as requested.

According to Caggiano, this is because a former accountant was not comfortable giving a W-9, and there is likely no physical contract for the worker.

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Town's water shut off policy discussed

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Interim Department of Public Works Director Ken Calder and Water and Sewer Operations Manager John Stanton came before the Selectboard to discuss the town's water shut off policy.

At the Aug. 5 Selectboard meeting, Stanton said the Selectboard/Water Commissioners have the authority to shut off users' water due to non-payment. He said the Water Department is self-sufficient and relies on this revenue and not on tax dollars.

Stanton said Massachusetts law requires certain conditions to be met in order to avoid a water shut off, including proof of finan-

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 6

Selectmen discuss draft report from Tecton Architects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed a draft report from Tecton Architects during their meeting on Aug. 6.

The report was done by Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects and involves a study on the potential redevelopment of 968 Main St, the former Cornerstone Bank Building, as the town's police station. The board is also planning on setting dates to

meet with Tecton Architects and dates for future public presentations on this report.

Town Administrator James Ferrera explained that Tecton has been working with the Town of Warren, and this is only a draft. According to Ferrera, McElravy is look-

ing for comments and directions from the Select Board prior to finalizing the report.

Once the draft is finalized, the report can be sent out to the public.

Select Board Chair Richard Eichacker wanted to know if McElravy from

Tecton Architects could possibly attend their next meeting. The chair also had a cost comparison spreadsheet comparing the costs for the redevelopment of the bank

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 15



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Cadets watched as Sergeant Russel Davidson and School Resource Officer Mark Sawyer explained the steps to take during a traffic stop.

Cadets complete Police Dept.'s Youth Academy

By Paula Ouimette
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BARRE – For the fourth year, the Barre Police Department hosted its Youth Academy for students in grades seven through 12.

This year, the acade-

my was held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, and 30 cadets from the school district and beyond signed up to participate.

Led by instructors Sergeant Russel Davidson

Please see **CADETS**, page 8

Grant provides Ware Fire Dept. with new equipment and tools

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The Ware Fire Department recently received a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$18,953.99.

Fire departments are eligible for this grant based on town population, the department's equipment needs and having all incident reports filed to the state. Each piece of equipment is scored on a priority list for replacement, ranging from low to high.

"Everything you see here was on a high priority list," Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice said.

According to Boulrice, this grant was used to pur-

Please see **GRANT**, page 6



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Ware Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice is shown with Town Manager Stuart Beckley, along with some of the department's new equipment that was purchased through use of the Department of Fire Services' Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.



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SPORTS

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Mount Carmel takes Men's PVSSL title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Anthony Bourget was an assistant boys' soccer coach under longtime varsity coach John O'Keefe at Minnechaug Regional High School before stepping down at the end of last season.

Bourget was also the head coach of Villa FC, which captured the last two Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship titles. Villa FC changed sponsors before the start of the 2026 summer league season and are now known as Mount Carmel FC.

Mason Perham is one of the former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster.

Perham scored a second half goal, which helped top-seeded Mount Carmel FC win the championship title once again with a crisp 2-0 win over second-seeded Rumbleseat before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Friday, July 31.

"We've won the last two men's championship titles with Villa, and this is our first one with Mount Carmel," Bourget said. "Winning the championship game is something that we expect to do every year. It was a hard fought battle tonight. Rumbleseat played very well against us."

Mount Carmel FC, who finished the PVSSL regular season with a 10-1-0 record, defeated fourth-seeded CF Ardor, 2-0, in the semifinals.

Rumbleseat, who also lost to Mount Carmel during the regular season, entered the playoffs with a 9-1-1 record. They advanced into the men's finals for the first time in more than ten years after knocking off the third-seeded KO Elites FC, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"This is the first time that we've made the finals in many years, and it was a fun game tonight," said Kyle Giroud, who was an out-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mount Carmel captured the PVSSL Men's title this year.

standing three-sport athlete at Chicopee Comp. "It's always a great time playing in this league and I'm looking forward to playing again next year."

Giroud is also a member of the Skidmore College men's soccer team.

The men's finals was scoreless at halftime.

Mount Carmel broke the ice four minutes into the second half.

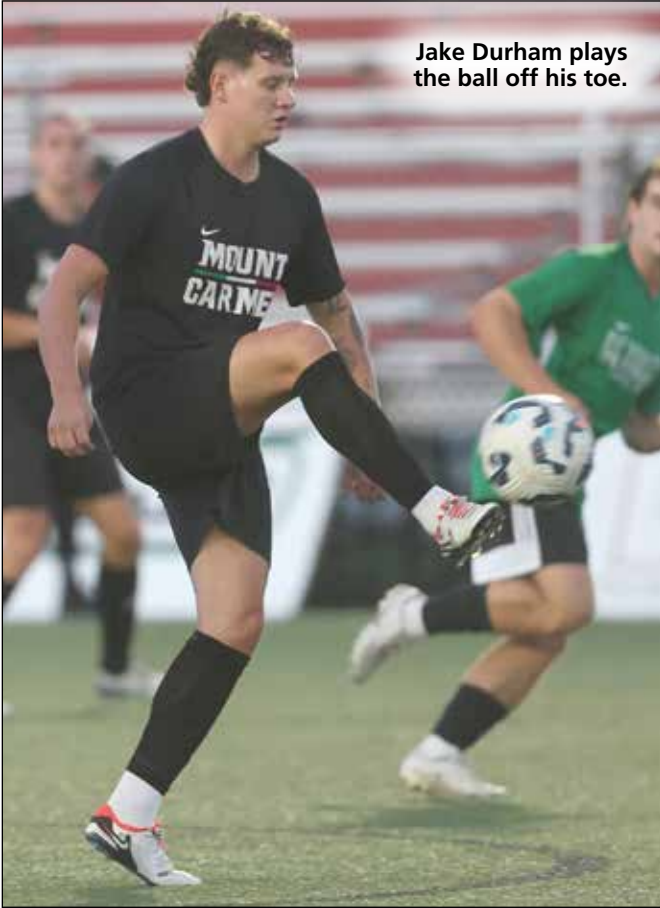
The scoring play began with a crossing pass from Joao Miranda to Deandrae Brown, who fired a shot from the top of the box past Rumbleseat goalie Luke Theroux.

Miranda was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

About ten minutes later, Perham scored a goal, which was assisted by Brown.

"It just felt awesome to score a goal in the championship game," Perham said.

Please see **MEN'S TITLE**, page 12



Jake Durham plays the ball off his toe.



Deandrae Brown dribbles away from a defender.

West Side Sports Shop grabs ladies title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since joining the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League in 2021, West Side Sports Shop has claimed the women's championship title five times.

Sydney Mercier sends a free kick away.



West Side Sports Shop entered this year's playoffs as the fourth seed. They posted a 2-0 shutout victory over second-seeded W. Mass Xtremes in the women's finals held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last Friday night.

"We might be the fourth seed, but we played very well in the playoffs," said West Side Sports Shop head coach Chris Andre. "We lost to the Xtremes twice during the regular season."

The only year that West Side Sports Shop didn't take home the championship trophy was in 2024. They beat top seeded Here for Beer in the finals a year ago.

"We've set a high stranded here," Andre added. "A number of these players have been playing for me since our first year in this league. We also

Please see **WEST SIDE**, page 12

Summer season concludes for Quabbin Cagers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Christian Horton scored 1,208 career points as the point guard of the Quabbin boys' varsity basketball team 15 years ago.

Horton also played basketball at Nichols College in Dudley and was inducted into the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024. He's currently living in Maryland and returned to Central Massachusetts last week.

One of the things that Horton did on vacation was attend his alma mater's summer league semifinal basketball game against the Oakmont Spartans, which took place at Game On in Fitchburg, last Tuesday night.

Without the services of starting point guard Jacoby Dilling, who was at home sick, the second-seeded Panthers could've used Horton's help, as they suffered a 42-30 loss to the third-seeded Spartans.

"We didn't have our starting point guard, and had to make a couple of adjustments," said Quabbin's summer league coach Alan Crane,



Submitted photo

Quabbin forward Collin Leclair receives a post pass from teammate Brady Patchen during summer basketball action.

who also played basketball at Quabbin between 1999-2003. "Jacoby is our floor leader, and we really missed him in tonight's game. We were also missing a couple of other players."

The Panthers entered the Game On Boys Varsity Division Summer League playoffs with a perfect 6-0 record. They finished the regular season tied with

Lunenburg, who earned the top-seed in the four team playoff due to a tiebreaker.

A year ago, Quabbin competed in the Auburn Summer League, which wasn't held this summer.

Two years ago, the Panthers were one of the six boys' basketball teams that played in the inaugural summer league at Game On, which has ten indoor basket-

ball courts. There are now 14 teams playing in that summer league.

Quabbin's six regular season victories at Game On this summer league were against Gardner (50-43), Bromfield (62-30), Tahanto Regional (66-58), Assabet (55-46), Fitchburg (54-39), and Nashoba Regional (52-33).

In their semifinal setback, Quabbin failed to reach 50 points for the first time this summer.

"Without Jacoby on the court, we wanted to make it a low scoring game," Crane said. "Everything went well until the final five minutes of the game. We had around 25 turnovers, which hurt us. You need to commit fewer than twelve turnovers to win a game at this level."

The other members of the Panthers boys' summer basketball team are Matt Wade, Evan Sherblom, Owen Twarog, Brady Patchen, Aiden Crane, Collin Leclair, Adrein Hein, Isaac Patchen, Jack Leclair, and Fordyce Ruggles.

Please see **CAGERS**, page 13