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Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Wyatt Goodrich, age 8, played on the Ware Middle School playground.

Swinging into the school year

WARE – Students of Ware Public Schools said goodbye to summer vacation and hello to the new school year with a Back to School Block Party this past Monday evening.

On Aug. 24, staff, students and their families were able to enjoy a celebration before the start of the 2026-2027 school year, with music, food, games and more. The block party was held in the parking area between Ware Jr./Sr. High School and Ware Middle School and at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School's playground.

The Back to School Block Party provided a great opportunity for students to connect with each other, and get to know their teachers and administrators.

Students in grades one-12 returned to school on Aug. 26.

Kindergarteners will have a staggered start, with students with last names starting with letters A-M starting on Wednesday, Sept. 2 and N-Z on Thursday, Sept. 3.

Preschool students will have their first day of school on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

SEE MORE BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS ON PAGE 2.



Olivia Francis, age 8, enjoyed the swings during the Back to School Block Party at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School this past Monday.

Change of manager OKd at Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – A public hearing was held Monday to approve a change of manager license for the Whistle Stop restaurant, which recently re-opened two weeks ago, to allow for liquor to be sold on site.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the applicant made their payments and passed the CORI check. The license will now be sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission of Massachusetts before it is finalized.

Cable access/YouTube

At the Aug. 24 meeting, the board discussed the contract with a vendor who helps run the YouTube channel and cameras during Select Board meetings live.

There was confusion among the board members at the meeting of Aug. 10 about whether that vendor had a contract. It was not on file anywhere, so it was unclear how much the vendor was being paid.

During the meeting, Caggiano received a text from the vendor, saying it is \$100 per meeting. According to Caggiano, the text said they would send

over the contract for the board to see.

Select Board member William Tinker brought up whether the job had to be done through a vendor, and if they could have an in-house employee or a senior work off resident learn how to operate the camera.

Select Board member Zack Spencer said the vendor has an account that has information for other towns they serve, and if something were to happen to the vendor, the town would have to start over, so he said the town should have full access to it.

The board will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Digital records management

Tinker said in 2028, the state is mandating that towns keep digital records of everything, and suggesting a pilot program with the treasurer/collector and accountant to start digitizing their warrants and making them searchable, and easy to find.

Select Board Chair Jeffrey Schaaf said it may not be in the board's purview to get into the day-to-day operations of the

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Board reviews police station study

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – A presentation from Tecton Architects was given during the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Aug. 20.

This presentation discussed the recent study findings on the potential redevelopment options at 968 Main St. for the purpose of housing the Police Department.

Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects gave the presentation with several items to talk about and addressed questions that were submitted to him by the Board of Selectmen.

McElravy went over the conceptual designs for both the bank building at 968 Main St. and the location next to the Department of Public Works.

When discussing the conceptual design of the bank building, McElravy proposed some additions which would include a new elevator to

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Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
The patriotic quilt designed by five Kids Can Sew Quilters was displayed at the Paige Memorial Library during Colonial Field Day.

Kid Quilters' work is highlighted at the library

By Ryan Drago
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HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library had a patriotic quilt displayed during Colonial Field Day this past Saturday.

The quilt was made by the students of Pam Hinckley, who taught sewing classes at the Paige Memorial Library back in

March. The project started in the late winter and finished around April while Hinckley was teaching and offering workshops for kids and adults.

According to Hinckley, all the kids she got this past year were very interested in making another quilt. The kids, ages 7-13, also made a

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Regional meeting discusses rural health/economic needs

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – A meeting was recently held at E2E to discuss healthcare needs of the region, and use of Rural Health Transformation program funding.

At the Aug. 12 meeting, Cindy Allen Bourcier of Mary Lane Health, said

she is an advocate for the protection of Mary Lane Hospital's assets and renovation of the historic building.

She said Mary Lane Health seeks to get healthcare services back in town, but primarily "we're advocating to get something going over on the Mary Lane site."

Also attending the

meeting was Emily Kirby, Director of Prevention and Community Health for the town of Ware. In addition to her work for the town of Ware, Kirby oversees Healthy Quabog and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance.

Kirby said these two

Please see **HEALTH NEEDS**, page 6

Vertical lift and Urban Hall dedicated at Workshop13

By Ryan Drago
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WARE – Workshop13 had a lot to celebrate this past week as a couple dedication ceremonies were held at the 13 Church St. building.

The celebrations began on the first floor of Workshop13 as the cultural arts and learning center welcomed a new feature to the building.

Executive Director Marie Lauderdale welcomed board members and special guests to the building for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially welcome a new accessibility lift to Workshop13.

Please see **LIFT**, page 6



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Workshop13 to celebrate the newly installed lift to make the building accessible and inclusive. Shown with the scissors was Tracy Opalinski, Trustee of the Edward & Barbara Urban Foundation.



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SPORTS

2026 BAY STATE GAMES



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Andrew Dziadroz makes a play on the ball.

Boys take silver in Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—A year ago, Chicopee’s Griffen Wrisley and Minnechaug’s Tyler Supczak were starters for the West soccer team which captured the Gold medal at the annual Bay State Summer games. The duo were the only returning starters on this year’s West squad. The West team took home the Silver medal at the Bay State Summer Games following a 2-1 loss to Central in this year’s Gold medal match, which took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg on July 11. “I was lucky enough to be a member of the Gold medal team last year,” Wrisley said. “We have a bunch of new

players on this year’s team and were hoping to win the Gold Medal again. It’s a lot of fun being a leader of this team.” The other members of the West team, who live in the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Zacharia Yarovoy (Chicopee), Antonio Maurico (Chicopee), Aidan Monaghan (Agawam), Kayson Gauthier (South Hadley), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam). The West team finished pool play with a perfect 4-0 record. They posted a pair of one sided matches against Northeast 6-2, and Southeast, 8-0. They also pulled out two matches by 2-1 results

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Girls represented by two squads at Bay State games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG— While the other sections of the state only had one girls’ soccer team competing in this year’s Bay State Summer Games, Western Mass. was represented by two teams for the first time. The West Red team was coached by Matt Mosher, while Eric Woods guided the West Yellow team. The two squads faced each other in the final pool game on July 11 at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg. After building a 3-0 lead, the Red team withstood a late comeback by the Yellow



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Taylor Bartosz, of Wilbraham, looks to clear the ball on defense.

team for a 3-2 victory. “We had more than 40 girls’ try out for the two soccer teams, which shows how popular the sport is in Western Mass.,” said Mosher. “Eric and I have a very good relationship. We try our best to make the teams equal. It’s has been a lot of fun coaching this team.”

It was the sixth consecutive year that Mosher coached a Western Mass. girls’ soccer team at the Bay State Summers Games. His previous teams won two Silver Medals and three Bronze Medals. Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who’s the longtime girls’ varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School. The members of the Red team, who live in the region, are Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kyra Lippmann

(Holyoke), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley), Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Olivia Izzo (Agawam), Bridget Benoit (Belchertown), and Bri-Anne Kraus (Granby). “All of the players on my soccer team have been playing with and against each other for years,” Mosher said. “They know each other very well.” After finishing pool play at 2-1-1, the Red team surged to a 3-0 win over Northeast in the Gold medal game. It marked the first time that a West girls soccer team won the Gold medal at the Bay State Games since 2016. “It’s very exciting being a member of this soccer team,” Haesaert said. “There are a lot talented soccer players in the west.” The Red team began pool play with a 2-1 loss

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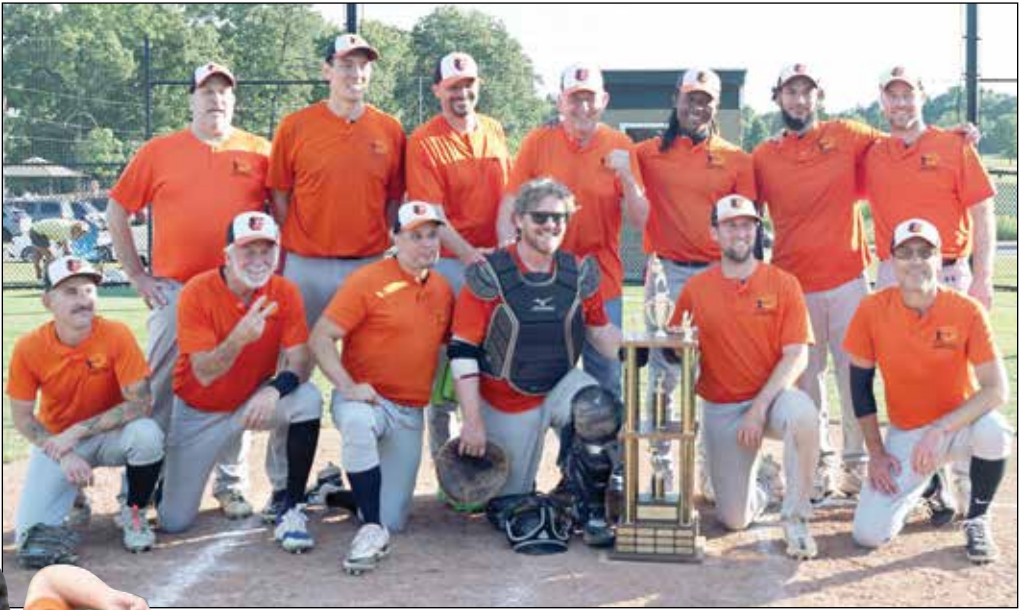
Kalli White, of Granby, is pressured as she heads through the middle of the field.



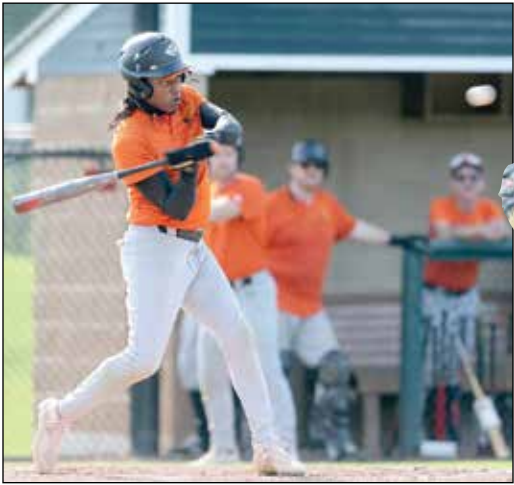
Pete Paroli makes a swing.

Orioles repeat as Valley Wheel champions

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Aug. 15 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, the Orioles defeated the Angels 15-8 in the championship game. The Orioles were propelled by nine runs in the first two innings. While the Angels would manage some offense later in the game, it was not enough to come all the way back in the matchup. The Angels were this year’s pennant winners, taking first place with an 11-4 record. The Orioles won the championship for the second year in the row. They defeated the Twins in last year’s championship game.



The Orioles are the 2026 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League champions.



Henry Henriquez is focused as he swings.

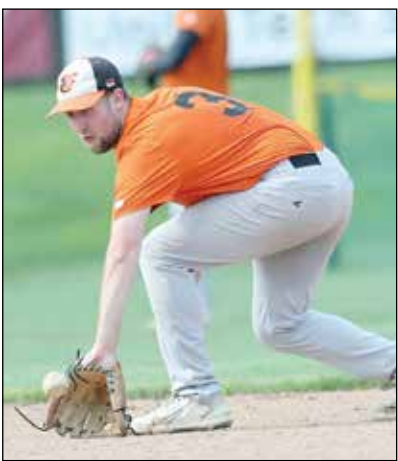


Mike Burgos delivers a pitch for the Orioles.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweet-dogphotos.com



Andy Roland fires a pitch for the Angels.



Sam Maxwell makes a backhand play.

West baseball defeats Northeast for medal

MALDEN – Between July 29 and Aug. 1, the baseball Bay State Games took place in Malden. The West came out as this year’s gold medal recipients. Here is a recap of the championship game between the West and Northeast: West got on the board in the first inning after Jaeden Azevedo hit into a double play, but one run scored. Jared Burke hit a sacrifice fly, which helped Northeast tie the game at one in the top of the second. West took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. An error scored one run, to give West the lead, 2-1. Tyler Neville led things off on the mound for West. The starting pitcher gave up five hits and one

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