

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Winslow, Whitham elected to School Committee

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – According to unofficial results from the annual town election, a total of 763 votes were cast this past Monday.

Four candidates ran for two seats on the School Committee, with incumbent Brian Winslow securing his seat with 478 votes and newcomer Melissa Whitham getting 578 to replace outgoing School Committee member Christopher Desjardins, who opted not to seek reelection this term.

Candidates Kevin Slattery and Diane Reopell received 170 and 160 votes, respectively.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz ran unopposed and also retained his seat, securing 578 votes.

Kenneth Higney received 204 votes as a write-in candidate for a three-year term as a Parks Commissioner and Paul Harper received 17 votes as a write-in candidate for the three-year Cemetery Commissioner position.

Nancy Brown won a five-year seat on the Housing

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Dave Nicoson and Richie Rucki accepted donations during AMVETS Post 2577's annual White Clover fundraiser outside of Walmart this past weekend.

## AMVETS hold annual 'White Clover' fundraiser to help veterans

Staff Report

WARE – Ware AMVETS Post 2577 held its annual "White Clover" fundraising drive this past weekend, outside of the local Walmart.

The White Clover, meaning, "remember me" is the official flower of AMVETS,

it symbolizes the states from which the U.S. Armed Forces were drawn and the worldwide battlefields on which they fought. It is a four-leaf clover.

Since 1946, AMVETS throughout America have brought the White Clover into their communities to

benefit and assist the needy – both veterans and the general public. The White Clover program is an excellent project to raise funds that will benefit veteran's service activities.

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## Campground discussed at public hearing

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Planning Board met on April 8 for a public hearing on a potential campground being proposed in town.

The meeting was held at the Hardwick Town House and many residents attended the public hearing to hear the special permit proposal and address any questions, comments and concerns. The applicant seeking a special permit is Quabbin Glamping and Camping, LLC at 3305 Greenwich Road on 80 acres of land.

Presenting the project was John Samek, the proprietor of Hardwick Vineyard & Winery at 3305 Greenwich Road. Joining Samek during the presentation was Libby Talbot, who is a partner in the project.

The applicants are proposing a campground on two parcels of land in West Hardwick and have narrowed down to having possibly 50 campsites on location. These campsites will feature cabins, treehouses, tents, parking, and sites for RVs and campers.

Samek said he is aware of the neighbors of the site and has kept them informed

on his proposed project for a campsite on his land.

Copies of the plan were provided for the Planning Board to review and Samek also provided copies for the public to review and a map of the site as well.

"We understand this is a big deal," Samek said.

The applicants said they are confident that a campsite will help promote tourism and support local businesses in Hardwick.

Some neighbors are visible to the site according to Samek. When asked how many cabins will be on site as part of the campground, Samek said he's looking to have a total of 10 cabins.

After Samek's presentation, the Planning Board began with their own questions. Members asked about the lighting situation of the campsite.

With the site being off grid, Samek is looking for exterior lighting and will have solar lighting in place that is compliant with the local bylaws.

The board asked if Samek intends to have events at the campground and believes events are

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## Credit for Life



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Ware High School seniors enjoyed Country Bank's Credit for Life fair on April 9. Shown from left are Shelby Hogan, Jason Mumper, Trevor Millet and Josh Dulak.

## Annual fair helps students learn financial literacy

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Over 300 high school seniors attended Country Bank's Credit for Life fair at Ware High School last Wednesday morning.

Held on April 9, this event took place during both National Financial Literacy Month and National Financial Capability Month.

Students from Ware, Palmer and Belchertown high schools visited various

booths set up in the gym at the fair, which is designed to give these soon-to-be graduates a hands-on financial literacy experience and give them the tools they need to manage their personal finances.

"They are just more and more engaged," said Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank said of the students. "They're wanting to learn about financial education, asking great questions and absorbing all the knowledge."

Gerulaitis said Country Bank started Credit for Life over 15 years ago and the program continues to grow. Each year, multiple schools join together to give their students a chance to explore potential career choices, credit

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## School Comm. hears results of SPED audit

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Dr. Andrea Larmon of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative presented the findings of the special education audit that reviewed information from Ware Public Schools for the past three years.

"We were looking to see if service delivery grid services were actually being provided or not. Whether accommodations and modifications were being provided for students. Whether we had appropriate consent for evaluations for students for special education services. Whether the evaluators were using what's called evidence based assessment tools and

then we were also looking at adherence to mandated timelines," she said at the April 9 School Committee meeting.

Larmon said school districts have 45 days to complete an evaluation and there is 30 days within that the actual assessment has to be completed. She said the audit looked at whether evaluation reports were completed and submitted

and if an IEP meeting was held within that 45-day timeline.

"Once a child is found eligible for special education services, they have an annual IEP happen every year and we needed to make sure that those annual meeting dates were being met as well," Larmon said.

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## Selectmen accept provisions for district agreement

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on April 10 to discuss the establishment of a regional 911 emergency communication district.

The town of Warren is looking to enter into a district agreement with the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham and Rutland. The Selectmen attended the regional dispatch informational meeting in Rutland and learned about how the state is ask-

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## Chamber breakfast held at Cedarbrook

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce met for breakfast at Cedarbrook Village at Ware this past week.

After a delicious breakfast provided by Cedarbrook Village, members of the Chamber would be a part of informative discussions covering multiple topics. The Chamber's CEO James Przypek welcomed all the members who attended and thanked Cedarbrook Village at Ware for the breakfast they provided.

The first group to speak was Ed Fisher of Fisher Tech Solutions and Patrick Hughes of Lantern Digital Marketing Agency.

Both Hughes and Fisher briefly spoke about their businesses and talked about digital marketing and technology. One of the main subjects brought up was the



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley spoke during the discussion at the Chamber Chat Breakfast held at Cedarbrook Village.

use of artificial intelligence.

According to both marketing and tech experts, there are advantages and disadvantages to using AI.

Hughes shared some input and said there is a lot of misunderstanding with AI and the biggest example of some of the negative infor-

mation from AI comes from social media.

"The country wants oversight of AI," Hughes said.

Both agree it is important for business owners, especially small businesses owners to review ideas, ask

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# SPORTS

## Panthers leave runs on base in loss to Clinton

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CLINTON—If they could’ve come up with a couple of clutch hits with the bases loaded against Mid-Wach rival Clinton, the Quabbin Panthers would’ve probably had a 3-1 record instead of being at the .500 mark.

The Panthers left the bases loaded in four of their first five at-bats during last Friday’s 5-4 loss to the Gaels on a chilly afternoon at the Clinton Veterans’ Athletic Complex.

“We did have a ton of scoring chances,” said Quabbin varsity baseball coach Mark Battista. “We left the bases loaded in four innings. We also made a couple of mistakes in the field that also hurt us.”

Quabbin (2-2) hasn’t won more than five games during the regular season since they qualified for the 2021 Central Mass. Division 3 tournament with a 7-6 record.

The Panthers began the 2025 regular season with a 14-1 non-league home win over Quaboag on April 1. They also defeated rival Gardner, 5-2, in another home game twenty four hours before mak-

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## Ware stays perfect on the season

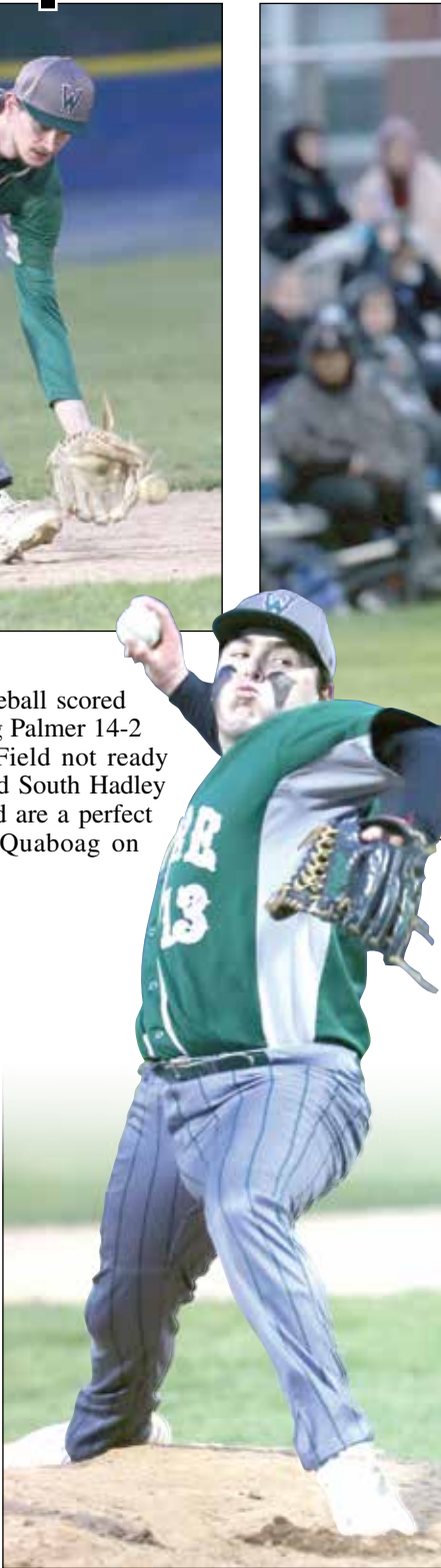


Brady Guimond picks up a grounder.

WARE – Last Thursday, Ware baseball scored its second win of the season, defeating Palmer 14-2 on the road with Ware’s Memorial Field not ready for play yet. The Indians also defeated South Hadley and Frontier during the past week and are a perfect 4-0 on the season. They next host Quaboag on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.



Trevor Millet makes a play on the run.



Nathan Kaczuwka delivers a pitch to home plate.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Jason Mumper crosses home with a run.



Brodie Koczur makes a play at second.



Elijah Wilheln makes a return during second singles.

## Cougars fall to Grafton

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional boys tennis had a tough round against visiting Grafton. The Cougars suffered a rare sweep 5-0. They dropped to 1-3 on the season after also losing to Belchertown last week. Their only win this season is a 5-0 sweep of Southbridge. Coming up, the Cougars have a long layoff before being back in action on Monday, April 28 at Leicester.



Christian Marshall gets an overhand return.

## Offense struggles in fourth loss



Tyler Rodrigues goes for the goal.

MONSON – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech, fell at home to Granby 12-2. Monson suffered its fourth



Brennan Pederson makes a pass.

loss of the season without a win. The Mustangs search for their first win in their next matchup on April 18 at home against Northampton at 5 p.m. They host Central on Apr. 22 at 4 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Goalie Riley Hurst goes low for a save.

## Orioles score opening win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—The Pathfinder Tech and Belchertown softball teams are both hoping to finish in first place in the Tri-County League standings this spring.

Belchertown, who scored five runs in the second inning, defeated the Lady Pioneers, 7-2, at home on a sunny and cool afternoon, last Wednesday.

“We’re hoping to con-



Kendra Burke winds and fires to the plate.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Lianna Carrasquillo fields a throw to third.

tend for the league title this year, so this is a very exciting win for us against one of our biggest rivals,” said Belchertown head coach Michael Lafayette. “We lost both games we played against Pathfinder last year.

The Lady Orioles (1-1)

began the regular season with a 7-5 non-league home loss to Monson on April 2.

Pathfinder Tech, who played their season opener versus Belchertown, won both meetings a year ago by the final scores of 13-5 and 11-7.

“We were a little bit rusty

in today’s game,” said first-year Pathfinder Tech head coach Phil Gallo. “They just made the plays, and we didn’t.”

The winning pitcher in last Wednesday’s contest was Belchertown freshman righthander Madeline Williams. It was also her first career varsity victory.

“It’s very special to win my first varsity softball game today” Williams said. “We played very well as a team. I was a lot more nervous in our first game of the season.”

Williams allowed two runs on just three hits, which were all singles, with six

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Max Sturges goes to his side to send the ball over the net.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Cam Olivo sends an underhand hit away.