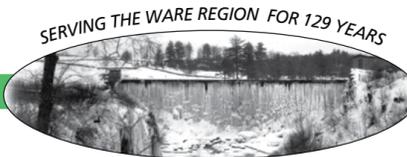


# WARE RIVER NEWS



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## Search continues 17 years later

Molly Bish case may have new development

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARREN – Almost exactly 17 years after her disappearance, there may be a new development in the unsolved murder of 16-year-old Warren resident Molly Bish. Her sister, Heather Bish, has been working with a private investigator, gathering tips they also intend to act on this week.

At an old camping ground in Worcester County on Thursday, June 15, Peter Massey, a professor at the University of New Haven, will be using ground-penetrating radar technology in search of a white car.

Molly was abducted at Comins Pond in Warren on June 27, 2000, where she had worked as a life-guard.

The day prior to her abduction, Molly's mother, Magi Bish, saw a man sitting in a white car smoking a cigarette in the parking lot at the pond.

Heather said she and private investigator Sarah Stein have been categorizing tips they received after two rounds of soliciting tips. The tips indicate that the suspect may have buried the vehicle on the former campground property, possibly by the man Magi saw that day.

She said some of the tips indicated a suspect and the white car Magi described were at the undisclosed campground at the same time Molly was abducted. There have been a number of suspects over the years, including several who have died, but Bish said this suspect is still alive.

See BISH, Page 8

## Letter carrier recognized for safe driving

Now a Million Mile Club member

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

WARE – Surprised as he was sorting mail for his route Friday morning at the Ware post office, Paul Wyman was congratulated for driving for the U.S. Postal Service for more than 30 years without being in a motor vehicle accident.

Ware Postmaster Cindy Jasienowski called all employees from their tasks at 8 a.m. and asked them to join her for a safety meeting. "We are gathered here today to congratulate Paul and thank him for working for the postal service for 30 years and for 30 years of safe driving," she said.

He is now a member of the Million Mile Club, which is recognized by industry leaders as the top driving recognition for professional drivers.

His fellow employees clearly enjoyed the moment as the normally talkative Wyman seemed temporarily speechless.

"Customers love you, you are meticulous with your route and you keep your subs well-informed," she said. "You have a nice connection with your customers and it's been my pleasure to work with you these last three months."

Ware's usual postmaster, Albina Roy, has been temporarily assigned to a different post for the last three months and Jasienowski has filled the position during that time.

"It takes awhile to get these and they're tough to get," said District Manager Dave Mastriani. "In 30 years or more what has changed? Technology has changed with people texting and talking on their phones. They're a major distraction on the road



Turley Publications staff photos by Eileen Kennedy

Paul Wyman, and his wife, Joanne, at the U.S. Post Office in Ware, where management surprised him by presenting him with a plaque noting his induction into the Million Mile Club, which means he has driven that many miles for the postal service without an accident.

Below, the entire staff of the U.S. Post Office in Ware and U.S. Postal Service district officials got together Friday morning before carriers went on their rounds to congratulate one of their own, Paul Wyman, for going a million miles with no accidents.

"Customers love you, you are meticulous with your route and you keep your subs well-informed."

- Ware Postmaster Cindy Jasienowski

See MAIL, Page

## A tight budget is presented

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

HARDWICK – In the budget presentation on Tuesday, June 13, four days before the annual Town Meeting, the town's selectmen, town administrator and financial team presented the 2018 fiscal budget, and explained why cuts were necessary. Following the presentation residents expressed their concerns regarding the budget.

Departments facing cuts this year include a 55 percent cut to the Hardwick Council on Aging, a 35 percent cut to recycling services and a 24 percent cut to the Youth Commission.

The draft budget for 2018 is \$5.17 million, which is 6 percent increase from the 2017 fiscal year, but \$127,927.88 less than the 2018 department budget requests.

Town Administrator Theresa Cofske gave an overview of the financial status and the actions taken to improve it. She said that there were some financial difficulties including decreased tax revenue, existing debt and difficulties with financial team turnovers. Costs increase but revenues don't increase accordingly, she said.

Cofske also discussed the use of the stabilization fund and free cash to stabilize the budget, which the Department of Revenue discourages.

"In the presentation, you're going to see the state's record of our free cash over many years and what you'll see for fiscal '15 is negative free cash, negative just over \$20,000," said Cofske. By the end of the 2015, there was a free cash deficit of \$21,601.

In 2006, it was recorded that Hardwick's stabilization fund had a

See BUDGET, Page 8

## Community dinner celebrates continued fight

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – A community dinner to address opioid addiction, treatment and recovery drew in roughly 30 people on Thursday, June 8, in the dining hall of the United Church, hosted by the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance.

Formerly known of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use

Task Force, the QHSUA also announced its new name change and rebranding. The alliance still covers the same 15 towns in the Quaboag region.

Members of the Ware community including Town Manager Stuart Beckley, selectman Tracey Opalinski, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp. Executive Director Sheila Cuddy and local law enforcement joined

members of the alliance and residents at the dinner.

"This is an important community event," Cuddy said. "We know from statistics there is a large substance abuse problem throughout this area and in the country. This dinner brings awareness and help for those that are suffering."

Addiction counselor Gary Blanchard, said he's been helping those battling with addiction.

"I've been providing addiction treatment for the past 10 years and the problem is always there," said counselor Gary Blanchard, who helps addicts and those in recovery. "It's so widespread now, I am happy to see a group [the alliance] form and I have been involved nearly since its start."

Ware police officers Chris Talbot and Todd Bertini attended the dinner to represent the law enforcement community.

"There is obviously an ongoing problem. We want to interact with the public and let them know the police are here to help. Addiction is a disease," said Talbot. "However, for those who are selling drugs, we have a zero-tolerance policy."

See DINNER, Page 8



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau

Gail Gramarossa said the Quaboag Hills Alliance Substance Abuse Task Force continues to host its annual community dinner at the United Church of Ware because there remains an urgent need to address the ongoing opioid crisis in Ware and surrounding towns.

## Fire and police show kids how to be safe

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School students got a chance to see different police departments including K-9 units, mounted State Police, motorcy-

cle police, Environmental Police, the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council SWAT team, Ware Fire Department to send them off with thoughts of how to stay safe this summer as school winds down.

Children from grades kindergar-

ten through third grade went outside to each station where officials presented some of their equipment and answered questions. They learned about the ways that police and firefighters keep people safe on a daily basis.

On the soccer fields behind the school, the State Police mounted officers and K-9 units conducted presentations about officers that work with animals.

Officers Matt Donah and Tommy Esselon work with their K-9 officers to find articles, clear buildings and while on patrol.

K-9 Victor and Donah showed children how they work together during patrol. "Victor doesn't get a paycheck or grades for his work, he gets his toy," said Esselon. "We train together for 16 weeks just the two of us, then we are always training."

First K-9 Victor did obedience work like sitting and staying, and showed them how he searches for articles. Esselon hid a pair of brass knuckles in the grass and Victor found them using his sense of smell.

Following the K-9 demonstration, Mounted Troopers Peter Holman and Stephen Gregorczyk

See SAFE, Page 8



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau

State Police Trooper Matt Donah shows how K-9 Victor is rewarded with a toy after he obeys a command during Ware Public Schools' safety day.

### Inside this edition:

Calendar .....	2	Obituaries .....	13
Viewpoints .....	4	Public Notices ..	13, 15
Warren .....	7		
Sports .....	9		
Police/Fire .....	12		



**ARTS**  
Scouts stand tall  
Page 5



**WARREN**  
Trucks turn out for Quaboag student  
Page 7



**SPORTS**  
Granby beats Ware in semis  
Page 9

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# SPORTS

## Indians stunned by Rams in semis

By Dave Forbes  
dforbes@turley.com

AMHERST – This was not how the Ware baseball team or their faithful wanted to see the season end.

The top-seeded Indians were stunned by the fourth-seeded

Granby Rams in the semifinals of the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament, 6-5, at UMass-Amherst on Thursday, June 8.

“We had a great season,” Ware head coach Chris Adams said. “We just had a couple of bad breaks happen for us in the contest.”

Ware pitcher Jake Crevier pulled

off a pair of Houdini-style tricks to get himself out of trouble early in the contest. In the second, Crevier would surrender a leadoff triple and would be faced with a second and third situation with one out when he induced a ground out to third baseman Ivan Adams, who threw home for the tag out by catcher Logan Wojcik for the second out. After a walk and a strike out, he induced his third strikeout of the contest to wriggle his way out of trouble.

In the fourth, Crevier got the first two outs on a strikeout and a grounder before a pair of walks sandwiched around an infield single loaded the bases. Crevier got out of it once again with a strikeout to end the threat.

The Indians took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth as Adams smashed a triple to the gap in

right-center, and he came in to score on a sacrifice fly by Crevier.

The Rams put together a rally in their next at-bats. Ben Rokowski, who lined a lead-off single to right field, scored the tying run on a wild pitch. Two more runs crossed the plate on RBI singles by Joe Bessette and Tristan Guzik, which gave the Rams a 3-1 lead.

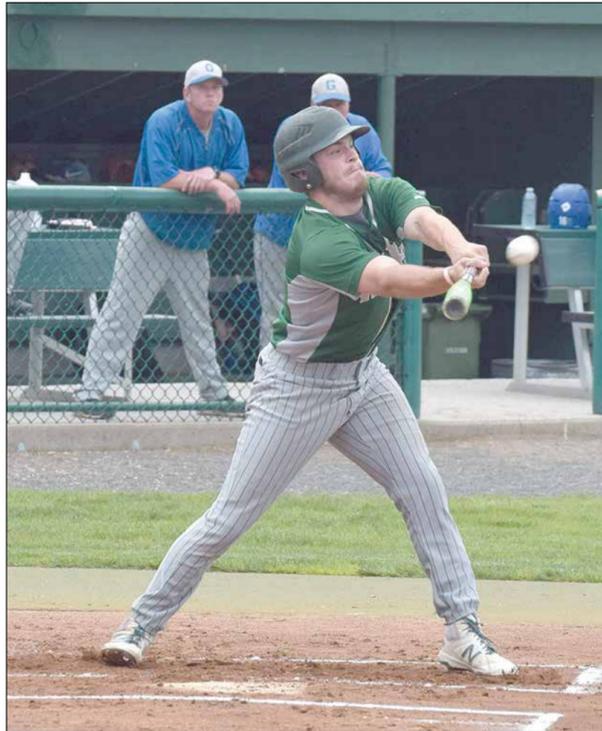
Ware closed the gap by scoring an unearned run in the bottom half of the frame as second baseman Alex Lanier singled and was at second, when on a ground out that could have been the third out of the inning, but the throw to first base was wide, and Lanier raced home with the run to cut the gap to 3-2.

The Rams would put three more runs on the big scoreboard in left field in the top of the sixth, but one of them was hugely controversial.

The first run of the frame scored on an RBI double to centerfield by Noah Bleakley to make it 4-2 Granby. Then the controversy occurred when Bessette blasted a two-run homer into the hedges over the left field fence, which increased Granby's lead to 6-2. The controversy was not in whether or not the ball cleared the fence, but as to whether or not Bessette touched home plate. Several Ware fans seated behind home plate claimed he missed it, as did members of the Ware coaching personnel. The Indians appealed the play, but the home plate umpire called Bessette safe.

The Indians did battle back with three runs in the bottom of the sixth.

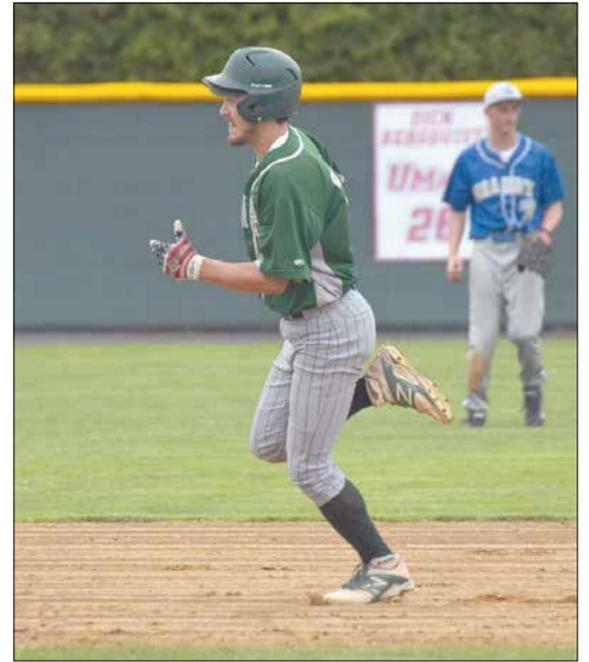
Millier led off the inning with a single to right. He then stole second and third before coming in to score



Ware outfielder Hunter Millier (3) reaches out to drive the ball to right field for a triple.



Ware shortstop Devin Slattery (7) catches a popup on the infield surface.



Ware senior Ivan Adams (13) races between second and third in the first inning.

## Adams caps off Indians career with no-hitter

By Dave Forbes  
dforbes@turley.com

WARE – Ware senior Ivan Adams made sure the last time he appeared in an Indians uniform on the mound at Memorial Field would be a very memorable one.

The right-handed hurler picked the perfect time to throw his first varsity no-hitter as he did so in the quarterfinals of the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament.

Much like New York Yankees slugger and Hall of Famer Babe Ruth against the Chicago Cubs in the World Series, Adams called his shot.

“Before every game I go out and talk to my starting pitcher,” Ware head coach Chris Adams said. “I go out there and ask them how they feel. When I talked to Ivan before the game, he said he felt like he could throw a no-hitter. After the game he came up to me and reminded me what he had told me before the game.”

“I just felt really good coming into the game,” Ivan Adams said. “I felt like I had all of my pitches going for me and that it might be a possibility.”

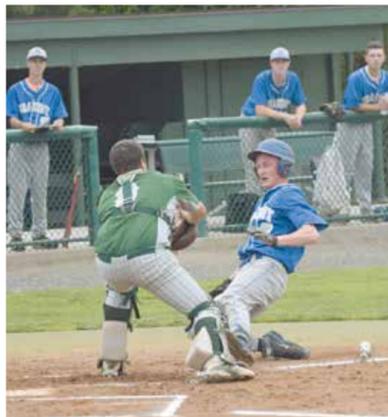
Adams' no-hitter was the second of the season for the Indians, as junior Hunter Millier had done the same just a couple of weeks earlier against Quabog at the end of the regular season.

Through the first three innings, Adams fanned five Hornets and threw was not much in the way of solid contact. He ended up finishing the game with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He only faced two batters over the minimum as the only other Hornet runner reached on an error.

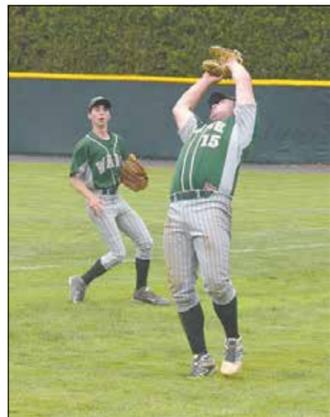
“I have to give a lot of credit to my defense because they made some really good plays behind me,” Ivan Adams said. “If it had not been for them, then I would not have been able to get that no-hitter.”

The recent Ware High School graduate will look to continue his baseball career in college as he heads to Worcester State in the fall.

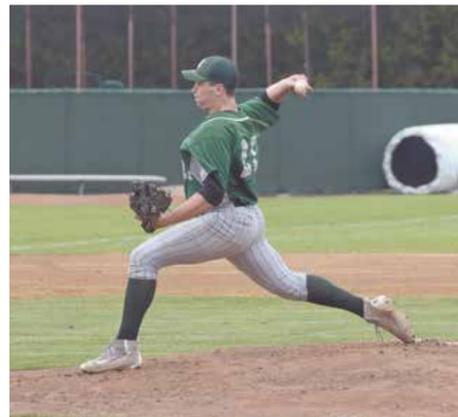
“I am looking forward to having the opportunity to play baseball there,” Adams said. “I am going to be playing Legion baseball over the summer to help get me more ready for the college season.”



Ware catcher Logan Wojcik (9) tags out a sliding runner at home plate.



Ware first baseman Fernando Montalban (15) catches a popup in foul territory.



Ware pitcher Jake Crevier (21) makes a delivery to home plate.

See INDIANS, Page 10

## PVIAC realigns fall soccer season

By Dave Forbes  
dforbes@turley.com

When the new soccer season starts in the fall, changes will be the theme.

Not only will some schools be changing divisions for tournament play, but the looks of several of the leagues will have changed, as well.

On the girls side, one of the leagues that will feature the most changes is the Central. Only two of the six schools that played in the Central last year will return for 2016. Division 1 schools Amherst and Holyoke will return, and joining them will be Granby, Hampshire, Monson and Southwick. Monson, Southwick and Hampshire were all previously members of the Grieve, while Granby will be coming over from the Pioneer-North.

The Grieve will now feature Palmer and Sabis, who were both in that league last year, along with newcomers Central, Renaissance and South Hadley. Central is coming over from the Central League, while Renaissance and South Hadley are from the Tri-County and Pioneer-North, respectively.

Besides Renaissance moving out of the Tri-County, the league will feature two more changes as Duggan joins and Smith Voke leaves for the Pioneer-South.

The new Tri-County will be: Commerce, Duggan, Franklin Tech, Hampden Charter, Pathfinder, Putnam, Sci-Tech, St. Mary's and Westfield Tech.

The Pioneer South, which was a four-team league last year, will have seven members in 2017, including five new ones. Returning are Smith Academy and Ware, while the new schools will be Mohawk, Pioneer, Greenfield, McCann Tech and Smith Voke. By having at least five teams in the league, automatic postseason tournament bids will be awarded to the top two (more if ties for first or second) teams.

The Coombs and Kurty-Fielding leagues will remain almost unchanged with Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Ludlow, Minnechaug and West Springfield in the Coombs, and Agawam, Chicopee Comp, Longmeadow, Northampton and Westfield all coming back to the Kurty-Fielding and Chicopee being added in.

On the boys side, the Holley will feature only one change as Pope Francis, which had been a member of the Churchill Division, will join the league with Hampshire, Southwick, Monson and Palmer, while South Hadley will be moving to the Schmid.

The Schmid, which was a five-team division last year, will

have returning members Athol, Easthampton and Hopkins, to go along with South Hadley, Renaissance, Gateway and Granby.

The Tri-County North and South have been split into two leagues — the Bi-County and the Tri-County. The Bi-County takes three former Tri-County North members (Commerce, McCann Tech and Putnam) and three Tri-County South members (Pioneer Valley Christian, Ware and Westfield Tech) to form the new six-team league. To put together the new six-team Tri-County league, two members of the Tri-County North (Franklin Tech and Smith Voke), were mixed with two South squads (Pathfinder and St. Mary's), along with Duggan and Hampden Charter.

The Smith Division had one change for this three-year cycle as West Springfield was moved up from the Moriarty Division to compete with Minnechaug, Amherst, Ludlow and Longmeadow.

Chicopee, which had been part of the Smith, has been moved down to the Moriarty Division with Central, Holyoke, Frontier and city rival Chicopee Comp.

The new Churchill Division will feature two previous members (Agawam and Belchertown) to go along with three new members (East Longmeadow, Northampton and Westfield).

## Saints set to challenge Peoples for crown

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER - It's still early in the Tri-County Baseball League season, but it appears like St. Joseph's might be one of the team's to challenge PeoplesBank for the league championship title this summer.

St. Joe's, who had four of their first six regular season games postponed by rain, received an outstanding pitching performance from Ryan Magni in a 4-2 win against league newcomer EITC Everest Vodka at St. Joe's Ballpark, last Thursday night.

Magni, who's beginning his fourth season with St. Joe's, went the distance in the make-up game against EITC. He allowed two runs on four base hits. The right-hander from West Springfield also had seven strikeouts and three walks.

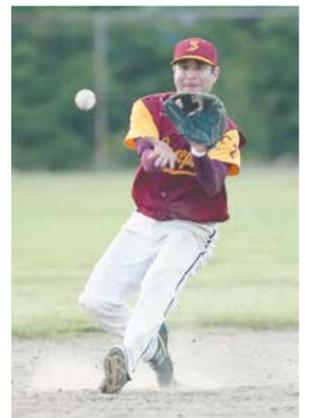
“I thought it was a very good pitching performance by Ryan tonight,” said St. Joe's player/manager Karl Oliveira. “This is his second win of the season and he's the ace of our pitching staff. I'm very glad that he's playing for us again this year.”

Oliveira, who has been playing in the Tri-County League for the past 38 years, has been a member of the St. Joe's team for 28 years.

St. Joe's, who defeated Longmeadow, 4-1, in another home



Shortstop Joe Perlak (14) prepares to make a throw to first base.



Second baseman Greg Vourous (7) reaches out to make the catch.

game the following night, entered this week's action standing in second place in the league standings with a 3-1 record. Peoples Bank, who has won the postseason championship title the past four years were sitting in first place with a perfect 5-0 record.

“I have very high expectations for this season,” Oliveira said. “We have a couple of very good pitchers and we also have some good hitters, but we're still chasing Peoples. They just have All-Star players at every

position.”

A year ago, St. Joe's lost to Peoples in the semifinals.

Because there are only eight teams in the Tri-County American Division, all of them will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

A couple of the other pitchers for St. Joe's this summer are Brandon Magni, Dave Gwozdz, Devin Rhodes, Joe Perlak, and Kevin Dupras.

See SAINTS, Page 10