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Ware Youth Football & Cheer

returns

Revamped organization provides cost-free play

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – After not having a season last year, Ware Youth Football & Cheer returned under new leadership with close to 50 athletes to make up two teams.

The peeewees athletes in grades three to four and the juniors in grades five to six.

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Chase Shunaman (#10) moved the ball down the field

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Andrew Petracone (#52) and Adrian Krouch (#25), paused between plays.

SB votes to reduce early voting hours

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Select Board held a public hearing at their Monday meeting to hear a request from Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos to reduce the number of early in-person voting hours for the Nov. 3 state election to 44 hours from 74 hours.

Early voting runs from Oct. 17-30 and Witkos said the municipal building will be open for four hours on Oct. 17, 16 hours the week of Oct. 19-23 and Oct. 26-30 and for eight hours on Oct. 24, which is the last day to register to vote.

Witkos said in 2024, the town had 10% in-person turnout, and he also said that he recommends voters come out early because there are nine ballot questions.

Witkos said certain weekdays, the building will be open until 7 p.m. to allow for voters coming home from work to have an opportunity to vote.

The Select Board approved this request, and signed the warrant for the election.

179 Main St.

The board reviewed a bid for 179 Main St., the former senior center and school. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town went out to bid a second time because the first round did not produce any bids.

This round produced a single bid.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker asked some

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 3

Restored veterans honor roll dedicated

By Paula Ouimette
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WARREN – The town held a dedication ceremony for its newly restored veterans honor roll, located outside the Warren Public Library.

At the Sept. 16 ceremony, Town Administrator James Ferrera thanked everyone who made this project possible.

“This wall represents the local men and women who served our country during some of its most difficult times,” Ferrera said.

Ferrera acknowledged those in attendance at the ceremony, including the town’s veterans, first responders, town employees, local and state elected officials and community members.

“Today we are gathered here to honor the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation,” he said. “Our veterans are living reminders of courage, sacrifice and unwav-

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The restored veterans honor is located outside the Warren Public Library.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

At right: Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera is shown with John Dyjak of the Warren Rural Improvement Committee in front of the restored veterans honor roll, which was dedicated at a ceremony on Sept. 16



Town hosts community talk on police facility

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – The town held a community conversation about the options of a potential police facility on Sept. 9.

Town Administrator James Ferrera welcomed residents to the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium to review a presentation with options determined by Tecton Architects.

Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects went over potential sites in town that may be suitable for a new station for the Police Department.

The study determined that an 8,900 square foot space was appropriate for a police station.

Bank building

Tecton Architects looked at the former Cornerstone Bank building located at 968 Main St. after it was brought up in a prior public safety complex informational meeting as a potential site.

McElravy compared the differences between a single-story building and a three-story building. The study determined that additions would have to be added to the former bank building to make it feasible as a modern police station.

These additions include a sally port, which is a detainee transport area that is important for officers and community safety. Another addition is a cell block, which would require a concrete floor.

An elevator would also be required to allow compliant

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Mass Central Rail Trail connects communities

By Ryan Drago
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The East Quabbin Land Trust held two ribbon cuttings last week to celebrate the opening of new segments of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

The first celebration on Sept. 16 was held at Grenville Park in Ware with the new addition of a 1,500-foot Connector Trail linking to the rail trail on Church



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

A ribbon cutting for the newly completed Connector Trail to the Mass Central Rail Trail was celebrated at Grenville Park. Paul Opalinski of the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation cut the ribbon, accompanied by members of local organizations, town officials and state legislators.

Street. The path is now fully accessible thanks to many working partnerships and organizations.

State Rep. Todd Smola attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and wanted to thank everyone involved

who made this new trail a reality. He said the accessible trail was part of the beauty that central and western Massachusetts has

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SPORTS

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Ware football suffers second loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Two years ago, the Belchertown football team made the 20-minute trip down Rte. 9 to Veterans Field in Ware for a preseason scrimmage.

The Orioles made another visit to Veterans Field for a regular season game last Friday night and they celebrated a 44-12 non-league victory over the Indians.

“We played a scrimmage game on this field a couple of years ago,” said Belchertown senior captain Avery Cote. “It feels great to win tonight’s game. All of us worked very hard.”

Cote led the way offensively with three rushing touchdowns. He also scored three rushing touchdowns in the Orioles 38-0 season opening home win versus Quaboag Regional.

“Avery is our leader,” said Belchertown head coach Keith Lebeau. “We do have several pieces around him, which has made things a lot easier so far this season.”

Cote rushed for a total

of 151 yards on 18 carries during last Friday night’s contest, which was played in front of a large crowd. Cote gave a lot of credit to the offensive line, which is led by junior Ajuluchukwu Nebedum, junior Killian Olszewski, junior Miles Sheldon, and senior captain Rulon Anderson.

“I wouldn’t be very successful without the help of my linemen,” Cote said. “We just want to keep winning games.”

Another Belchertown senior captain is Coleman Longley, who’s the starting quarterback.

Longley finished the Ware game with 118 rushing yards on seven carries. He also completed two passes for 16 yards.

The junior duo Brogan Bottari and Ronan Mosher contributed with 92 and 88 rushing yards. Overall, the Orioles nearly rushed for 500 yards.

The Orioles began the regular season with a 2-0 record for the third consecutive year.

“We were 4-0 last season, but then we went 4-3,”



Dalton Marquis navigates through traffic.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Lebeau said. “We’re just going to focus on one game at a time this year.”

The Indians (0-2) played their home opener after beginning the regular season

with a 36-18 loss at Easthampton High School.

“The players know that they can perform better on the field,” said first-year Ware head coach Kyle

Whitney. “It’s another disappointing loss.”

Two of the Indians leaders are senior quarterback Troy Jurczyk and senior running back Dalton Marquis.

Troy Jurczyk jukes right on a carry, trying to avoid a tackle.

Jurczyk completed six of his 12 passes for 63 yards. He also threw a TD pass in the second quarter. He rushed for 35 yards.

When the two teams battled each other at Belchertown High School a year ago, the Orioles squeaked out a 21-20.

The Orioles marched 70 yards down the field on the opening series and Cote capped off the five play drive with a 22-yard scramble up the middle into the end zone with 8:47 left in the first quarter.

Olszewski made the first of his five extra points.

Please see **WARE FOOTBALL**, page 10



The Indians run a play on offense.



Mason Kalafarski gets a tackle.



Zachary Safford brings down a rusher.



Mekhai dives after Belchertown runner to make a tackle.



Charlotte Wilder navigates her way around the defense.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Girls soccer gets another win

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer defeated Narragansett 7-1. The Panthers also defeated Mahar Regional 7-1 last Tuesday. The Panthers are now 3-0-1 on the regular season. They are back in action on Thursday, Sept. 24 against Clinton on the road. They are at Ayer Shirley on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m.



Maya Putnam winds up to boot it.



Persephone Piermarini fights to clear the ball away.



Bryann Lussier clears the ball to the other end of the field.

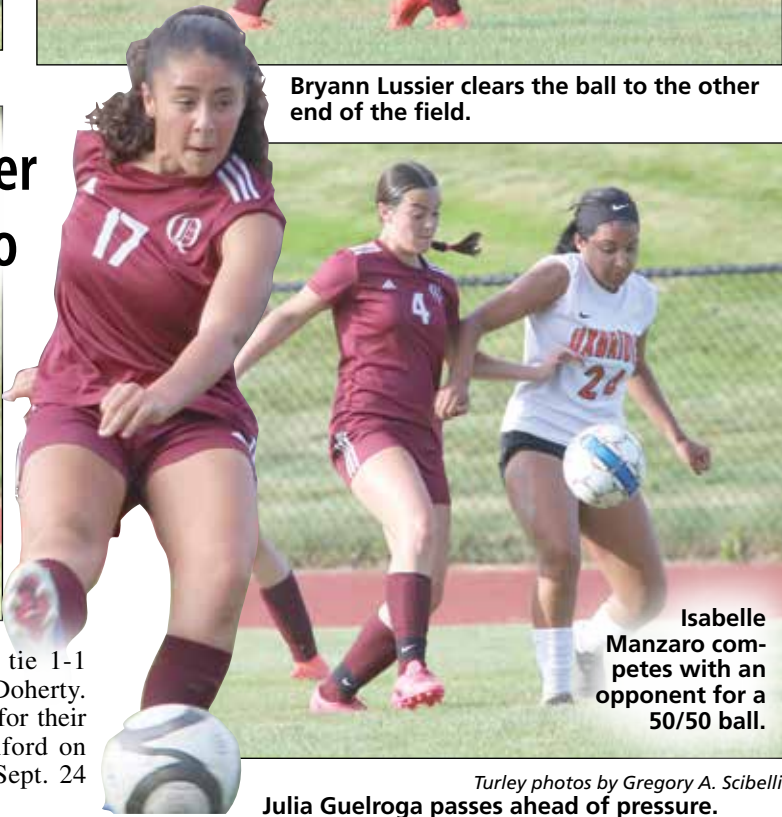


Sophia Paolucci sends a pass toward midfield.

Cougars suffer home loss to Uxbridge

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional girls soccer was shutout by Uxbridge 6-0. The Cougars are now 0-3-1 on the season. The

Cougars did earn a tie 1-1 last Friday against Doherty. The Cougars search for their first win against Oxford on the road Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.



Isabelle Manzano competes with an opponent for a 50/50 ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Julia Guelroga passes ahead of pressure.