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Senate candidates attend forum

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – State Sen. Peter Durant of the Worcester & Hampshire District and challenger Shannon Teabo participated in a Meet the Candidates forum at Cedarbrook Village at Ware last week.

The Oct. 21 forum was hosted by the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, Ware Community Television and Turley

Publications.

During the forum, each candidate was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and answer a set of questions.

Ballot Question 5 proposes capping the growth of state revenues, including revenue from the recently adopted Fair Share or millionaire's tax. What are your thoughts and how would you work to reduce costs?

Durant said Massachusetts has the highest cost of living

in the U.S.

“Question 5 actually looks to make it a little bit easier to get refunds,” he said. “I completely support this question...I’ve always felt that it’s much better for us that you spend your money, rather than the government.”

Durant said he has advocated for lower costs for expenses, including for utilities, and reducing the gas tax.

“We’ve advocated for money to come back for the cities and towns and for the state to spend your money

wisely,” he said.

Durant said costs need to come down for residents and the state needs to work within a budget, just like taxpayers do.

Durant said they will not be able to tax themselves into prosperity, and the focus needs to be on making it easier for everyone to make a living.

“That’s what we advocate for and that’s what I’m always going to push for,” Durant

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Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

State Sen. Peter Durant and Shannon Teabo participated in a Meet the Candidates forum on Oct. 21 hosted by the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, Ware Community Television and Turley Publications.

BOH hears update on PFAS findings

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Board of Health discussed recent PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) levels detected during regular land-fill monitoring on Lower Road.

“One of the monitoring wells, and the 402 Lower Road well, came back with PFAS above the drinking water standard,” Licensed Site Professional Scott Parker said at the Oct. 8 meeting.

He said regulations require that they sample any well within 500 feet of those wells with high concentrations, which has been completed. One well at 403 Lower Road had elevated PFAS levels, which increased the sampling area radius and identified detectable levels at a well at 498 Lower Road.

Parker said bottled water must be provided to properties where PFAS levels exceed the drink-

Please see **HARDWICK BOH**, page 5



Levi Haley took possession of the football.

FLAG FOOTBALL takes the field

SEE COVERAGE ON PAGE 3.

Board continues talks about shutoff policy

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Selectboard Clerk John Desmond suggested the board hold a public hearing to discuss the water/sewer shutoff policy before voting to adopt it.

At the Oct. 20 meeting, Desmond said he had questions about what qualifies as a financial hardship or a serious illness. He said the Water and Sewer departments will also need to work carefully with the Board of Health and Building Department when following through with shutoffs.

“I think all of these things should be resolved ahead of time,” Desmond said.

According to the proposed policy, shutoff will not happen if users submit proof of financial hardship, proof of serious illness, have an infant under 12 months or person

65 or older living in the residence, or during winter months. Payment plans for those in arrears are also available based on eligibility.

Water and Sewer Operations Manager John Stanton said adopting this policy has never been an issue in other municipalities he has worked for. Stanton said the Board of Health has been notified of this policy.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette said the goal is to get people to pay what the town is owed for the utilities. He agreed that the board should hold a public hearing.

Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz said the board will schedule a public hearing at a meeting in December.

Comments and concerns

Amy Mathison-Start said she learned through social

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 3

State Economic Development and Transportation officials visit region

Staff Report

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts convened a visit of top state economic and transportation officials to the Quaboag region.

Local community organizations and employers made the case for greater investment in economic development, emphasizing that expanding access to housing, transportation and employment opportunities is essential to improving the health

and wellbeing of communities in Central and Western Massachusetts.

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs.

The Quaboag region, once a textile manufacturing industrial center, has significant untapped economic potential that could be leveraged by investments in rail,



Submitted Photo

State Secretary of Economic Development Eric Paley, and Transportation Policy Undersecretary Samantha Silverberg talk about State programs with regional business people.

rural transit and infrastructure.

Massachusetts Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley, Undersecretary of Transportation Policy Samantha Silverberg, Undersecretary of Administration and Finance Jennifer Sullivan, Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi, and Deputy Rail Administrator and West-East Rail Director Andrew Koziol participated

Please see **OFFICIAL VISIT**, page 7



PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Peter Durant

State Senate

PROTECTING OUR WALLETS

- ✓ Earned a perfect voting record of protecting taxpayers from tax increases
- ✓ 100% rating in standing up for local small businesses
- ✓ Fully funding our schools
- ✓ Sponsored legislation for Crumbling Foundations

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Fighting for increases to Chapter 70 Education Funding and Rural School Aid
- ✓ Fighting for increases to Local Municipal State Funding
- ✓ Securing Budget Earmarks for Local Police and Fire Departments

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

- ✓ Supporting our sportsman and protecting their rights
- ✓ Support small business

GETTING THE
JOB DONE FOR US



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT PETER DURANT

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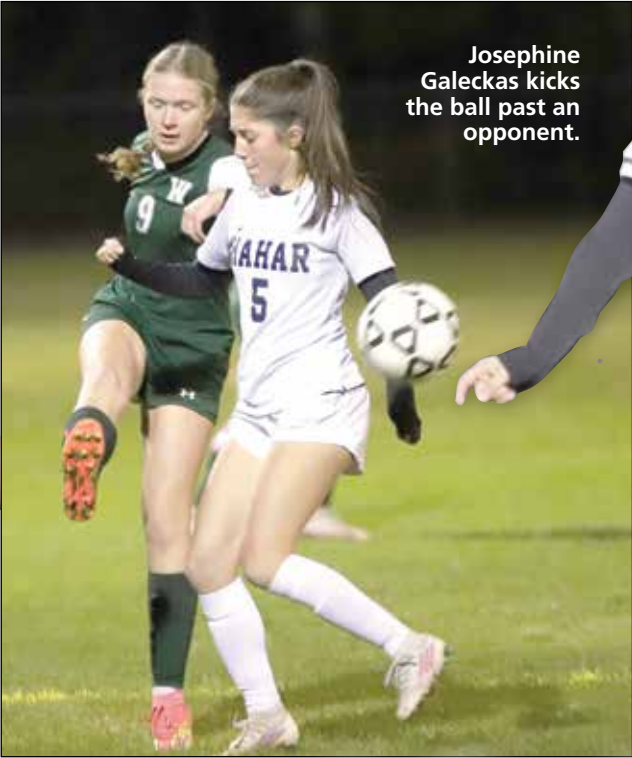
Amelia Orszulak clears the ball away.



Emilia Sullivan tries to settle the ball kicked over her head.



Mila Markham sends the ball toward mid-field.



Josephine Galeckas kicks the ball past an opponent.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Thanishka Cordero clears the ball away.



Indians battled to draw with Mahar

WARE – Last Tuesday evening, Ware High School girls soccer hosted Mahar Regional and both teams scored in the second half for a 1-1 draw. Ware got eight saves from Emily Jones and Callie Cygan had the lone goal for the Indians. Ware won a game in the Western Mass. Class D Tournament and will finish the season above .500 and make the state tournament his year.

Molly McGrail uses her body to block a pass.

Panthers fall on the road at Clinton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CLINTON—Bill Crowther made his first visit to the Clinton Veterans’ Athletic Complex as the Quabbin boys’ varsity soccer coach in September of 2025. It was not a very memorable experience as the Panthers suffered a 4-1 loss to the Clinton Gaels on a rainy afternoon.

The bus ride back to Barre was much more enjoyable for the Quabbin coaching staff and players following this year’s visit to the Clinton High School grass soccer field. Trailing 4-2 at halftime, the Panthers refused to fold, scoring three times in the second half to earn a 5-5 draw against the Gaels in a Mid-Wach D showdown, last Tuesday night.

“We really don’t have very good memories of this field, especially after losing here last year,” Crowther said. “Even though tonight’s game ended in a tie, it was probably the highlight of our season so far. Clinton is an outstanding soccer team and they’re well coached.”

Entering the match, Clinton, who had a 10-2-1 overall record, had won their last seven matches. They’ve outscored their opponents, 27-3, during that span. They had also won their first seven league contests, including a 4-0 shutout at Quabbin Regional on Sept. 24.

Clinton needed to defeat the Panthers (8-2-3, 5-1-2) for a second time this season to lock up their first league title since 2017.

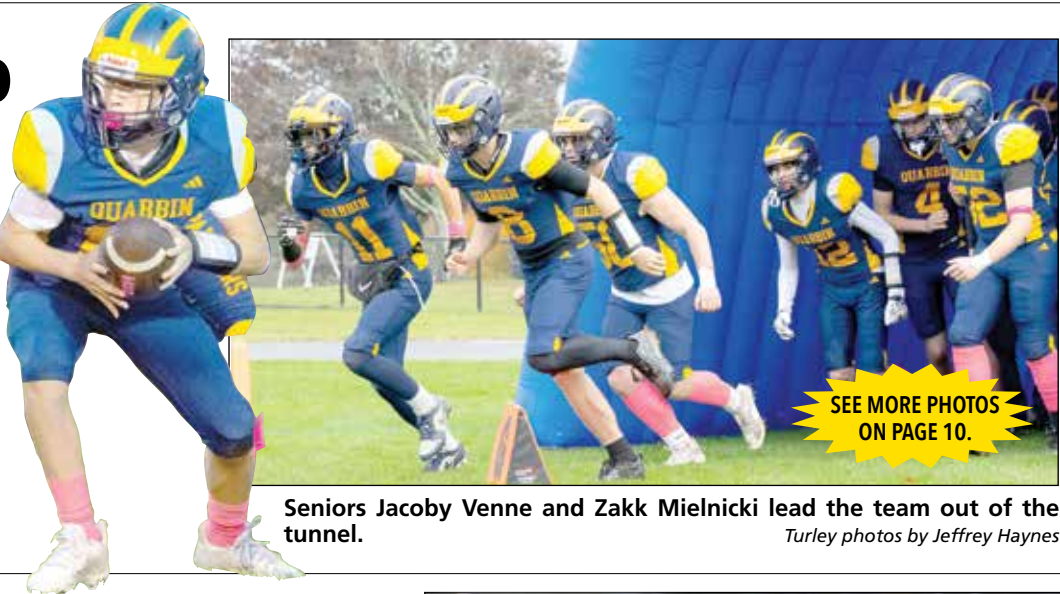
The Gaels struck first with a pair of goals from the senior duo of Klynger

Panthers to take two weeks for injuries

BARRE – Last Friday, Quabbin Regional High School Athletic Director Mark Miville announced that Quabbin football would be forfeiting its Weeks 7 and 8 games in order to allow its depleted roster to heal from a rash of injuries. The injuries, Miville said, have hurt the depth of the team to the point

where they do not believe they can compete at the varsity level. Miville said he hopes the team will be able to compete in Weeks 9 and 10 during nonplayoff action. The Panthers have won just one game this season.

Noah Kelter takes the snap and turns to make the handoff.



Seniors Jacoby Venne and Zakk Mielnicki lead the team out of the tunnel.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Josephine Boyko tries to make a stop on defense.

Pioneers fight to scoreless draw

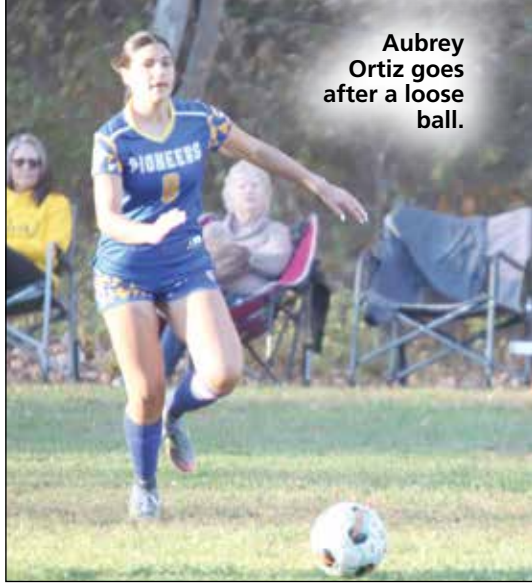
PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, the Pathfinder Tech girls soccer team had a 0-0 tie against Smith Academy and are 7-2-2 for the regular season. Pathfinder did not qualify for the Western Mass. Tournament, but will make the state tournament this year. The girls will have nonplay-off matchups against Hampden Charter, Cape Cod Tech, and Mt. Everett to close out month before facing an opponent in the state tournament.



Goalie Madison Boulrice pounces on a shot.



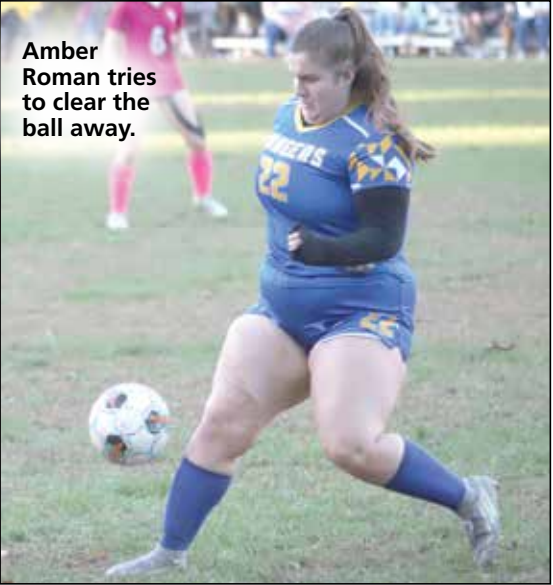
The Pioneers face Athol last Monday afternoon.



Aubrey Ortiz goes after a loose ball.



Whisper Wagher fights with an opponent for the ball.



Amber Roman tries to clear the ball away.