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Ware River News

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

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A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for over 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *Ware River News*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of *Ware River News* to everyone in the Hilltowns on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, *Ware River News*.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Turley Publications, Inc.

Trunk or Treat



SEE COVERAGE ON PAGE 8.

The Arsenault family dressed as "Lord of the Rings" characters.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Members of the Warren Community Elementary School-West Brookfield PTO dressed up as the Spice Girls.

Halloween Spooktacular



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 9.

An eerie glow came from this toxic waste spill at the Halloween Spooktacular drive thru event hosted by the Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183 last Friday evening at Grenville Park.

Drive thru event lights up Grenville Park

WARE – What began as pandemic-safe fun for families, the Halloween Spooktacular drive thru event has grown into one of Ware's greatest traditions.

Held at Grenville Park on the Friday before Halloween each year, the Spooktacular was bigger and better than ever this year, with cars going through the park for close to three hours to see the countless displays and live action scenes.

The Ware Knights of Columbus hosts this annual event, which takes a large volunteer effort to make possible. Each child going through the drive thru receives a complimentary goody bag to take home and enjoy.

Quabbin Performing Arts presents 'Chicago'

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Performing Arts is ready to "razzle dazzle" audiences with its production of "Chicago: Teen Edition", set to take the stage for opening night on Saturday, Nov. 14.

This year's cast and crew features a record number of seniors, who are warming up for their last performance as high school students before graduation in the spring.

Auguste Bellerose stars as Billy Flynn, the confident lawyer representing accused murderess, Roxie Hart.

This is Bellerose's fifth production at Quabbin Regional Middle High

Please see **CHICAGO**, page 10



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Eliza Brown as Roxie Hart, cried during a courtroom scene with Auguste Bellerose as her lawyer, Billy Flynn.

Committee discusses Rural Health app

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Healthcare Advisory Committee discussed the application for the Rural Health Transformation Program at its meeting last Tuesday.

The application is due on Nov. 9. Both the town and local organizations like Healthy Quaboag will submit an application.

Please see **HEALTH**, page 12

SB discusses warrant signature process

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Select Board continued discussions on the accounts payable and payroll warrant signing process at its Monday meeting.

At a previous meeting this year, the board took a vote to require two signatures on the warrants to approve them, but according to members of the board, it has been difficult to get two people to sign it, and Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the financial team is getting nervous about sending the payments in with only one signature since the board made it a policy to have two, so the discussion on the table was whether to revert back to only needing one signature.

Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf was in favor of going back to one signature along with Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer. Vice-Chair William Tinker said the reason his signature isn't being put on the warrants is because he is not getting adequate time to review the payments and does not want to sign off on something that wasn't reviewed thoroughly.

Caggiano said the team is doing their best to give 24-hour notice before the signature is due, but because the Treasurer and Accountant are part-time positions, it's difficult.

She also said there are responsibilities to get the payroll submitted on time because there are damages that would cost the town three times more for a delay.

The board will discuss the signature policy at a future meeting.

The board also went over the warrant review in public session, with Tinker saying the first quarter of fiscal year 2027 is over, and there's been no report about what's left in the budget and what's been expend-

Please see **SIGNATURE**, page 11

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Indians fall to Lee, then draw rematch



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Zachary Safford goes for a tackle.



The Ware defense tries to make a play.



Dalton Marquis takes the lateral.



Sebastian Schmidt makes a block.



Quarterback Troy Jurczyk drops back.

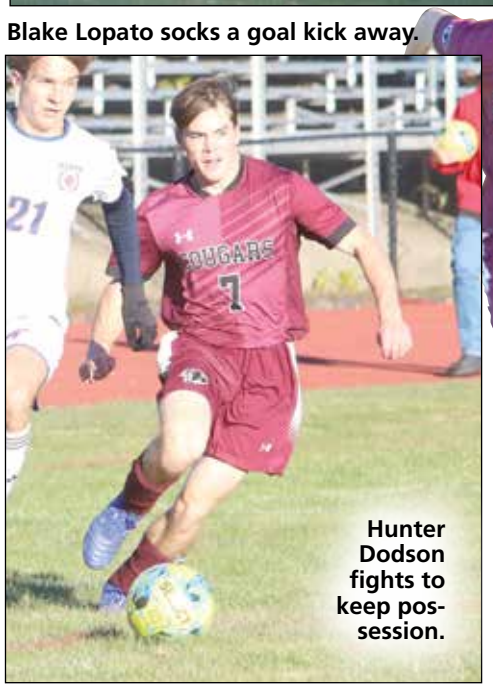
WARE – Despite a tough loss last Thursday night against Lee High School, the 4-4 Ware High School football team has qualified for the Division 8 State Tournament again. Ware has regular qualified for the state tournament, but their weaker schedule has often put the Indians in the lower part of the bracket. Following a 46-14 loss against Lee, the Indians squeaked in at No. 16. As a result, they will face the No. 1 seed, which happens to be Lee, which had a perfect regular season at 8-0. The Indians will be on the road against the Wildcats, this Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

Cougars fall at home



Blake Lopato socks a goal kick away.

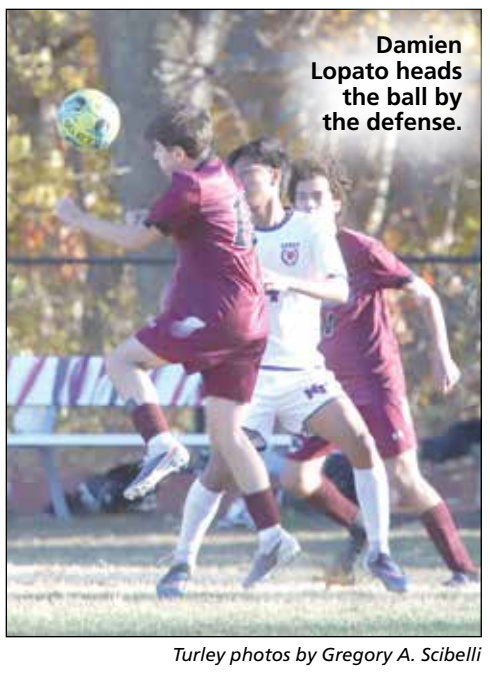
WARREN – Last Friday afternoon, Quaboag Regional High School boys soccer lost to Keefe Tech 5-1, concluding the regular season with a 4-12-2 record. The Cougars will not make the state tournament this year.



Hunter Dodson fights to keep possession.

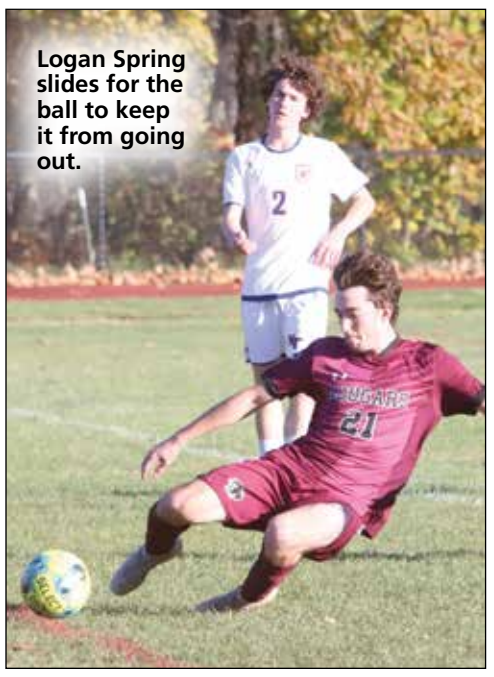


Connor Snay tries to recover the ball on Quaboag's end of the field.



Damien Lopato heads the ball by the defense.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Logan Spring slides for the ball to keep it from going out.



Makenzie Casey fights through a swarm of opponents during recent action.



Juliana Nickson gets positioning for control of the ball.

Strong finish for Quabbin field hockey

BARRE – Last week, the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team finished up an impressive 2026 season. The Panthers were an overall 16-2, but even more impressive, they had a perfect 10-0 league record in the Midland Wachusett B to win the league championship. Offense was a big part of Quabbin's game, and Makenzie Casey and Abby Rogowski led the way with 25 and 21 goals, respectively. Freshman Olivia VanOudenhove also had a breakout year with 13 goals. Goalie Aubrey Thorpe allowed less than a goal per game while Quabbin averaged more than four goals scored per game. The Panthers, as of last Friday, were ranked No. 6 in Division 4, which means they will have home games for at least the first two rounds of the state tournament, which should be begin late this week.



Abby Rogowski battles for possession.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 14

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Kayla Curran chases down the loose ball.