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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

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DEMOLITION moves ahead for Main Street buildings




Fire damage is visible to the interior of this building.

The demolition of fire damaged buildings at 92-104 Main St., began last week. The buildings were damaged after a five-alarm fire broke out in February 2016.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
An excavator moved debris as the demolition continued

Project nears completion this week

WARE – After being damaged by a five-alarm fire on Feb. 16, 2016, the vacant buildings at 92-104 Main St. are getting demolished.

Demolition of the buildings began last Thursday and continued through Friday before picking up again Monday. After the debris is removed, the site will be graded.

These buildings used to house Otto Florist and Gifts and Carrie's Kutts, both of which relocated following the fire. Five residents who occupied the upstairs apartments in the buildings were also displaced.

Voters allocated $180,000 at the annual town meeting in May 2025 and an additional $140,000 at this year's annual town meeting in June for a total of $320,000 to cover the cost of demolition.

The cost of the demolition will be placed as a lien on the property, which is privately owned.

Mary Lane Redevelopment team asks board for support

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Cindy Allen Bourcier Mary Lane Redevelopment team asked the Selectboard to take three actions at last week's meeting in order to bring healthcare services to the Mary Lane Hospital site.

These actions include sending a letter to the Trustees of the Gilbert Trust to pause distributions; requesting accounting from the Trustees and Baystate Health for the 2026 trust fund distributions, expenditures and balances; and urging Baystate Health to collaborate with the Mary Lane Redevelopment team to support preservation of the historic building.

At the Nov. 4 meeting, Bourcier said the team had previously asked the Selectboard to help bring together key partners to develop a longtime healthcare solution for the reason utilizing Rural Health Transformation funds and support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bourcier was joined by Chris Lyon from the USDA to speak to the Selectboard about funding opportunities.

Lyon said he has been working to build a working relationship with Baystate Health to look at solutions to

Please see **MARY LANE**, page 5

MWRA withdraws Quabbin water application

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

REGION – The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority withdrew its application Nov. 5 to increase the amount of water it can draw from the Quabbin Reservoir, a move local officials called a win for watershed communities, but only the start of a longer conversation.

In a letter to the state Water Resources Commission, MWRA Interim Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi rescinded the authority's Interbasin Transfer Act application. The proposal sought to raise the MWRA's transfer rate by 20 million gallons per day, from about 220 MGD, to accommodate future service-area expansion.

It drew more than 1,000 comments, with elected officials and residents questioning its legal basis, climate assumptions and fairness to communities in the watershed. The MWRA said future requests will be reviewed community by community.

"As stewards of an essential regional water resource, we recognize the importance of maintaining the confidence and trust of the Quabbin communities that have protected and supported the Quabbin watershed for generations," Estes-Smargiassi wrote.

He said the MWRA sought "a full and transparent disclosure of the impacts of increasing withdrawals

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 13

H2M presents fire station feasibility study

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen saw a presentation from H2M Architects going over several layouts for a potential new fire station that would merge stations A and B into one.

The presenter said some goals of the project are keeping the project's cost low, consolidating equipment and functions to one property, prioritizing critical functions, accommodating anticipated growth of the department, being transparent with the

Please see **STUDY**, page 6

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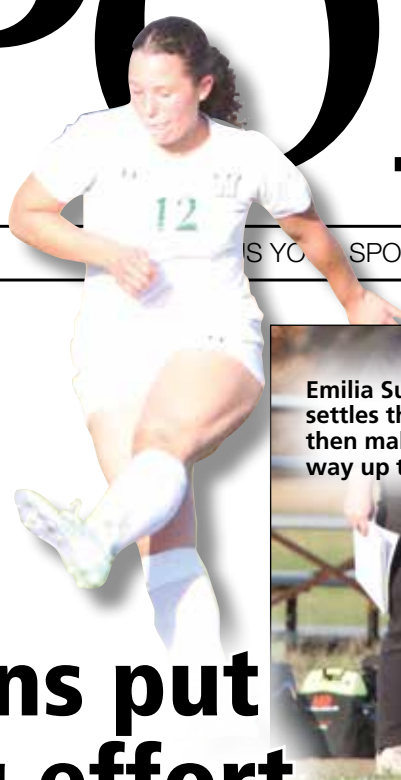


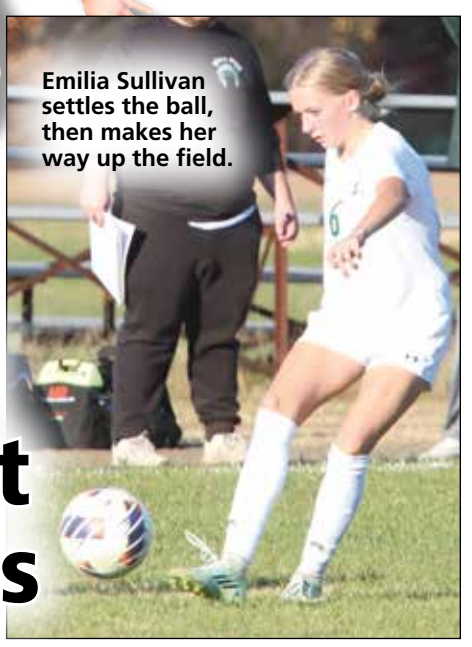
Josephine Galeckas focuses on possession.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Naomi Torres takes the free kick.





Emilia Sullivan settles the ball, then makes her way up the field.

Indians put up big effort against Rams

GRANBY – Having to face an undefeated team in the playoffs is no easy task, but Ware High School girls soccer was able to put a dent in the armor of Granby in the Western Mass. Class D semifinals held on Oct. 29. The Indians lost 5-2, but Molly McGrail and Emilia Sullivan managed goals in the contest against a team that, as of press time, has yet to lose a game. Ware would finish the season 7-7-4 and qualified for the state tournament with a matchup scheduled against Holbrook in the Round of 32 in Division on Tuesday, Nov. 10.



Molly McGrail tries to settle the ball.



Emily Jones punts the ball away.



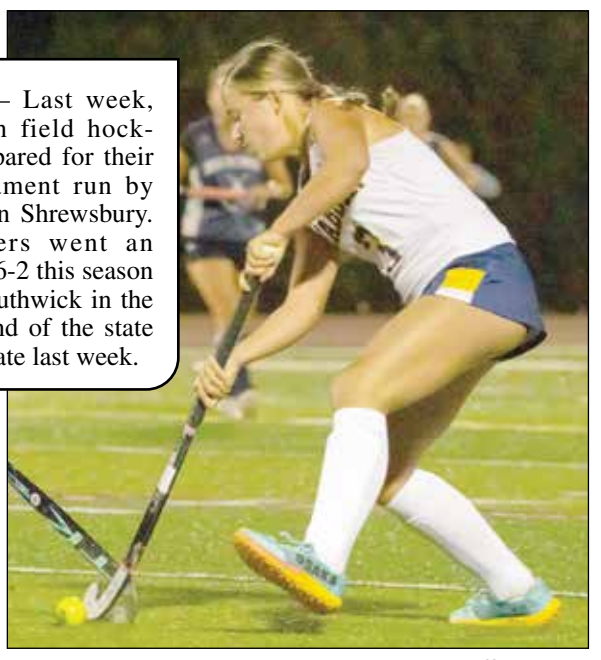
Gloria Cotaj brings in a pass.

Panthers prepare for tournament



Violet Kelley gets the angle on the attacker.

BARRE – Last week, the Quabbin field hockey team prepared for their state tournament run by welcoming in Shrewsbury. The Panthers went an impressive 16-2 this season and drew Southwick in the opening round of the state tournament late last week.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Olivia VanOudenhove wins her one-on-one battle.



Makenzie Casey stretches her reach to swat the ball.



Charley Chauvin chases down a loose ball in the attack zone.



Kailynn Schuster eyes her shot in the shootout drill.



Olivia Arvizu advances past an opponent.

Cougars defeat Worcester Tech

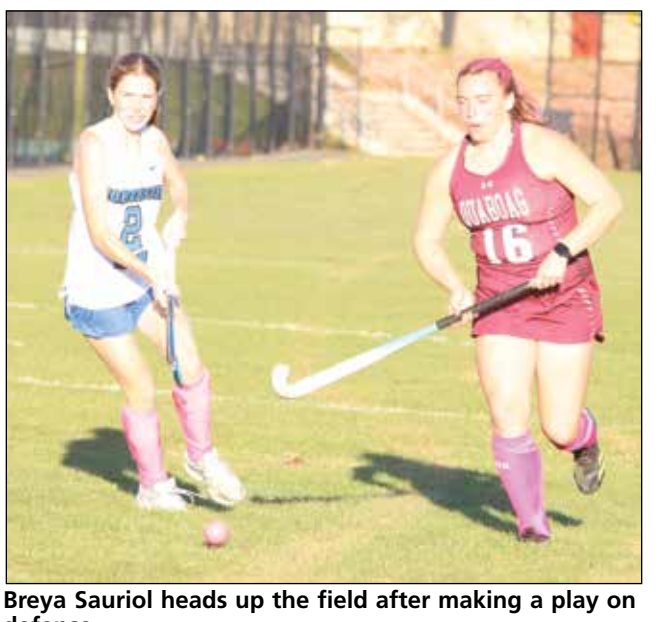
WARREN – On Senior Day, Quaboag field hockey defeated Worcester Tech in an 8-0 shutout. The victory brought the Cougars back to .500 for the season as they sought a spot in the Division 4 State Tournament, which was scheduled to begin earlier this week.



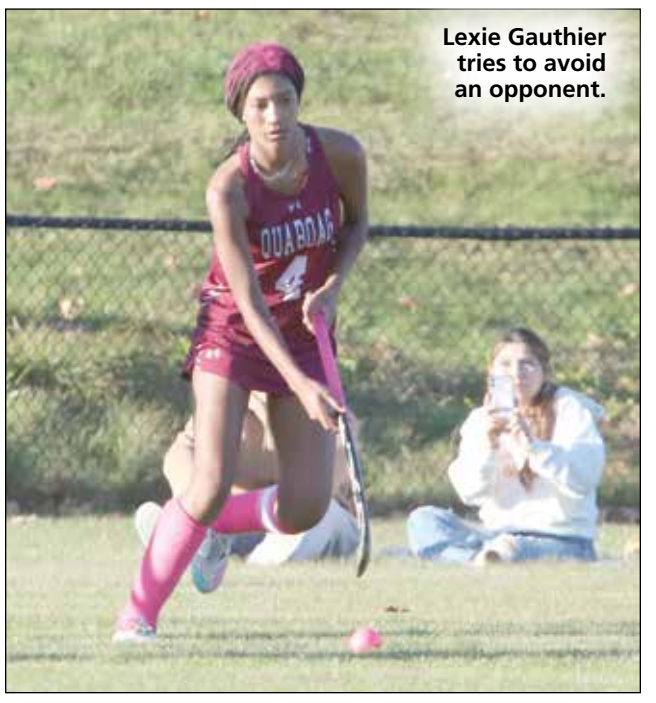
Harper Bradley gets ready to for a long hit.



Josie Hescock heads into the circle.



Breya Sauriol heads up the field after making a play on defense.



Lexie Gauthier tries to avoid an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli