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WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

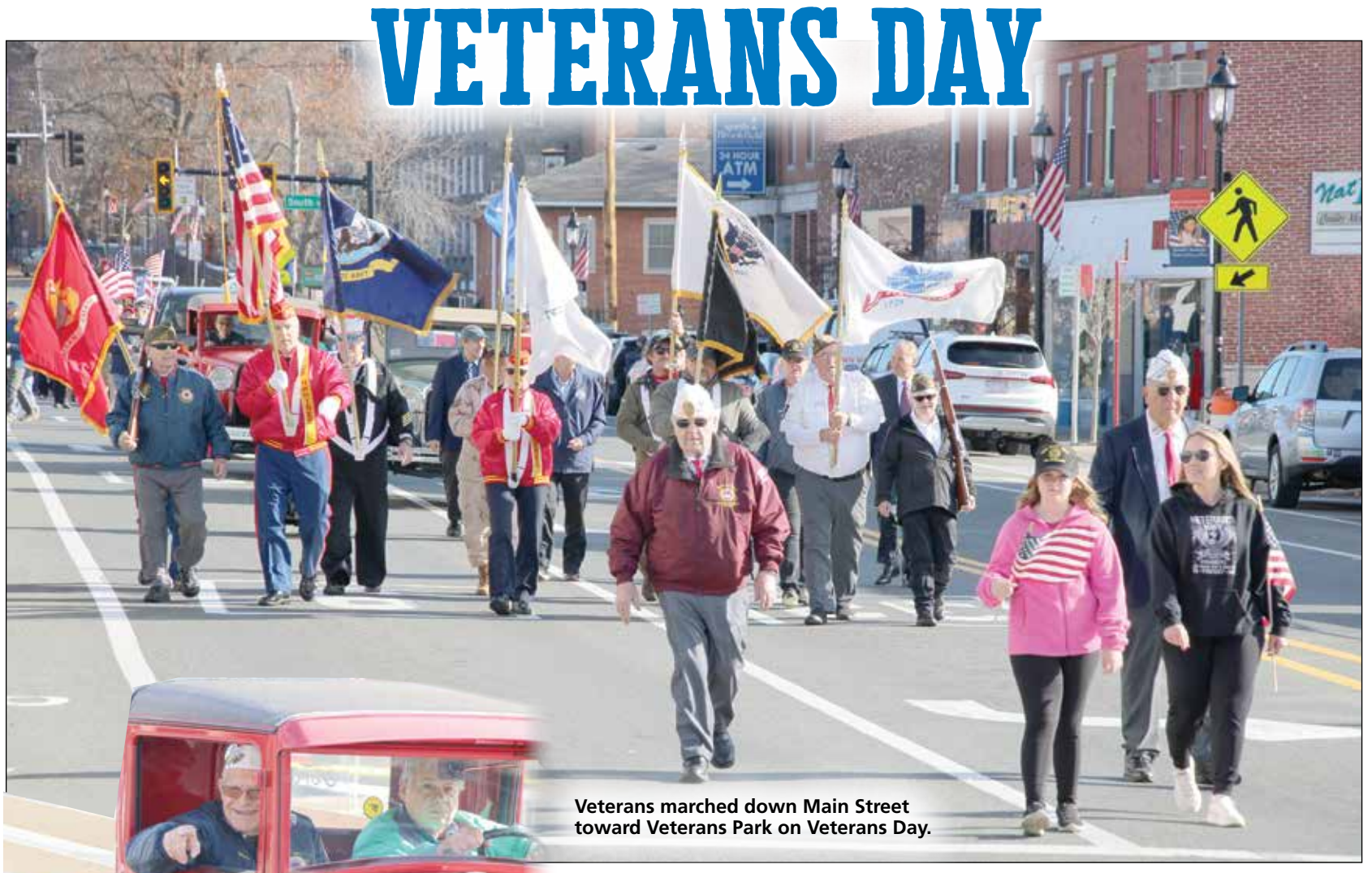
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026

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VETERANS DAY



Veterans marched down Main Street toward Veterans Park on Veterans Day.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

David Nicoson pointed to the crowed.

Service and sacrifice remembered

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – The town celebrated the service and sacrifice of its veterans with the annual observance of Veterans Day last week.

Following a parade that traveled from the American Legion on Maple Street to Veterans Park downtown, a ceremony was led by master of ceremonies, John Pajak.

"It's good to see you all here," Pajak said to those in attendance.

Carol Zins and Jane Sterndale sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America" and the Weir River Concert Band performed a variety of patriotic songs

Alexa, granddaughter of veteran Gary Sinclair, was joined by Brandy Bruso

Please see **VETERANS**, page 11

Residents voice support for TA

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – Multiple residents and members of town boards attended the Select Board meeting last Monday to voice support for extending Town Administrator Justine Caggiano's contract another three years.

Kelly Kemp is a former Select Board member and said at the Nov. 9 meeting that she worked with Caggiano during her last year on the board and experienced her professionalism and knowledge. Kemp said that Caggiano has good education in her field, which is something several speakers touched upon, many saying she's been the most qualified of the past four town administrator's the town has had.

Kemp also noted the town getting about $272,000 in free cash this year under Caggiano, saying the town had negative free cash in the past, but Caggiano and the current finance team have

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 5

Voters move forward with water improvement project

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Voters took action on 19 articles at a Special Town Meeting held in the Ware High School auditorium Monday night, approving a $5 million project to improve the public water system.

Cistern decommissioning

Article 16 asked voters to approve up to $5 million for a project to decommission the cistern and bring two wells located at the Barnes Street site online. These wells (2R and 3R) were dug in 2015 to replace current wells 2 and 3 but were not connected to the water system.

This project will install well pumps for the two replacement wells and connect them to the water system. The well pumps for existing wells 1 and 4 will also be replaced.

The other part of the project is to decommission the 140-year-old cistern, which has been tied to water quality issues including the detection of E. Coli. All of the existing wells flow into the cistern prior to treatment.

Without the cistern, the water from the four wells will flow directly to the Barnes Street pump house to receive treatment before going into the water distribution system.

Design for this project would be completed by spring of 2027, with construction expected to be completed in the summer of 2028.

David Moriarty made an amendment to the original motion for the funding for the project to come out of the general budget, rather than from the water enterprise receipts.

"This system is owned by

Please see **WARE STM**, page 7

Decorating for the season



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

This past Saturday, Alex Bergeron of Canadian Tree Expert assisted the Ware Holiday Flair Committee with the hanging of garlands across West Street in preparation for a visit from Santa Claus on Friday, Nov. 27.

Volunteers bring holiday flair to Main Street

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Volunteers with the Ware Holiday Flair Committee gathered downtown to make sure the town was decorated for the holiday season and ready for Santa's post-Thanksgiving visit.

Each year on the evening of the Friday after Thanksgiving, Santa Claus makes a special trip to Ware to visit with both the young, and young at heart.

With the help of the Ware Holiday Flair Committee, the Fire Department, and dancers from Dance Unlimited, Santa Claus always has a very warm and festive welcome.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Friday, Nov. 27 for a chance to see the

Please see **HOLIDAY FLAIR**, page 5

Quaboag hosts Veterans Day assembly, alumni wall induction

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School recently held its annual Veterans Day assembly and Alumni Veterans Wall induction.

The event is put on by Joe Salvadore's eighth grade civics class along with James Joinville's band and chorus students.

Eighth grader Sydney Sturgis started the program with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Students demonstrated how to properly fold a flag that was then received by West Brookfield Veterans Agent, Frank Bateman.

Selectman Derick Veliz delivered the keynote address, where he emphasized the importance of service.

He recognized and thanked the veterans for their service to our country. His message to the young students was that they are not too young or little to make a positive difference in their school or town community.



Turley Photo by Derick Veliz

James Zalatores is recognized as he was inducted into the Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall.

You don't have to wait until you grow up and graduate, in small ways right now, you can be a positive difference maker.

Joinville and the Quaboag band played the impactful JKF tribute song, narrated by seventh grade ancient civilizations teacher, Tyler Shepard.

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 8

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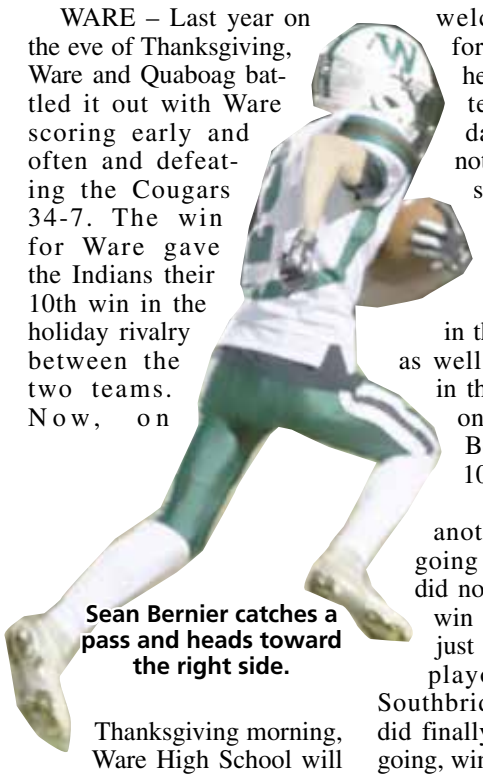
SPORTS

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Quaboag, Ware to clash on Thanksgiving

WARE – Last year on the eve of Thanksgiving, Ware and Quaboag battled it out with Ware scoring early and often and defeating the Cougars 34-7. The win for Ware gave the Indians their 10th win in the holiday rivalry between the two teams. Now, on Thanksgiving morning, Ware High School will welcome their rivals for the 17th matchup held between the two teams on the holiday. While Ware is not coming in with as strong a record as in previous years, the Indians are still coming off another appearance in the state tournament as well as an appearance in the Class C championship game against Belchertown in Week 10.

Quaboag has had another tough season, going 1-9. The Cougars did not achieve their first win of the season until just last week in a non-playoff game against Southbridge. The Cougars did finally get some offense going, winning 38-0.

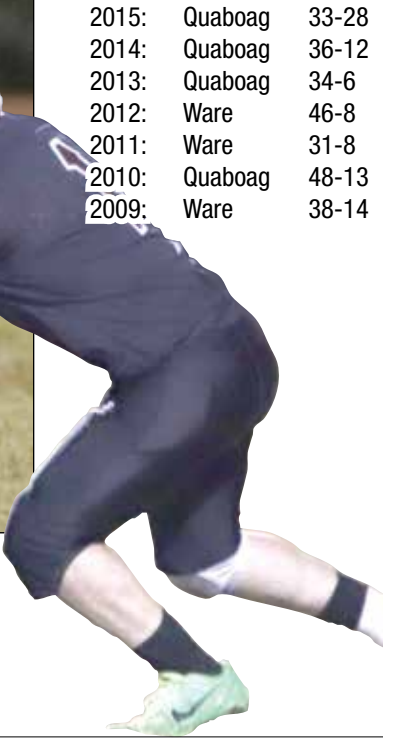


Sean Bernier catches a pass and heads toward the right side.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Braiden Bradley makes the block on the offensive line for the Cougars in last year's matchup.



At right: Jacob Cacace returns the ball to start the second half.

WARE VS. QUABOAG

Ware leads series 10-6

2025:	Ware	34-7
2024:	Ware	14-13
2023:	Ware	20-14
2022:	Quaboag	26-21
2021:	Quaboag	22-7
2020: NO GAME – COVID		
2019:	Ware	8-0
2018:	Ware	20-16
2017:	Ware	56-6
2016:	Ware	34-7
2015:	Quaboag	33-28
2014:	Quaboag	36-12
2013:	Quaboag	34-6
2012:	Ware	46-8
2011:	Ware	31-8
2010:	Quaboag	48-13
2009:	Ware	38-14

Quaboag Football (1-9)

Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Quabbin 20, Quaboag 14
Friday, Sept. 25 – Mahar 23, Quaboag 6
Friday, Oct. 2 – Worcester Tech 44, Quaboag 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Bartlett 36, Quaboag 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Brighton 14, Quaboag 0
Friday, Oct. 23 – Worcester North 42, Quaboag 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Smith Vocational 36, Quaboag 0
Thursday, Nov. 5 – Abby Kelley 34, Quaboag 0
Thursday, Nov. 12 – Quaboag 38, Southbridge 0
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Ware 10 a.m.

Ware Football (4-6)

Friday, Sept. 11 – Easthampton 36, Ware 18
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Ware 22, SICS 20
Friday, Oct. 2 – Franklin Tech 32, Ware 28
Friday, Oct. 9 – Ware 28, Mahar 8
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Ware 36, Athol 8
Friday, Oct. 23 – Ware 30, Greenfield 0
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Lee 46, Ware 14
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 8 State Tournament
First Round Lee 46, Ware 16
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Quaboag 10 a.m.



Abby Rogowski grabs the ball and moves away from the sideline.

Makenzie Casey heads for the offensive end.

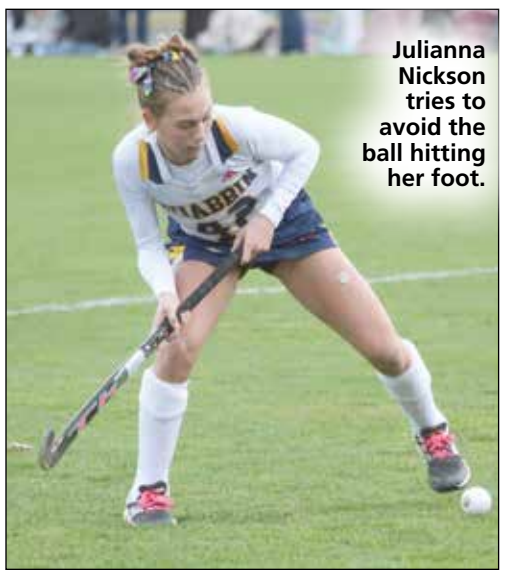
Ellie Poulin gets low as she drags the ball up the field.

Panthers head for quarterfinals

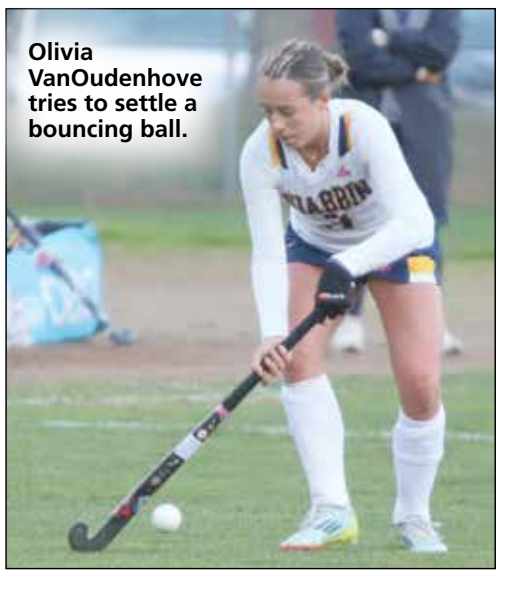
BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team scored a pair of wins to start the Division 4 State Tournament. Quabbin defeated Southwick of Western Mass. 6-1 to start the tournament, then last Monday afternoon, the Panthers hosted another Central Mass. school, Nipmuc, and scored a 2-0 win. Quabbin scored both goals in the second half to beat Nipmuc in the Round of 16. Freshman Olivia VanOudenhove scored the first goal assisted by Senior Captain Makenzie Casey five minutes into the third quarter. Quabbin scored their second goal just 30 seconds into the fourth quarter - scored by Casey and assisted by VanOudenhove. Quabbin Senior goalie Aubrey Thorpe had 11 saves to preserve the shutout. The Panthers were scheduled to face Frontier Regional in the quarterfinals. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Violet Kelley brings in a pass.



Julianna Nickson tries to avoid the ball hitting her foot.



Olivia VanOudenhove tries to settle a bouncing ball.

Silver anniversary for Orioles, Pioneers

PALMER – Next Thursday, on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26, Pathfinder Tech will take the football field at Legion Field to matchup with Belchertown on Thanksgiving for the 25th time.

Belchertown does not hold a huge advantage, winning last year to go up 14-10 in the rivalry.

In last year's game, on a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.

This year, Belchertown goes into the game holding a huge advantage over Pathfinder from a record standpoint, as well as a possible mental advantage.

Belchertown had a 7-1 regular season, a phenomenal mark for the Orioles this year. Their second loss game against Norwell in the state tournament.

Pathfinder, despite a respectable 6-4 record, suffered a loss against Belchertown already this year in conference action, and they did not qualify for the state tournament this year.

Momentum sometimes is only as good as your previous matchup or previous week. Belchertown defeated Ware

Please see PIONEERS, page 10

BELCHERTOWN VS. PATHFINDER

Belchertown leads series 14-10

2025:	Belchertown	17-14
2024:	Pathfinder	20-14
2023:	Belchertown	61-14
2022:	Pathfinder	47-22
2021:	Belchertown	44-8
2020: NO GAME - COVID		
2019:	Belchertown	44-7
2018:	Belchertown	46-6
2017:	Belchertown	39-0
2016:	Belchertown	30-0
2015:	Pathfinder	16-0
2014:	Pathfinder	3-0
2013:	Pathfinder	30-6
2012:	Pathfinder	30-8
2011:	Belchertown	29-0
2010:	Belchertown	9-7
2009:	Belchertown	41-6
2008:	Pathfinder	15-13
2007:	Pathfinder	34-8
2006:	Belchertown	8-6
2005:	Belchertown	25-0
2004:	Pathfinder	28-0
2003:	Belchertown	27-6
2002:	Belchertown	9-6
2001:	Pathfinder	48-24

Belchertown Football (8-2)

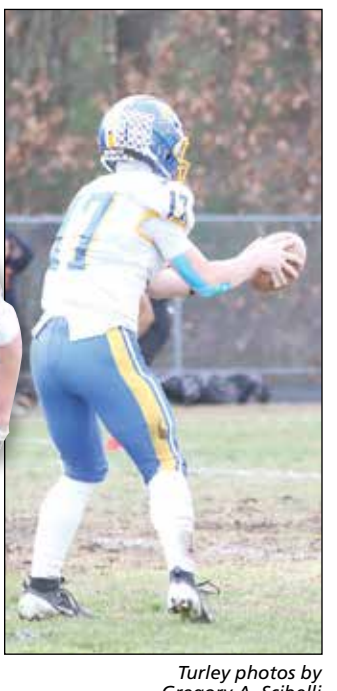
Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Belchertown 53, Ludlow 0
Friday, Oct. 2 – Belchertown 37, Monument Mountain 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Belchertown 48, Smith Vocational 12
Friday, Oct. 16 – Worcester North 35, Belchertown 28
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Belchertown 54,
McCann Technical 0
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 5 State Tournament
First Round – Norwell 51, Belchertown 6
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Pathfinder 9 a.m.

Pathfinder Football (6-4)

Friday, Sept. 11 – Pathfinder 43, Ludlow 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Pathfinder 56, Commerce 0
Friday, Sept. 25 – Franklin Tech 48, Pathfinder 20
Thursday, Oct. 1 – Pathfinder 31, Smith Vocational 16
Thursday, Oct. 8 – South Hadley 34, Pathfinder 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Pathfinder 41, McCann Technical 8
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Friday, Oct. 30 – Pathfinder 34, Monument Mountain 6
Friday, Nov. 6 – Pathfinder 28, Frontier 21
Friday, Nov. 13 – Keefe Technical 41, Pathfinder 7
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Belchertown 9 a.m.



Jarett Skowyra takes the return toward the right sideline.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.