

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Students and staff recognized at SC meeting

By Ryan Drago  
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WARE – The School Committee welcomed dozens of students and parents to a special presentation recognizing both students and staff.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Lovato was pleased to witness this celebration of achievements and academic success of elementary, junior high and high school students. This celebration reminded Lovato of how wonderful this school district is and why it motivates him to be a part of it.

“It has been wonderful since I’ve been here,” Lovato said at the Sept. 25 meeting. “Students build a lot of character.”

These awards were handed out in the school library with many loved ones and students in attendance. School Committee Chair Brian Winslow thanked the parents for attending and told all the students to “keep up the good work.”

Students were recognized for attendance and academic success in all school subjects.

### Van pool contract

The School Committee had a discussion with Lovato and Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman regarding a three-year van pool contract.

As of now, with the 2024-2025 school year underway,

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The Ware Fire Department held an open house last Saturday in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

### Fire Department hosts open house to promote fire safety

WARE – The Ware Fire Department hosted an open house in recognition of Fire Prevention Week this past Saturday, with firefighters giving tours of the station and apparatus, as well as demonstrating how their gear and equipment works.

People were able to get a look into the daily schedule of a firefighter; while also learning about ways they can prevent house fires. This includes testing and replacing smoke detectors, and making sure batteries are changed twice a year.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, visit the National Fire Protection Association’s website, [www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week](http://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week).



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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
Alessia, age 2, explores the aerial lift with her father and Lieutenant David Gambino at Ware Fire Department’s open house last Saturday.

## New staff welcomed at School Committee meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff introduced new Warren Community Elementary School Principal Eugene Rich at the recent Quaboag Regional School Committee meeting.

Rich has “been doing a fantastic job,” in his position, Duff said at the Sept. 23 meeting.

Duff credited the partnership between both Rich and West Brookfield Elementary School Principal Melissa Provost for preparing the school district’s new staff for the start of the school year.

Rich introduced Nancy Lipinski, the new Librarian/Media Specialist at the elementary schools.

“She’s a great addition to our community,” Rich said.

Provost introduced Laura Castle, a new paraprofessional in the school’s SOAR program.

“She is remarkable...she is already off to a great start,” she said.

Duff said the preschool also has a new paraprofessional, Kelly Hayes, who is a graduate of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. He said she previously worked at Brookfield Elementary School.

Duff said the school district has also hired a new Finance Director, Nicole Goncalves. He said Goncalves had previously worked for both Country Bank and TMS, Inc.

“Nikki has a strong background in accounting,” he said.

The Payroll Specialist position has been filled by Lorena Prokop, a former employee of the Town of Warren. He said Prokop has been the Payroll Specialist for the Spencer/East Brookfield Regional School District and the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

“We are probably in one of the best positions we’ve been in in a long time in terms of those two positions,” he said. “We’re very lucky to have gotten those two individuals for those key roles in the central office.”

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## Gramarossa honored at QHSUA’s 10-year anniversary celebration

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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MONSON – The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance marked two milestones this year – the 10 year anniversary of the alliance’s formation and the retirement of longtime member Gail Gramarossa.

“We have a lot to celebrate,” Rebecca Edwards, Drug Free Communities Grant Director, said at a luncheon held in Memorial Hall to honor Gramarossa and celebrate the anniversary last Friday afternoon.

Gramarossa served as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director for QHSUA, just two of the many roles she has taken on since she first became involved with substance use prevention dating back to 1996 when she became managing director of STOP (Stop Teenage Addiction to Tobacco).

Gramarossa has also been



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

State Rep. Aaron Saunders (left) presents a citation to Gail Gramarossa along with state Sen. Jake Oliveira (right). Gramarossa recently retired from her role as the Prevention and Community Health Director for the town of Ware as well as the Program Director of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance.

active serving her hometown community of Belchertown, serving on the Board of Health for six terms from 1998 until 2016 and the Select Board from 2019-2022.

Currently, Gramarossa serves on the Belchertown Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee.

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Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The team from Baystate Wing Hospital were the winners of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce golf outing at Hardwick Crossing Country Club. The team consisted of Brian Owczarski, Logan Sullivan, John Mancini and Edward Kosla.

## Hardwick Crossing hosts QHMA Golf Outing

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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HARDWICK – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted a fun golf tournament at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club last Thursday.

For nearly five decades, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce has been bringing together the region’s businesses and helping deliver economic growth for its members. The Chamber is committed more than

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## Knights host Tootsie Roll Drive this Saturday

WARE – The Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183 is hosting its annual Tootsie Roll Drive this Saturday, Oct. 12 with a voluntary toll road fundraiser at various intersections along Main Street from 8 a.m.-noon.

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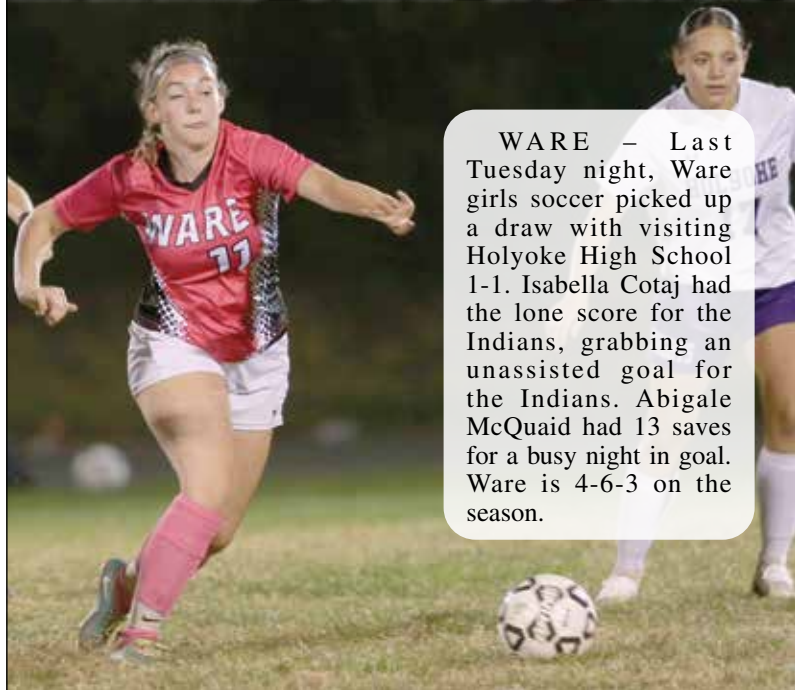
# SPORTS

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## Indians earn tie with Holyoke



**WARE** – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls soccer picked up a draw with visiting Holyoke High School 1-1. Isabella Cotaj had the lone score for the Indians, grabbing an unassisted goal for the Indians. Abigale McQuaid had 13 saves for a busy night in goal. Ware is 4-6-3 on the season.



Reese McKeever sends a pass away.



Olivia DiRienzo tries to settle the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Madisyn Slattery attempts to get between a pair of defenders.



Shelby Hogan looks to center the ball.



Kylee Slattery tries to maneuver around an opponent.



Kyla Campbell winds up for a clearing kick.

## Cougars offense paces victory over Tantasqua

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**WARREN**—A year ago, the Quaboag field hockey team won both games that they played against Southern Worcester County League rival Tantasqua Regional.

The Lady Cougars winning streak continued against the Lady Warriors following a 4-1 home win on a beautiful fall afternoon, last Friday.

“This is our third win in a row against Tantasqua and it just feels awesome because we’re such a young team this year,” said Quaboag senior tri-captain Katelynn Swistak. “Tantasqua is probably one of our biggest rivals, and it has been an up and down series against them during the six years that I’ve been playing for the varsity field hockey team.”

The Lady Cougars (5-4) posted a 3-1 win over the Lady Warriors in their first meeting last year. They also defeated them, 4-0, in a home game at the end of the season.

The Lady Warriors swept the season series in 2021 and 2022.

Last Friday’s contest was the fourth game of the week for Quaboag and they went 2-2. They began last week with a 10-1 non-league home win versus Burncoat before losing to SWCL rivals Auburn and Northbridge.

“We started off the week with a good win against Burncoat and we closed it with a win against Tantasqua,” said John O’Neill, who’s been coaching the Quaboag varsity field hockey team since 1982. “We played well against both Auburn and Northbridge, but they’re stronger teams than us.

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Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Brea Sauriol makes a great block to stop her opponent's progress.

## Ware scores 21 unanswered points to get win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**WARE**—Prior to officially becoming the principal at Ware High School on July 1, Derek Morrison had held the same position at Greenfield High School for the past three years. After watching the Indians beat the Green Wave on the gridiron three times, Morrison was finally on the winning side of the Intercounty North rivalry series last Friday night.

Greenfield jumped out to a 14-0 lead less than four minutes into the league opener. Ware battled back with three rushing touchdowns and a stout defensive effort, as Morrison and the Indians faithful supporters watched the Indians pull out an exciting 21-14 come-from-behind victory at Veterans’ Field in Ware.

“It’s a little bittersweet for me, but it’s a joyous moment for our football team,” Morrison said.

“We’ve sustained a lot of injuries so far this season, but these kids have been working very hard. The coaching staff has done a very good job of keeping them together. We beat a very tough Greenfield team tonight. Those players also work very hard and they’re good kids. The Greenfield head coach (Mike Kuchieski) is a wonderful guy. I wish them the best of luck the rest of the season.”

Following the game, Morrison, who played high school football in Albany, New York, was able to catch up with coach Kuchieski and a couple of the Green Wave players. He also congratulated the Ware players and the coaching staff.

“We’re building a very good relationship with Mr. Morrison,” said Ware senior Nathan Harmon. “It was nice to give him a victory against his old school.”

During the school day, Morrison spends a lot of time with Indians football coach Mike Fazio, who’s the assistant principle. Scott



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Jadrien Berthiaume takes the handoff from quarterback Brady Dyer.

Slattery, who’s been an assistant football coach at Ware High School for many years, is the associate principle.

“We’re really happy that Mr. Morrison is the new principle at Ware High School,” Fazio said.

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Brady Dyer looks to pass on the run.



Anthony Arventos scrambles around looking to pass.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

## Pathfinder falls to SICS

**PALMER** – Last Saturday morning, the Pathfinder Tech suffered a 40-30 loss against Springfield International Charter School. The Pioneers put up their best offensive performance of the year. Unfortunately, the Pioneers fell behind 12-0 in the first quarter. The Pioneers would outscore the Cybercats in the final three quarters, but could not make up the early deficit. Pathfinder drops to 0-4 on the season. The Pioneers face Monument Mountain on the road this Friday night at 7 p.m.

## Pathfinder handles Putnam

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**SPRINGFIELD**—Despite playing only two home matches during the first month of the regular season, the Pathfinder Tech boys’ soccer team entered October with a 6-2 overall record.

The Pioneers road journey continued as they defeated the Putnam Voc./Tech Beavers, 5-1 at Forest Park in Springfield last Tuesday afternoon.

“We haven’t played Putnam in a few years, so we really didn’t know what to expect coming here,” said Pathfinder Tech head coach Dave Wilson. “This is a

very good win for us. We didn’t suffer any more injuries or get any yellow cards.”

The Pioneers only two losses have come on the road against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, and Springfield International Charter School. The final score in both of their matches were 3-1.

Senior Ethan DeBettencourt, who’s normally a starting defender, didn’t play in the Pioneers first meeting on the soccer pitch against the Beavers since the start of the 2019 regular season because of an injury.

“Ethan is our start-

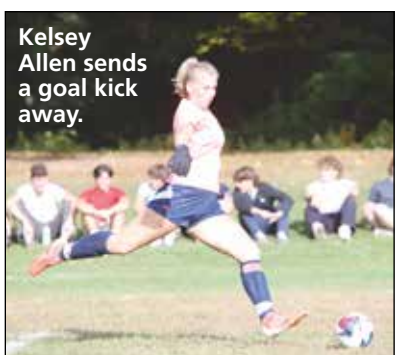
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## Big win for Panthers as they inch toward .500



Elizabeth Matheson gets the pass away.



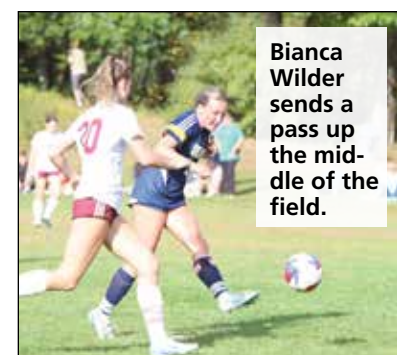
Kelsey Allen sends a goal kick away.



Elizabeth Matheson blocks the ball.



Alley Majoy runs into pressure.



Bianca Wilder sends a pass up the middle of the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Dustyn Cook makes the reception.