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These students had their new backpacks ready to start the school year.



Students were all smiles on the first day of school at St. Aloysius Catholic School on Aug. 27.

School is back in session

HARDWICK – Students arrived at St. Aloysius Catholic School on Aug. 27 to start the 2026-2027 school year. This is also the school's 11th academic year, after it was established

in a vacant school building located at 52 Church St., in Gilbertville. St. Aloysius Catholic School has grown to offer a private, faith-based education to students in preschool to grade eight.

For more information about the school, visit its website, staloysiuscs.com or Facebook page, or call 413-477-1268 Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m.-3 p.m.



Submitted Photos

Students were eager to return to school after summer vacation.



Parents dropped their students off for the start of the 2026-2027 school year at St. Aloysius Catholic School.

Selectmen discuss proposed Right to Farm bylaw

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen had discussions with several departments regarding final drafts for proposed bylaws.

Thibodeau said many complaints come about from abutting neighbors of the farms who may not like the noise, odor or the equipment that comes from farming operations. With the bylaw, purchasers of abutting land near a farm would be notified.

The state drafted the Right to Farm bylaw as a measure of protection for farmers to avoid nuisance lawsuits related to these complaints.

If passed, this bylaw would protect farms currently in operation. The extent of operations for new farms would be limited.

“The zoning laws cannot be written to negatively affect an operational farm that’s in existence,” Thibodeau said.

The final draft of the bylaw will be recommended by the Board of Selectmen before going to town meeting for a vote. The final draft would also be reviewed by town counsel.

The board tabled the Right to Farm bylaw discussion until the Board of Health can present a final draft.

Thibodeau said the Use of Public Ways and Spaces and Sidewalk bylaw involves the obstruction of sidewalks.

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“
THE ZONING LAWS CANNOT BE WRITTEN TO NEGATIVELY AFFECT AN OPERATIONAL FARM THAT’S IN EXISTENCE.”

DANIEL THIBODEAU

During the Sept. 3 meeting, the Selectmen heard from representatives of the Board of Health and the Cemetery Commission regarding proposed bylaws including the Use of Public Ways and Spaces and Sidewalk and Right to Farm.

Chair of the Board of Health, Daniel Thibodeau, presented research he conducted that involves Right to Farm communities.

The Right to Farm bylaw is written to protect the rights of farmers from urban or urbanization of the community.

Pathfinder Technical welcomes new principal

By Marcelo Gusmão
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PALMER – As Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School reopens for the new year, the community welcomed Principal Jay Taylor to the staff.

Taylor has a diverse background in education, which has involved working in multiple roles as both a teacher and an administrator. He described himself as feeling honored and excited to be joining Pathfinder Tech.

“Each role taught me something different and helped shape who I am as

school leader,” Taylor said.

This week, Taylor is coming off of the late-week Professional Development ahead of students arriving at Pathfinder this past Monday. This served as Taylor’s opportunity to introduce himself to the staff, and discuss all the opportunities the school has to offer and why

he loves technical vocational education.

“People see relevance in their learning,” Taylor said. “Schools like Pathfinder Tech have the opportunity to change the trajectory of people’s lives.”

“Above all I have an uncompromising dedication to students. What works best

for students is the compass I bring to instructional leadership,” Taylor said. “My leadership style is being visible, being present, interacting with students and being available in hallways. My goal is to be the first person

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Submitted Photo
Principal Jay Taylor

CANDLEPIN LEAGUE NEWS

Roll-A-Way hosts annual 9-Pin event

By Ryan Drago
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WARE – Roll-A-Way Lanes hosted a tournament this past weekend, which helped support the charity Candlepins for Cancer.

This was the second time the candlepin bowling center has hosted a “9-Pin” bowling tournament where over 30 bowlers across Massachusetts participated. A portion of the entry fees went towards Candlepins for Cancer, a charity that raises money for bowling families going through cancer treatments.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Left to right stands Greg Gouillart and Paul Grant representing Candlepin Bowling Network and Candlepins for Cancer, and Dan Josefiak of Roll-A-Way Lanes in Ware.

Hosting the tournament was Candlepin Bowling Network announcers Paul Grant and Greg Gouillart.

During pre-tournament announcements Grant talked

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FALL Craft & Food Festival

Annual event benefits restoration of historic building

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Vineyard & Winery hosted its annual Fall Craft & Food Festival this past weekend featuring more than 60 local crafters and vendors.

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Turley Photo
by Camren Robertson
Festive fall decorations were crafted from reclaimed wood by WoodBuilderBob.



SPORTS

Indians looking for deeper run in 2026

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Entering the 2026 high school soccer campaign, Ware girls’ varsity coach Morgan Toelken is hoping that his squad can qualify for the Division 5 state tournament for the second consecutive year.

The Lady Indians other team goals are to compete for a league title and qualify for the Western Mass. Class D tournament.

“Our top two goals are to compete for a league title and qualify for the state tournament,” said Toelken during a recent interview. “We would also like to qualify for the Western Mass. tournament. I think the goals are attainable for this group of players.”

Ware, who are members of the Pioneer South Division, finished with a 7-10-3 overall record a year ago. After losing to Hopkins Academy in the Western Mass. Class D quarterfinals, the Lady Indians defeated the Codman Academy Charter School

of Dorchester, 4-0, in a Division 5 preliminary round home match. They then lost at Whitinsville Christian in the round of 32.

The three players who graduated from last year’s squad are Olivia DiRienzo, Isabella Cotaj, and Maddy Slattery. Cotaj scored a team-high 13 goals last season.

One of the Lady Indians returning starters is senior goalie Emily Jones, who recorded more than 200 saves as a junior.

The anchors of the Ware defensive unit is senior Reaghan Jacobs and junior Amelia Orszulak, who’s also an outstanding basketball player.

“Amelia is an amazing two-sport athlete. She and Reaghan will be the anchors of our defensive unit,” Toelken said. “I’m also looking for good things from Emily Jones, who’s our returning goalie.”

The other two seniors listed on the Lady Indians varsity roster is Mila Markham, who’s a defender, and Reese

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Committee announces next Hall induction

BARRE – Tickets for the 11th Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Induction are now available for the Nov. 7 ceremony to be held at Teresa’s Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the induction ceremony.

Seven individuals and a pair of championship teams will be honored. Dating back to the first induction in 2002, this will bring the total number of individual inductees to 72 in addition to 11 teams.

The induction class includes Louis Panaccione ’75, Eugene Rich ’95,

Matthew Brunelle ’08, Stephany Halfrey ’15, Thaddeus J. Gumula Contributor and Athletic Director, Coach Cheryl Adams, Coach Debra Spinelli, 1979 Field Hockey Team and 1998-99 Boys Varsity Basketball Team.

Tickets are \$50 and may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Chairman Ted Gumula at (413) 348-0414 or through the mail by contacting: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 874 Barre, MA 01005. The last date to purchase tickets will be Oct. 23. All checks must be payable to Quabbin Regional School District.



Taylor Allen is pressured by an opponent.



Kayleigh Peters is closely pressured.



Abigail Carmody gets ready to make a big kick.

Pathfinder girls soccer gets going

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer had its preseason scrimmage, taking on cross-town rival Palmer High School. The two teams are both gearing up for the regular season.

Pathfinder was set to open the season on Thursday, Sept. 10, taking on Lee at home. The Pioneers are on the road Monday afternoon, Sept. 14 at Commerce at 4 p.m.



Ellyana LaValley keeps play moving up the field.



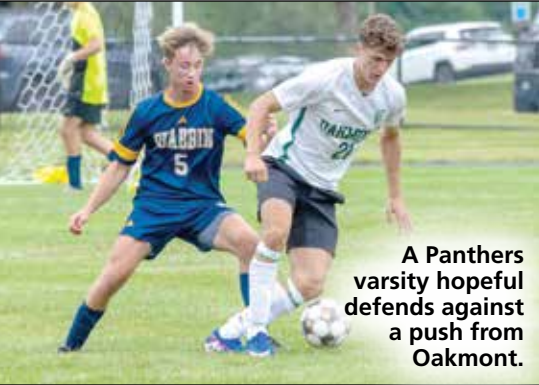
Aubrey Ortiz sends the goal kick away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LEFT: Eudyn Wood takes a free kick.



The Panthers go for the header.



A Panthers varsity hopeful defends against a push from Oakmont.



Quabbin moves the ball upfield with Oakmont players in pursuit.

ABOVE: Quabbin goes for possession in Oakmont’s end.

RIGHT: Quabbin was in preseason action last week with Oakmont.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Panthers set for regular season

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer team tuned up for the regular season by hosting Oakmont last Thursday afternoon. The Panthers were scheduled to open the regular season earlier this week on the road at Uxbridge. They will remain on the road on Sept. 10 against West Boylston at 3:30 p.m. and stay on the road for three more games. Their first game is not until Thursday, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. against Clinton.