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The Joy of Reading



Eagle Hill School teacher Amanda Damon used American Sign Language while reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle at the Gilbertville Public Library last Friday.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Eagle Hill School hosts story times with sign language

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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HARDWICK – Eagle Hill School teachers Amanda Damon and Jane Alwis, along with several students, visited the Gilbertville Public Library for a Joy of Reading story time, inspired by the late Dolly Parton.

Parton was an advocate for early literacy, and formed the Imagination Library over 30 years ago, a nonprofit organization that gives free books to

children from birth to age 5 in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia and Ireland.

According to the Imagination Library website, Parton said she formed the organization to give all children the tools they need to pursue their dreams, just like she did.

"The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world," Parton said.

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Detective receives commendation

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – Police Chief Shawn Crevier presented Detective Ryan Downing with a commendation at the Selectboard meeting, to recognize his exemplary work and dedication to the position.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, Crevier said, "Your recent investigations have set a new standard for professionalism and effectiveness within our department. Your attention to detail, perseverance and analytical skills were instrumental in resolving the cases you have been handling."

Crevier said this includes the recent case involving Angel Ramos, who received a 20-25 year prison sentence

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Submitted Photo

Detective Ryan Downing received a commendation from Police Chief Shawn Crevier and the Selectboard at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Capital Planning Committee review

Requests prioritized

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Capital Planning Committee started

the process of reviewing and prioritizing departmental requests for capital projects to potentially be placed on the warrant of the Nov. 16 special town meeting.

The town's definition of a capital project is something that has an expected lifespan of at least three

years and costs no less than \$25,000. Anything below that, according to committee member Ken Willette, should be accounted for in the yearly operational budget.

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SC honors longtime member

By Paula Ouimette
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WARREN – The Quabog Regional School Committee recognized longtime member Andrew Schwenker, who served for 17 years, 10 of which as the chair.

At the Sept. 21 meeting, Schwenker talked about his decision to serve on School Committee back in 2009. He estimated that he attended about 240 School Committee meetings and close to 1,000 subcommittee meetings.

He said one of the best things he accomplished during his time on the School Committee happened when he attended a youth soccer

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Pathfinder celebrates expansion with ribbon cutting



Submitted Photo

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School leaders celebrated a major accomplishment with local officials.

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School celebrated a major milestone, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the district's new extension campus.

On Sept. 18, local officials joined school leaders at the ribbon cutting for Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring, the district's new extension campus located at 57 South Main St.

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Troy Jurczyk gets the snap.

SPRINGFIELD – An onside kick late in the second quarter helped Ware build a 22-6 league, and the Indians staved off a comeback from SICS to pick up its first win of this season 22-20 last Thursday night. Ware improved to 1-2 on the season after suffering a tough pair of losses in Weeks 1 and 2. Coming up, the Indians will enter their league schedule, facing Franklin Tech this Friday night, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.



Hunter Briand keeps an opponent away from his quarterback.



The Ware defense goes for the ball.



Ian Hogan pushes an opponent away.



Zachary Safford makes a block.



Dalton Marquis holds tight to the ball while being taken down.

Panthers field hockey continues to win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — During her three-plus decades at the helm of the Quabbin Regional varsity field hockey program, Shelly Zalneraitis has coached countless talented players. None of Zalneraitis' players had reached 100 career points (goals and assists) prior to this season. Senior co-captain Makenzie Casey entered last Monday's home contest against Narragansett Regional with 96 career points. She came agonizingly close to reaching the elite milestone in front of her home supporters. Casey recorded her second hat trick of the 2026 regular season, which helped the Lady Panthers remain undefeated with a

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Turley photo by Jeffrey Haynes
Kailynn Schuster gains a step in the race for the ball.

Pioneers take down Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— Three of the previous four meetings between the Pathfinder Tech and Ware boys' soccer teams ended in draws. Unlike their recent clashes, the first meeting of the 2026 campaign between the Bi-County East foes was far less suspenseful. The Pathfinder Tech Pioneers held a 7-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 10-0 victory over the Ware Indians on a cool night at Veteran's Field in Ware, last Tuesday. "We're hoping to challenge for the league title this year, so this is a very big-league win for us," said Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson. "Winning the league title is our first goal. We also want to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments." Pathfinder Tech entered this week's action with a 5-1-1 overall record and a 3-0-1 mark against league opponents. The last time they

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LEFT: Joseph Cook steals himself as he makes the block.



RIGHT: Greyson Mullins battles for possession.

Brent Benoit fends off the opponent as he works the ball upfield.



Matthew Labrousse boots the ball forward.



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau makes a diving effort to stop the shot.

Quabbin boys fall to Clinton

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer was defeated for just the second time this season, losing to Clinton 4-0.

The Panthers are 3-2-1 on the season, having shown some good offense in their first three wins this year. Coming up, the Panthers will travel out to Tahanto

Regional High School on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. They are back home on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 p.m. against West Boylston.