

# WARE RIVER NEWS



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## Kindergarteners celebrate 100 days of school

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – Students at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School celebrated 100 days of school on Thursday, Feb. 1. Classes like Moira Balicki's kindergarten class celebrated by

doing a variety of activities that count to 100. The class stacked cups, made shapes with blocks, painted 100 dots, made fingerprints and did 10 different physical exercises to add up to 100.

Kindergartener Kailyn

Traynham, said she liked to do the activities and she doesn't think 100 is a big number at all. "I think 100 is small because there are a lot of numbers in the middle," Traynham said.

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Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau  
Lillian Jurczyk and Tristan Supka make 100 finger prints by making 10 groups of 10 as part of the celebration of 100 days of school at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School last week.

## American Legion Post 123 puts on spaghetti supper

By Laurretta R. St. George-Sorel  
Correspondent

WARE – American Legion Post 123 in Ware sponsored its annual spaghetti and meatball supper last Saturday at their headquarters at 45 Maple Street in Ware.

Post Commander John Goulette and Sergeant at Arms William McCrystal were pleased with the turnout at the event, which featured spaghetti and meatballs,

salad, rolls, a beverage and dessert. Two seatings were offered, one at 5 p.m. and a second at 6:30 p.m. Take-out meals were also available.

Goulette said that the funds raised from the event would go toward supporting veteran and civic community projects.

Sunflower Catering owners Deb Ducharme and C.J. Masse supervised the crew of kitchen workers preparing the meals.



Turley Publications correspondent photos by Laurretta R. St. George-Sorel  
The kitchen crew at the American Legion Post 123 spaghetti supper pauses for a photo. Left to right are Cheryl Dowell, Deb Ducharme, Debbie Lagrant, C.J. Masse, and Michele Beaugard. Members of the Women's Auxiliary assisted the catering business, Sunflower Catering, owned by Masse and Ducharme, with food preparation. Please see more photos on page 7.

## Motor vehicle homicide will be charged in July fatality

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – James Avila, 40, of Gilbertville, will be charged on Feb. 15 in the death of a Hardwick man that Avila allegedly struck with the garbage truck he was driving last July on Church Street.

Avila will be arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court on a charge of motor vehicle homicide by negligent operation of a motor vehicle. Avila was driving the truck that struck and killed Stephen F. Peters, 62.

On the day of the accident, July 20, 2017, Peters was "working in his yard [in preparation for new tenants] on Church Street when the garbage truck driver lost control of the vehicle," according to the Northwest District attorney's office.



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau  
Stephen Peters died after being struck by a LeBoeuf garbage truck on July 20, 2017. James Avila, the driver of the truck, will be charged with motor vehicle homicide by negligent operation and is going to be arraigned on Feb. 15, 2018.

Numerous callers reported the

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## Scouts hold pancake breakfast

By Laurretta R. St. George-Sorel  
Correspondent

WARE – Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and their leaders greeted friends and family members at the first Scout Sunday breakfast following the 10 o'clock Mass at All Saints Church in Ware last Sunday.

Ware Boy Scout Troop 281 offered a menu that included pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Take-out meals were also available, keeping the kitchen workers very busy. More than 100 meals were served.

Ware Boy Scout Troop 281 is open to boys who are 11 years of age or older. Scoutmaster Dan Flynn may be reached at 413-267-5886 or online at scoutdad281@charter.net. This group is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council # 183.

According to Flynn, this summer Troop 281 will travel to Washington, D.C. to take part in a citizens' history tour. The scouts voted to forego their usual summer



Turley Publications correspondent photo by Laurretta St. George-Sorel  
Barbara and Donald Bullock enjoy the breakfast served at Scout Sunday in the hall of All Saints Church on North Street in Ware. A large crowd turned out for the event, which included pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Take-out meals were also available.

camping trip in favor of the history tour. Flynn said that some money

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## State, towns look to keep planning on track

Advocates stress importance of east-west link

By Douglas Farmer  
Staff Writer

REGION — State and local leaders from the region are encouraged that the study of east-west passenger train service is included in the draft of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's

2018 State Rail Plan. But they said at public forums last week in Worcester and Springfield they hope that such research, and the potential of a passenger stop in Palmer, continues to build up steam.

And to do so, the region will need to speak up, they said.

The State Rail Plan, which addresses both investment and infrastructure for passenger and freight, breaks proposals down into tiers: Tier one, which is a priority for implementation; tier two, which warrants further study; and tier three, which are not recommended

for further action due to inconclusive information on costs and benefits.

Tier one passenger projects, laid out by Scott Hamway, manager of transit plans, at a meeting held Monday, Jan. 29 at the Worcester Regional Transit Authority, include New Haven to Springfield service; Springfield to Greenfield service; South Station expansion (the recipient of a large federal grant); the improvement of Tower 1 at South Station; and South Coast Rail Stoughton Electric. Tier two freight projects include the 286K network

not previously completed; the Fall River Secondary Extension to the Rhode Island border; and projects along the Ware River Secondary.

The lone tier two passenger project is the Western Massachusetts to Boston service study. Tier two freight projects include the Otis

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Turley Publications staff photo by Douglas Farmer

Scott Hamway, manager of transit planning for MassDOT, responds to a question from state Sen. Anne Gobi in Worcester last week.



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# SPORTS

## Indians power past Rams

First win in Granby in eight-plus years

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY - The last time that the Ware boys varsity basketball team celebrated a victory against Granby, the players listed on this year's Indians varsity roster were in elementary school.

With the help of four double-digit scorers, the Indians ended their long losing streak versus the Rams with a 69-31 victory at Sullivan Gymnasium, last Saturday afternoon.

"It has been forever since we've beaten Granby in boys basketball," said Ware head coach Gene Rich. "Granby has always had a solid basketball program and coach (Tim) Sheehan is a great coach. It's a very important win for us."

The last time that the Indians defeated the Rams on the hardwood was a 73-57 victory, which was also played at Sullivan Gymnasium, on Dec. 18, 2009.

The Indians, who snapped a two-game losing streak, improved their overall record to 12-4. They were also sitting in first place in the Bi-County West standings with a 4-0 mark.

"We have four league games remaining and we still have a lot of work to do," Rich said. "The last time that we won the league title was in 2001. We only have a couple of seniors, so we should be a very good team again next year. It's an



Robert Viera (1) goes up for a shot in the paint. Photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

awesome feeling."

Junior center Robert Viera led the way offensively for the visiting team by scoring 13 of his team-high 15 points during the second half. Junior forward Chris Dilone scored seven points in each half for a total of 14 points. Junior guard Devin Slattery finished with 13 points and freshman center Keith Smith scored 12 points off the bench. Senior guard Ryan Johnson added eight points.

The only other Ware senior is Andrew Blais, who played most of the fourth quarter, but he didn't score any points.

The Rams (4-9, 0-4), who have a bunch of first-year varsity players, were led by senior guard Ryan Sheehan with a game-high 16 points.

Sheehan, who's a second-year varsity player, has scored more than 300 points so far this season. He also made three 3-pointers in the first meeting of the regular season against Ware giving him 50 for the season.

Junior guard's Connor Gaughan and Kyle Murdock both scored five points for the home team.

The contest was fairly close during the first eight minutes.

The Indians, who never trailed, took a 13-7 lead during the final seconds of the first quarter when Smith knocked home a 3-pointer from the left corner. Smith began the second quarter with an inside hoop.

The Rams would then close the

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Staff photos by Dave Forbes  
Aidyn Welsh (12) shoots a 3-pointer from the corner.



Lexie Orszulak (4) goes up for a layup.

## Ware defense shuts down Easthampton

By Dave Forbes  
dforbes@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON - After a rough couple of games, the Ware girls basketball team bounced back with a big performance on the road at Easthampton.

Ware came out with a stifling defense as they grounded the Eagles offense to just two points in the first half as the Lady Indians cruised to a 55-21 victory.

While the Ware defense silenced Easthampton, the Lady Indians offense was in high gear as they put up 30 points in the first half with 14 in the first

quarter and 16 more in the second. The Ware offense continued to be strong in the second half with 15 in the third and 10 more in the fourth.

Senior Jordan Halgas led the charge on offense for the Lady Indians (11-5) with 16 points.

Lexie Orszulak finished with a new career-high as she came in double figures at 10 points. Freshman Aidyn Welsh chipped in with six, followed by five from Amelia Bonnayer, four each from Shannon Demers, Shelby Tweedie and Jackie Dugay, and two from

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Ryan Johnson (2) slips through to get a shot off.



John Soltys (3) dribbles the ball up the floor.



Chris Dilone (10) shoots a long jumper.



Devin Slattery (11) eyes the basket as he goes up for a layup.

## Pioneers battle through tough week

By Dave Forbes  
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PALMER - The Pathfinder boys basketball team had a trio of contests over the past week and came out on the short end against Smith Voke, St. Mary's and McCann Tech.

In the 63-58 loss to Smith Voke, the Vikings started off the contest with a 25-7 run to end the quarter. The Pioneers did a nice job of chipping away at the deficit over the next three quarters as the Pioneers pulled within 35-22 at

the half and 50-35 at the end of the third and made a big run to get back into the game in the fourth with a 23-13 performance before falling short.

Joe Roman knocked down three 3-pointers as he finished with 14 points for Pathfinder. Jon Lagrant also had three 3-pointers as he came up with 11 points. Tyler Bienvenue added two 3-pointers for 11 points. Wilk Matthias also finished in double figures with 10.

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## Seven area residents named to fall 2017 All-Academic Team

WESTFIELD - A total of 737 student-athletes have been honored by the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference with selection to the league's Fall 2017 All-Academic Team that was released recently by Commissioner Angela Baumann.

Student-athletes that compete in championship varsity sports offered by each of the MASCAC institutions during the Fall 2017 athletic season and have achieved a 3.20 cumulative or semester-based grade point average during the semester are eligible for selection to the Fall All-Academic Team.

Worcester State University placed the most student-athletes on the Fall 2017 MASCAC All-Academic Team with 145 total, while Westfield State University (123), Bridgewater State University (89), Massachusetts Maritime Academy (77) and Fitchburg State University (73) followed.

"The MASCAC had another successful semester as reflected by the large number of student-athletes recognized on the 2017 MASCAC Fall All-Academic Team," Baumann said. "Finding success in the classroom is equally as important as success on the field of play which our student-athletes have shown time and time again. I am extremely proud of their academic accomplishments."

The Massachusetts State

Collegiate Athletic Conference, the nation's oldest Division III men's and women's playing conference, has a rich and storied tradition of competitive success while celebrating excellence in the classroom. MASCAC member schools include Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, MCLA, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, Westfield State University and Worcester State University. Two other institutions, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Plymouth State University, are affiliate members of the conference in the sports of football and men's ice hockey, while Western Connecticut State University joined the conference as a football affiliate member in 2013.

Among those included were: Fitchburg State field hockey freshman Kaelie Hosley and Worcester State football freshman Kirby Martin, both of Barre, Bridgewater State field hockey freshman Meghan Welch and Worcester State women's cross country senior Jamie Sullivan, both of Hubbardston, Fitchburg State women's soccer sophomore Laura Hildick, of North Brookfield, and Westfield State women's soccer junior Casey Rotti, of Rutland, and MCLA women's volleyball senior Melissa Hopkins, of Ware.

## Panthers pull off win over rival Indians

By Dave Forbes  
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WARE - With the pendulum of momentum swinging back and forth like one inside a grandfather clock, rivals Palmer and Ware faced off in a classic battle between the two rival programs.

Palmer came out swinging first in this one as they jumped out to a 9-2 lead as the Panthers found their offense quickly in the opening minutes. Dan Ladue and Dylan Tenczar provided the spark on offense for the Panthers.

Ware responded in the later moments of the first quarter to even the game at 19-19 and that continued into the second quarter for the Indians as they built up a small lead. Devin Slattery, who scored nine of his team-high 13 points in the first half, connected on a couple of 3-pointers during that run. Keith Smith also found the range from outside during that time as he hit a pair from long range as he finished with 10 points.

Ware continued to hold their lead into the early stages of the second half, but the Panthers went on a strong run in the late stages of the third quarter to take a 44-41 lead heading into the final frame.

Ladue, who had four 3-pointers, for 18 points and Tenczar, who finished with a game-high 21 points, led the charge for the Panthers to retake the lead. Palmer also got contributions from Jeff



Staff photos by Dave Forbes  
Colin Doty (33) goes up for a shot in the paint.



Keith Smith (10) pushes a shot towards the basket.



Ryan Johnson (2) squeezes between two defenders as he goes up with a shot.

Pardo (seven points) and Joe Lombardi (six points) during that time.

Later in the week, the Indians dropped an 80-53 decision to Easthampton. The Indians kept the game close through the first half as the Eagles held a narrow 33-31 lead. Easthampton then put the game out of reach with a 27-9 run in the third.

Smith knocked down three 3-pointers as he finished with a team-high 13 points. Vierra was second with 12, while Doty had 11 and Dilone with 10. Slattery

helped out with five, while Johnson had two.

As the Indians head into the second half of their Bi-County West schedule Ware sits in first place with a 4-0 record. The Indians still have to face Southwick, Renaissance, Monson and Granby a second time. Ware is looking to win its first league title in 15 years.

Palmer (8-5) is also in the hunt for a Bi-County East crown. Heading into the week, the Panthers stood a 3-0, which tied them with Easthampton for first place. The two schools were scheduled to

face each other for the first time this season earlier this week. Palmer also had a home game against Hampshire set for Tuesday as they kicked off a stretch of playing four straight and five of their last six games at home. The Panthers return to action against Ludlow at 7 p.m. Thursday, followed by South Hadley on Monday, Feb. 12 and Easthampton on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Palmer then wraps up league play at Hampshire on Monday, Feb. 19 and their last game of the regular season is set for Wednesday, Feb. 21 against Southwick.