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Community comes together for hurricane victims

RT's Welding and APR join forces

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE – From Wednesday, Aug. 30 to Saturday, Sept. 2, two Ware businesses collected donations for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, which left on trucks for Texas Saturday. All Parts Racing and RT's Welding collected donations and encouraged people to donate via social media.

Working together to help get items down to victims of Hurricane Harvey, employees of RT's Welding and volunteers packaged and sorted through thousands of donations including food, water, clothes and more.

APR owner Gary Buelow said he's going down to do towing work in Texas for FEMA and decided to fill up a trailer with donations down there. Buelow said the donations were secured and overflow donations were put into another truck to be brought down.

"I'm doing this to help out people," said Buelow. "We helped in the last hurricane last year, Hurricane Matthew. A lot of people were left with nothing, going from the last storm at least we could help."

The two groups, although not cohesive at the start of the donation drive, came together to get the donations to the victims. The volunteers on one side of Ware sorted and packaged the dona-

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Turley publications staff photos by Melina Bourdeau

On Saturday, Sept. 2, volunteers helped to organize and sort through donations which filled RT's Welding's garage.

Volunteer Ann Marie St. Germain helped to sort the packaged donations which filled the bay and lift at RT's Welding.

Water and sewer rates may rise by 40 percent

Water treatment plant approved

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE – Selectmen scheduled a public hearing for Oct. 3 to discuss the potential increase in sewer and water rates. The proposed increases would be a total of 40.2 percent or \$1.75 per 500 cubic feet.

Selectmen also unanimously approved the loan resolution for the Barnes Street water treatment plant for \$5.85 million. The construction is estimated to take 18 to 24 months to complete.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley explained that the increase would initially be 21.5 percent to fund the \$205,000 capital improve program expense. Then to pay for debt payments in 2020, there would be an additional increase of 18.7 percent.

"In the packet, [Rich Protasowicki of Wright-Pierce,] said he recommends a request to increase the water and sewer rates based on the rate study done by Wright-Pierce. Bringing forward the water rates necessary to help support the borrowing for the water treatment plant that was approved by town meeting," said Beckley. "Our proposal that we put in front of you is to increase to the \$5.75 over three years just to space out the increases."

Wright-Pierce, an environmental engineering firm, was hired by the town to study water and sewer rate structures so the town would be able to set rates that let it make improvements.

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Bear visits Malboeuf Road residents

By Laurretta R. St. George-Sorel
Correspondent

WARE – On a recent warm late-summer evening, David Green, a resident of Malboeuf Road, relaxed on his porch with his dog, enjoying the peacefulness of the neighborhood as the day drew to a close. It was nearly 7:30 p.m., and the natural light was fading rapidly.

Glancing across the street, Green noticed something moving in the bushes in front of a neighbor's house, located at the corner of Malboeuf Road and Skyview Drive. Recalling that his neighbors were away on vacation, Green focused intently on the bushes. He didn't have to wait long to satisfy his curiosity. Within a few minutes, a large black bear came lumbering out of the bushes and proceeded to walk down the road, not



Turley Publications courtesy photo by David Green

A bear was recently sighted on Malboeuf Road and Skyview Drive.

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Power-wheels car show benefits Ware Family Center

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE – A three-part junior car show fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 9 in Greenville Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to benefit the Ware Family Center. Event coordinators David Powers and Linda Desjardins said they anticipate a larger turn out than last year's 25 cars.

The three parts, best in show, a drag race and a balloon derby, are for children ages 2 to 7, and their families. Powers said this year the cars are only allowed to be 12-volts and under, so the derbies will be fair.

This year there will be Princess Rapunzel from My Princess Dream Party, who is volunteering her time to attend

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Turley Publications staff photo by Eileen Kennedy

FIRST DAY BACK AFTER SUMMER

Students at Warren Community Elementary School started their first day of school on Tuesday. They all headed for the gymnasium where Principal Stephen Duff urged them to have an awesome year of learning and a wonderful first day. He also reviewed the school rules with all of the students.

Group rocks Ware with high hopes

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE – Roughly a month ago, a group of people began painting and hiding rocks throughout the town of Ware as a way of inspiring positivity through the Kindness Rock Project. Lana Harper, the Ware Rocks group founder, said she wants the group to grow in popularity.

Ware Rocks, as Harper explained, is a way of sharing positive thoughts through this scavenger-like activity.

"I learned about [the Kindness Rock Project] through a friend in Colorado," said Harper. "They were in Ware visiting. Her granddaughter said she couldn't find rocks, and I said, 'What do you mean, 'find rocks?'' and she pulled up a map online. Ware is now on the map now."

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SPORTS

Young squad still figuring things out

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – For the Ware boys soccer team, there are going to be plenty of firsts that occur throughout the season.

That is what happens when approximately half your roster is made up of seventh- and eighth-graders. Of the 16 members of the varsity squad, eight of them are in middle school for the upcoming year.

“We are going to be a very young team this season,” Ware head coach John Ward said. “To measure success this season, we are not going to be doing it in wins and losses, but in how we play. If they are making the right passes and the right plays, then I am going to be very happy with what they do. As long as we do that, and we improve from the beginning of the season to the end, then I am going to be very happy with them.”

Besides the eight middle schoolers, the team has four seniors, one junior and three freshmen that have come together over the first week of practice, and it has been a learning process.

“For some of them this is the first time that they are playing together,” Ward said. “This is also their first time working with me, so we are all still getting to know each other as a team at this point.”

As of last week, the Indians coach was still determining positions for players on the squad.

“We have a few different players that we are looking at for goalkeepers,” Ward said. “Those that do not play as goalkeepers could end up being used as defenders. We also have people that we are looking at for midfielders and forwards. It is going to be a process that we are going to have to go through.”

The Indians opened their season with a match at home against Granby on Tuesday afternoon. Their next match will take place against Hampden Charter at Bowie School in Chicopee at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8.

Indians look to put last season behind them

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – While no one associated with the 2016 Ware football team will ever forget the magical campaign, the 2017 squad cannot afford to rest on their laurels if they want a repeat performance.

Coming off a 2016 season that saw the Indians win the league title, beat neighboring rival Palmer and advance to the playoffs for the first time under the new format, it would be real easy for the 30-member Ware squad to think that success would come just as easy this season.

Veteran head coach Bill Gallagher has done all he can to dispel that notion from his players’ heads as they stand on the precipice of the new year, which starts with an independent contest at Belchertown at 7 p.m. on Friday.

“We have been reminding them that last year is over,” Gallagher said. “If they want to be successful again this season, they are going to have work hard for it. We are not going to be able to surprise teams like we did last season.”

In fact, many squads are going to see knocking off the defending champions and a playoff team from last season to be quite the feather in their proverbial cap.

“We have to realize that going in that we are going to be getting the best efforts from every other team,” Gallagher said.

On offense, the Indians have much of their offensive talent coming back from last year with the notable exceptions of graduates Fernando Montalban, who has taken his talents to Worcester State, and Jake Crevier, who will be playing at Anna Maria this fall.

For the third straight year, calling out the signals from under center or in the shotgun formation will be senior quarterback Ryan Johnson. Johnson is a versatile offensive weapon for the Indians, as he can use his arm to sling the ball around the field, along with his feet to either move around defenders and release the ball down the field to open targets or to run for large chunks of yardage.

Another multi-talented threat in the backfield is senior running back Hunter Millier. After spending his first varsity season as the quarterback, Millier was transi-



Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP/biz
After spending his first varsity season as the quarterback, senior Hunter Millier was transitioned over to a running back spot for his sophomore season.



Ryan Johnson (left) and Travis Paydos (right) will play key roles in the defensive backfield.

tioned over to a running back spot for his sophomore season. Millier is capable of running the ball for

over 100 yards a game or lining up as a wide receiver and finishing with over a 100 yards receiv-

ing in the same contest.

Another player expected to contribute out of the backfield this season is sophomore Johnny Velasquez.

“He has good size,” Gallagher said. “He is a very talented young player and I am expecting that we will see some good things out of him this season.”

Catching the passes slung by Johnson besides the aforementioned players will be a triumvirate of talented pass-catching receivers in Devin Slattery, Andy Blais and Jayson Jamilowski among others.

“I think that we are going to have a really dynamic offense again this season,” Gallagher said. “We are a team that are capable of running the ball when we need to or we can go on the attack with our passing game when we need to as well.”

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Calendars on sale through Boosters

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – Ware student-athletes that are looking for a good opportunity to cut their sports fees for the upcoming seasons will have their chance thanks to the Ware High School Athletic Booster Club.

Last year, the calendars raised \$10,400, with all of the proceeds going directly back to the athletic teams at the high school.

“We are encouraging kids to go out and sell these calendars,” Booster Club president Don Swarts said. “The more calendars that they sell, the more money the Boosters have to help finance things here in Ware. There is a huge benefit to them helping out their own causes. If they need equipment, we are the ones that are able to help fund that.”

Each student-athlete is being asked to sell at least five calendars to reach the Boosters Club goal for the year. For every five calendars sold after the first five, one credit (\$100) is earned toward that student-athletes user fees for either the fall season or toward a future 2017-2018 athletic season. If a student-athlete were to sell 15 calendars total, then they would receive two credits (\$200). Any student-athlete that sells 20 or more calendars would have not to pay user fees (\$300) for the entire season.

“There is a really good reason for these kids to go out and sell these calendars,” Swarts said. “We would love nothing more than to have a student-athlete not to have to pay any user fees for the season.”

Calendars are \$20 each and there are 43 drawings between October and June. People may win more than once.

In 2016-2017, the Booster Club was able to return \$25,800 to the school, teams and athletes. Monies raised were used for the sport banquets (\$1,150), lottery calendar winners (\$3,000), sport usage fees (\$4,300) AED units (\$5,000), league championship plaques, banners and sweatshirts (\$3,050).

In addition to the funds spent on athletes, coaches and teams benefited from the following: football sled pads (\$1,355), scoreboard repair (\$700), sports equipment purchases, pom poms, preseason tournaments and coaches clinics.

All student-athletes have the calendars to sell. Anyone interested in purchasing a calendar can also contact Swarts at 413-967-9403.

Ware girls set to have big numbers

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – Just a couple of years ago, the Ware girls soccer team was struggling with numbers.

This year, the Lady Indians are going to have very solid numbers with a total of 18 players scheduled to be selected for the varsity squad and another 18 for the junior varsity team.

“I am very happy with the number of girls that we had come out for the program,” veteran Ware head coach Gene Rich said. “The girls are excited for the season to begin. I am excited to get the new season started.”

For many of the girls on the squad, this is just going to be a continuation of the summer as approximately 20 played on the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League squad against the likes of players from Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Belchertown, Quabog and other communities.

“That is a good thing that they were able to get out and do that,” Rich said. “The more that they were playing over the summer, the better. The more touches that you can get against opponents in game situations, the better player that you will become.”

Among the leaders on the squad will be the four veteran defenders — seniors Chloe Callahan, Kaitlyn Rousseau, Shannon Dresser and Rihanna Rodriguez.

“I like all of the experience that we have on this squad,” Rich



Julia DiMarzio will be one of several players patrolling the midfield area.



Staff photos by Dave Forbes
Maraide McClure will be one of the experienced attackers on the Lady Indians this season.

“I like all of the experience that we have on this squad.”

- Gene Rich

said. “We have some really good defenders back here. I think that this is going to be one of the strengths of our team this season.”

Another player that will play an important role on the defensive side of things is goalie Abby Hayman, who got into several contests last season.

“She is fearless,” Rich said.

Young Lady Indians look to defend crown

Twenty-three players eligible to return next season

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – To say that there is a youth movement afoot with the Ware girls volleyball program is a little bit of an understatement.

After graduating six seniors from last year’s squad, 23 of the 24 members of the varsity and junior varsity teams this season will be eligible to return for at least one more season.

“We are going to be a much younger team than we have had the past couple of years,” Ware head coach Don Swarts, who will be entering into his 14th season of involvement with the program. “While we are going to be a young team, we are also going to have a very talented group of players. We have a really good group of players on this squad.”

While the team will have several new starters this season due to the departures, many of the players being called upon to step into bigger roles this year played in most matches last season.

“We do everything that we can to get the players into as many matches as we can during the year,” Swarts said. “We want them to gain experience the previous year, so that way when they are asked to step into a bigger role into the following

season it will not be as daunting a task.”

The lone senior on the squad is captain Jordan Halgas. Halgas will be stepping into one of the outside hitter roles. The outside hitter is the one who gets most of the third hits when their team is on the attack that gets most of the opportunities to finish the play off.

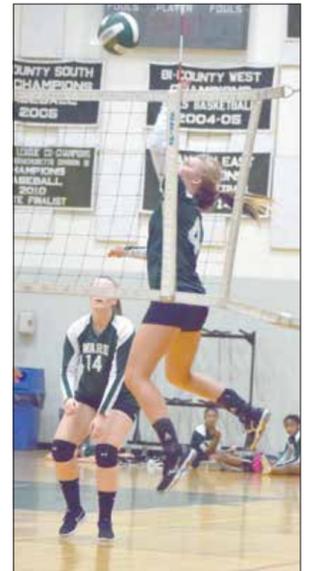
There will be four juniors on the varsity with Maddy Garutti, Jillian Barnes and Jessica Burke all coming back from last year. The lone new junior on the squad is Shelby Tweedie, who played girls soccer in previous seasons.

Ware’s new setter, who is generally the person who gets the second hit when on the attack, is Skilyn Herbert. Herbert got into many matches last season as the secondary setter.

“The setter is such an important spot on the team,” Swarts said. “They are the quarterback out on the court. They are the ones that are controlling the action on the floor. They need to be the one that gets to that second ball and puts it in the right place for the outside hitter to have the chance to finish off the play.”

The two other sophomores will be Diana Lagacy and Emma Polak, who both saw playing time at the varsity level last season.

The 10-member varsity squad is rounded out by two freshmen members — Lilly Kibbe and Norah Ayers. Kibbe, who was used in the libero role as a defensive specialist last season, has worked hard



throughout the offseason, according to Swarts.

“She has really been working hard to improve her game,” Swarts said. “She was a very good defensive player for us last season, and I think she is going to be an even more interesting player for us this season.”

Ayers also saw a bit of playing time at the varsity level last season, and should see increased playing

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