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## WATCH OUT, CROWS!

### WCES classes create scarecrows

By Colleen Montague  
Staff writer

WARREN – As the leaves begin to turn and the weather turns cooler, people begin decorating their homes for the coming autumn and winter holidays with pumpkins, lights and seasonal figures.

One such figure that features in autumn displays is the scarecrow, ranging in appearance from the classic patched clothing to Halloween-themed characters to even a crow. Many people even create their own designs for this fall staple, as part of a local challenge or just to add their own style to their autumn display.

At Warren Community Elementary School, students got

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Turley Publications staff photos by Colleen Montague  
Above, sixth-grade students support their scarecrow's head while teacher Ellen Shuemaker secures it to its support. Top photo, members of the Warren Police and Fire Departments pause for photos with the students and their scarecrow creations at WCES. At right, WCES Principal Stephen Duff and school staff plant the students' completed creations to display around the front of the school.



## A community responds to domestic violence

Awareness walk to be held Saturday

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

WARE – Many times it takes a community response to solve difficult issues, and that is certainly the case as the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force and the Ware, Hardwick and Warren Police Departments have moved forward on many fronts to help victims and work with batterers who want to find better ways of interacting with their partners.

This Saturday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m., at Veterans Square on Main Street, the WRVDVTF will hold a Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and is inviting the community to join them for a one-mile walk in downtown Ware to show support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. There will also be a motorcycle ride in support of the walk that will begin in Chicopee and end in Ware.

In 2000, the Task Force began its work as interested local officials and residents came together to figure out what could be done for domestic



violence victims. In 2006, money for an advocate became available, through the Behavioral Health Network, based in Springfield, but which has administrative and therapeutic services in Ware.

"We were putting all the efforts into different areas, such as the schools and the hospital, and it seemed as if it was all very slow moving," said Monica Moran, manager of Domestic Violence Prevention Programs for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and leader of Task Force. "But as the coalition was getting known, we found more people supporting us."

The Task Force worked with Ware Police Department members, and hammered out a way to provide

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## Rate increases approved

Sewer rate increases tabled

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – Selectmen approved a graduated water rate increase and tabled the sewer rate increases during their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3. The water rates were approved in a 4-1 vote, with selectman John Carroll voting against the increased water rates.

Department of Public Works

Director Richard Kilhart presented the proposed rate increases. With the approval of the water treatment plant for the removal of iron and manganese, which was approved at the annual Town Meeting in May, the proposed water rate increase would help pay for the \$6 million project.

According to the water and sewer rate study conducted earlier this year, the goal is to eventually increase the water rate to \$5.77 per 100 cubic feet of use. The increase

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### Final free week for Ware River News

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Sincerely,  
Patrick Turley, Publisher



## Roof of abandoned home collapses

By Melina Bourdeau  
Staff writer

WARE – Selectmen expressed concerns about an abandoned building at 33 Vigeant St. that is leaning, and may collapse into the road. On Friday, Sept. 29, the roof fell in on the building.

"There is concern that, now that the roof is collapsed, that the wall will collapse onto the road so that is why that area is blocked off," Town Manager Stuart Beckley said. "Department heads are very busy, both with the water break and Vigeant Street, but they secured both projects."

The road is currently blocked off and cement barriers were put in place for public safety.

In their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3, selectmen expressed interest acquiring the building.

"We could start taking possession now, we just need to remove the tax title attorney and tell him that's a priority," Beckley said.

Selectman Tracy Opalinski said

because of the building's location "[Community Development Block Grant] CDBG does have some money earmarked because it falls into the slum and blight area for demolition, but the town has to own it first. "The sooner the better," Selectmen Chairman Nancy Talbot.

The building is owned by Jeff Parent of HDL Construction Company, which has since changed names to New England Equities, in Ludlow. It was purchased at auction in 2011, after being seized because of unpaid taxes.

After a tree fell on the roof, a letter was sent on Sept. 25, 2013 by the town's previous building inspector Arthur Lawler. In the letter, Lawler said the building was in danger of falling, and he ordered the owner to demolish the building and remove all debris.

A non-criminal violation was issued in 2015 and another in August of 2017. According to the Anna Marques, the building

department assistant, the owner of the building has not communicated with the town of Ware.

"We will see how [Building inspector Christopher] Rice does with moving forward with the property owner, but I am not optimistic based on previous building inspectors have been working on that for several years," Beckley said. "So, while the town doesn't own it yet it is possible we will end taking it by taxes and needing to remove it."



Turley Publications staff photos by Melina Bourdeau  
Vigeant Street has been blocked off from traffic and cement blockades are in place for public safety, after the roof of an abandoned building collapsed.

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# SPORTS

## Indians strike often, fast against McCann

By Dave Forbes  
dforbes@turley.com

WARE – What word could best describe an offense that has scored over points in each of its first five games of the season?

Some might say prolific based on the number of points scored. Others would probably say explosive to describe how quickly the team can score. Both would seem to fit the bill quite nicely.

Ware did cross the 40-point mark for the fifth time this season on Friday night, and the drives they scored on did come quickly as the Indians dismantled McCann Tech, 47-0.

“I think this may be the best offense I have ever coached,” Ware head coach Bill Gallagher said. “Here we are five games into the season and we are averaging close to 50 points a game. We have been getting great blocking from our offensive line and we have a number of different players that can score for us.”

The prolific scoring and quick nature of the Indians strikes were on full display midway through the first quarter. With the game tied 0-0, Ware had just gotten the ball back on their side of the field when on the first play of the series, senior quarterback Ryan Johnson took the handoff and dashed toward the McCann Tech sideline. In the area of midfield, he looked to be bottled up, but Johnson somehow managed to emerge from a host of players and dashed down the sideline to finish off the 65-yard run to put the Indians on top 7-0 with 4:58 left in the opening quarter.

The Indians then got the ball back quickly on a fumble recovery. This time, it was senior running back Hunter Millier that scored. He broke a 65-yard run of his own to stretch the Indians lead to 14-0 with 4:40 left in the frame.

The scoring did not end there, though, for the Indians. After another



Senior quarterback Ryan Johnson (34) turns to hand the ball off.

Staff photos by Dave Forbes

er McCann turnover, the Indians used a three-play drive to go 47 yards, capped off by a Johnson to Millier 35-yard connection to extend the Ware lead to 21-0 with 3:30 left in the quarter.

Twenty-one points in 1:28 demonstrates just how quick this offense can strike.

Ware showed off another part of its offense in the second quarter — a muddle style huddle where the Indians would quickly get up to the line of scrimmage, so as not to give the opposing defense a chance to huddle up and catch their breath.

After another turnover gave the Indians possession deep in McCann territory, Johnson ran the ball up the middle a couple of times to move



Senior running back Hunter Millier (3) dashes toward the sideline before making the turn upfield on his way up the field for a first quarter touchdown.

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Ware's Jayson Jamilowski (81) falls on a loose ball.

Staff photos by Melina Boudreau

## Gallagher shares rivalry experiences

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – During his outstanding high school football career at Palmer High School, Mark Gallagher went 2-2 against archrival Ware.

Gallagher, who's currently the offensive coordinator on his father Bill's coaching staff at Ware High School, won his first game as an assistant coach at Legion Field, last Saturday afternoon.

“We lost to Ware in my freshman and sophomore years,” said Mark Gallagher following the Indians 41-6 victory in the 92nd meeting between the archrivals. “We then beat Ware in my final two years of high school. It was a great rivalry game back then and it's still the same way today.”

Gallagher, who currently lives in Wilbraham, does have a lot of family members, including his father, still living in Palmer.

“I do have a lot of great memories of playing high school foot-

ball games on this field. I also played many baseball games on this field in high school,” Gallagher said. “Legion Field is a very special place to me and I'm glad to see that they keep it in great shape.”

In his final two years of high school, Mark Gallagher, who was an outstanding wide receiver, helped Palmer post a 22-0 overall record. The Panthers defeated Hoosac Valley, 41-0 in the 1985 Western Mass, Division 2 Super Bowl game. They also beat Drury, 28-0 in the same Super Bowl game the following year.

“My high school football team went undefeated in my final two years and we also won two Super Bowl games,” Gallagher said. “Then I went 11-0 in my freshman season as a member of the Holy Cross football team.”

The College of the Holy Cross is located on Mount St. James, which offers a panoramic view of the city of Worcester. It was

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## Reaping the rewards

### Hard work paying off for Lady Indians

By Dave Forbes  
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WARE – For the last couple of years, the Ware girls soccer team has gone through its share of struggles and had a hard time putting wins together.

All of that hard work and effort has paid off this season as the Lady Indians are on the verge of qualifying for the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament for the first time in close to a decade.

“I am very proud of this group of girls,” Ware head coach Gene Rich said. “They have put in the hard work over the past couple of years and have not won many games. This year, they are finally able to get those wins that they have worked so hard for.”

The seniors are defenders Chloe Cahalan, Shannon Demers, Kaitlyn Rousseau and Rebecca Rodriguez, while the juniors are midfielder/defender Alyssa Larose, midfielder/defender Julia DiMarzio, defender Haley Radisic, forward Maraide McClure and midfielder/defender Olivia McGrail.

“One of the biggest things that I am proud of with this group is the leadership that we have gotten from them,” Rich said. “They have all done a really nice job stepping into that role this season.”

The upperclassmen accounted for two of the three Lady Indians goals in their 3-1 win over Hopkins. McClure had two points with a goal and an assist, while Larose had the other one.

“We have a lot of different girls that can help us out with scoring on this team,” Rich said. “I think we have eight or nine different girls that have scored for us this season. That is a really good thing to have.”



Senior captain Chloe Cahalan (13) chases the ball down as senior teammate Shannon Demers (11) slides toward the middle.

Staff photos by Dave Forbes



Senior Kaitlyn Rousseau (7) looks to settle the ball down.

Rich, who has been coaching the team for 14 years, recently received some high praise from an opposing coach.

“He told me he thinks that this is the best time I have ever had,” Rich said. “That means a lot because during the mid-2000s we had some

really good players come through up here.”

Rich knows that the team will not be able to rest on its laurels the rest of the way, though, as the goal of winning the league title remains very much in their grasp.

Heading into the final two-plus weeks of the regular season, the Lady Indians have five rematches from earlier in the campaign, along with one independent contest. The five rematches are at Pioneer Valley Regional on Friday, Oct. 13 (a 1-1 tie in the first meeting that Ware dominated), at home against Smith Voke on Tuesday, Oct. 17 (a tough 2-0 win in the first meeting), at McCann Tech on Friday, Oct. 20 (a 7-0 win in the first meeting), at Smith Academy on Friday, Oct. 27 (a 6-2 win in the first meeting) and at home against Mohawk on Monday, Oct. 30 (a 3-2 road win in the first meeting).

“We have some things that we are going to need to continue to improve on,” Rich said. “We have some very tough games remaining on the schedule.”

## Lady Indians closing in on tourney spot

By Dave Forbes  
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WARE – As the Ware girls volleyball team nears the three-quarter point of the regular season, the team has put itself in a very good position to qualify for the Western Massachusetts Division 2 Tournament.

With seven games left in their 20-contest schedule, the Lady Indians (9-4) need just one more win to punch their District ticket.

“I am very proud of how the girls are playing at this point in the season,” Ware head coach Don Swarts said. “This is a young group of players and they are getting some great experience this season.”

Against Sabis earlier in the week, the Lady Indians got off to a slow start but bounced back for a 16-25, 25-19, 25-11, 25-11 victory.

According to Swarts, the turning point in the match came in the third game when the contest was still hanging in the balance. Swarts brought in freshman Maddie Garutti off the bench and she served eight points (including five aces), which swung the balance of the match in the Lady Indians favored and they carried that momentum the rest of the match for their eighth win of the season.

Ware then finished off the week with a 25-7, 25-9, 25-21 victory over Renaissance in a match that allowed Swarts to get several of his reserves some valuable playing experience.

Jessica Burke had eight aces, two digs and one block for the lady Indians. Lilly Kibbe added four aces, three kills and four digs. Jordan Halgas finished with five kills and two aces. Dina Legacy had five blocks, two kills and one ace. Skilyn Hebert added eight assists and



Setter Skilyn Herbert (11) pops the ball back in the air.



Ware's Jessica Burke (4) bumps the ball back in the air.

Photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com



Jillian Barnes (17) hits a nice first shot.



Ware's Norah Ayers (9) pushes the ball back towards the front.

one dig, Emma Polak added four aces and one block. Norah Ayers had three kills and one assist. Kiarah Tillery added two aces,

one assist and one dig. Garutti added a dig.