

WARE RIVER NEWS



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Turley Publication photo by Melina Bourdeau

West Brookfield Police Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell address reporters at a press conference Wednesday morning at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, following the death of three students in a one-car accident Tuesday after school. Flanking him are Quaboag Regional School Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian and Warren Police Chief Bruce Spiewakowski.

Three Quaboag students die in crash

Neighbors say curve dangerous

By Tara Vocino
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD - Two girls and a boy, all students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, were killed when the car they were in rolled over on Douglas

Road after it struck a tree shortly after school ended on Tuesday. Grief counselors were available Wednesday for students and teachers at the school.

The crash occurred about a quarter of a mile from Route 9. It was unclear whether the students were from Warren or West Brookfield as authorities said they were not at lib-

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Fire safety students practice techniques

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE - After weeks of watching demonstrations and practicing, students in the new fire safety course at Ware Junior Senior High School got hands-on experience in breaching walls, hose advancement and other techniques used to check for fire in a building as well as rescuing oneself in the old South Street School on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The class is an effort to offer students a more hands-on learning experience and an opportunity to find out if firefighting is a career they want to pursue.

After being picked up at the school in a Ware fire truck and an ambulance, each of the students in the fire safety course, which is the first in Western Massachusetts, geared up with jackets, pants, boots, gloves and helmets for the job.

Ware Deputy Fire Chief Ed Wloch, who is the course instructor, brought the group inside the building to begin their drills at 8:30 a.m. until about 11 a.m.

Wloch said since the building was to get demolished to make way for a senior living facility on the property in the future, they were able to use the building for training.



Turley Publications staff photos by Melina Bourdeau

Instructor Ware Deputy Fire Chief Ed Wloch tells the class to make sure they switch off with one another if they become fatigued because every moment counts when evacuating a burning building as students trained in the former South Street School as part a new firefighting course at Ware Junior Senior High School.

"Why not take advantage of this with the class?" Wloch said. "This is what they'd do in a real fire situation. We're hoping that with the videos they watched and the lectures, that they put two and

two together to do the hands-on physical part."

Students were instructed by Wloch and other firemen to "work smart, not hard." Students learned how to open doors, both the con-

ventional way and by using tools as well as other drills.

The class split into two, with one group beginning to breach

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Solar fields approval conditions discussed

Decisions tabled until Nov. 15

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE - The Planning Board closed both public meetings for two proposed Melink solar facilities, one on Church Street and another on Gilbertville Road, at its meet-

ing last week. Some updates were made to the plans and conditions were presented before the matter was tabled to Nov. 15.

Peter Engle, the engineer for the project, presented the board several updates to the facility. The driveway was moved 150 feet to the north so there would be more distance between it and the driveway across the street.

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James Gagnon and Travis Pedos get suited up in their gear, including SCDT units.



Shadraca Modebe uses one hand to check how hot the wall is while holding the fire nozzle with the other as Ware Firefighter Dakota Harper instructs him how to communicate he needs more hose.

From chance to legal parlance

Chamber hears about MGM, marijuana

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE - Two products legalized in Massachusetts in recent years - casinos and marijuana - dominated the discussion before the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce annual Dinner last week.

Chamber of Commerce members heard from a key official from MGM Springfield as well as an attorney that provided a cautionary review of what the legalization of both medical and recreational marijuana could mean for employers in the coming years. QHCC President Lenny Weake said following a survey of the membership, these two subjects garnered the most interest.

And so at the Nov. 2 annual dinner at the Sturbridge Host



Turley Publications staff photo by Douglas Farmer

Jodie Gerulaitis (left) and Shelley Regin (right) of Country Bank talk with Marc Graveline of Crimmins-Graveline Insurance before the Chamber Dinner begins.

Hotel, Weake and QHCC Board of Directors Chairwoman Julie Quink welcomed Alex Dixon, general manager of MGM Springfield, who presented plans for what the resort will look like, as well as Layla Taylor, a partner at Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn in Springfield, who talked about common questions she hears from employers, as well as the difference between state and federal law on the subject of marijuana.

The event's platinum sponsor was Monson Savings Bank,

and additional sponsors were Alternative Telecom, Country Living from Farm Credit East, Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, North Brookfield Savings Bank, BHN/Valley Human Services, Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, Baystate Wing Hospital, Burkhart Pizzanelli, Cornerstone Bank, Howe Lumber Co., Crimmins-Graveline Insurance Agency, Livingston & Haynes, P.C., Quabbin Wire & Cable, Alvin Rondeau's Dairy Bar, Sherman



The representatives of Monson Savings Bank, who sponsored the Chamber Dinner, were on hand for the event.

& Frydryk and Post Computer Systems.

Dixon started out with a numbers game for several volunteers and then got to the point.

"It is true that most people who come into a casino leave with less money than they came in with," he said. "But our job is to make sure you have a good time while you're there. We have a variety of games, retail, restaurants and entertainment venues planned and we'll be employing thousands of local

people. Giving people the chance to get their first paycheck is what keeps me doing this."

Dixon was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as an investment banker with Goldman Sachs and became the vice president and assistant general manager of Horseshoe Casino Baltimore with Caesars Entertainment. After joining MGM, which is building a \$950

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MCAS results shared with School Committee

By Colleen Montague
Staff writer

WARE - The principals of Ware Junior Senior High School, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School and Ware Middle School appeared before the School Committee on Nov. 1 to present the results of the next-generation and legacy MCAS assessments taken in the spring and to how to address challenges the results present the schools.

Before discussing the assessment results, DiLeo said the scores from the 2017 Spring Next-Generation Assessment scores would be used as a baseline for future assessments,

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SPORTS

Indians march on to finals

By Dave Forbes
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LEE – Coming into their Western Massachusetts Division 8 semifinal against second-seeded Lee, the third-seeded Ware football team knew they wanted to go further than last season.

The Indians, who lost in this round last year to Mt. Greylock, accomplished that goal with a 25-16 win over the Wildcats.

“We came into this game knowing that we wanted to move one step further than last season,” Ware head coach Bill Gallagher said. “We did not play our best game of the season, but we did what we needed to do at the tight moments to be able to advance. I am so proud of this group of boys right now.”

One problem that the Indians were able to overcome is their issue with slow starts. Over the past month, the Ware offense struggled to find the right gear early in the game. The Indians solved that by scoring 12 points in the first quarter against a Wildcat defense that had not allowed a point since late September.

On the game’s opening drive, quarterback Ryan Johnson found running back John Velasquez for a big 19-yard reception where he broke a couple of tackles to get the ball into the Lee zone. A couple of plays later, senior tight end Jayson Jamilowski for an 8-yard touchdown reception where he extended the ball across the goal line to give the Indians a 6-0 lead with 9:50 left in the first.

“That was big for us,” Jamilowski said. “To be able to get on the board with that opening drive was important for us. We wanted to get that first touchdown of the game.”

On Lee’s first possession, the Indians would come up with three quick stops and force the punt. Devion Koczur busted through the



Cameron Brown (67) and Alex St. Cyr (56) help bring down a Lee runner.

middle of the line and blocked the punt.

“One of the guys came over to me, and the other one came over to Alex (St. Cyr),” Jamilowski said. “That allowed for Devon to come through and block the punt.”

Koczur said he saw the opportunity to come through and make the big play.

“When I got through, I noticed that the punter had dropped the ball,” Koczur said. “It was like time froze for a moment. I was just glad that I was able to block the ball, which set us up with some really good field position.”

One play later, the Indians doubled their lead to 12-0 as Velasquez

rumbled into the end zone from 26 yards out with 5:13 left in the first quarter.

Lee looked to be driving in for a score late in the first half as they had a drive deep into Ware territory. Wildcats quarterback Hunter Winston overthrew his target near the end zone when safety Devin Slattery picked off the pass to end the drive. The interception was the second of the half for the Indians — the first coming from Keith Smith earlier in the game.

Ware extended its lead to 19-0 early in the third quarter. Running back Hunter Millier, who finished the game with 119 yards rushing, scored on their first offensive play

when he rushed 42 yards down the middle to extend the lead to 19-0 with 8:30 left in the quarter.

Lee closed the gap to three points at 19-16 with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. The first coming on a Winston 1-yard run and the second on a Lukas Loehr 25-yard reception with just over 2:00 left in the contest.

Since the Wildcats were out of timeouts, Lee had no choice but to go for the onside kick. The Indians thought they had the recovery on the first attempt, but were called for an offsides penalty, giving Ware a second chance. On the second one, Velasquez came up with the recovery.



Devin Slattery (7) makes the catch near the sideline on the game’s opening drive.



Travis Paydos (18) knocks the ball away while on defense.



Johnathan Velasquez (18) busts through a hole in the middle of the field.

“It got a little nervous there at the end,” St. Cyr said. “But we were able to make the plays that we needed at the end to pull out the win.”

Johnson (141 yards rushing) then proceeded to put the game when he broke through on the left

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Young Ware squad battles Wahconah in playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

DALTON - For the third consecutive year, the Ware and Wahconah girls volleyball teams faced each other in a Western Massachusetts Division 3 tournament match.

The 10th-seeded Lady Indians, who managed to squeak out a pair of 3-2 home victories in the first two postseason meetings against the seventh-seeded Lady Warriors, saw their 2017 campaign come to an end following a 3-1 first round loss inside Ed Ladley Gymnasium, last Thursday night. The game

scores of the Lady Indians road match were 26-24, 13-25, 12-25, and 14-25.

“It’s definitely hard to see our season come to an end tonight, but it’s an awesome feeling just making it this far with such a young team,” said Ware senior Jordan Halgas. “I was able to play in the postseason tournament every year that I was a member of the volleyball team. I’m really hoping that the returning players can make it back here again next year.”

Ware, who finished in third place in the Central Division standings, ends their season with a 15-6

overall record. The only teams to beat the Lady Indians during the regular season were Central Commerce and Chicopee.

“Central was the only other team that we played this season that has the same type of attack that Wahconah does,” said Ware head coach Don Swarts. “We’ll need to step up our schedule and play against some more tougher teams next year in order to be battle-tested for the tournament.”

While none of the Lady Indians volleyball players had ever played a match at Ed Ladley Gymnasium before last week, walking into the

gym brought back old memories for Swarts, who graduated from Wahconah in 1980.

“This was the first time that I’ve been back here in 37 years and I have a lot of good memories of this place,” Swarts said. “The building does look the same, but the people are different.”

Swarts will also have very good memories of the 2017 volleyball season.

Since losing back-to-back matches to Central and Commerce in the middle of September, the Lady Indians won 10 of their final 13 regular season matches.

Halgas, who became a member of the Ware girls varsity volleyball team as an eighth-grader, is the only senior listed on the Ware varsity roster. She had a team-high 12 kills in her final high school volleyball match. Halgas finished her outstanding high school career with more than 200 kills.

“Jordan had an outstanding season,” Swarts said. “She and freshman Lilly Kibbe were our only returning varsity players. The other girls on the team were new and they played in a postseason tourna-

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Lady Indians tie Mohawk in regular season wrapup

By Dave Forbes
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WARE – For the last 10 years, when the final game of the Ware girls soccer team regular season took place, the Lady Indians knew that they would be turning in both sets of their jerseys.

This year, while there were still plenty of emotions on Senior Night,

seniors Chloe Cahalan, Shannon Demers, Kaitlyn Rousseau and Rebecca Rodriguez knew that their season would still have a couple more practices, at least, after their regular season finale against Mohawk on Halloween Night, Oct. 31.

The game against the Warriors ended in a 0-0 tie, but it was not due to a lack of quality scoring chances for the Lady Indians. Freshman

Caitlin Hess, freshman Jackie Dugay, and sophomore Olivia Wallace all came extremely close to putting the ball in the back of the net with first half scoring chances.

This is a Ware team that had a great October as they went 8-1-1 and outscored their opposition 39-10.

The Lady Indians drew the fourth seed in the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament and had a bye

in the first round. Ware then hosted fifth-seeded Hampden Charter in the quarterfinals on Tuesday evening.

The winner advanced to the semifinals at a neutral site on Thursday evening. The finals will take place on

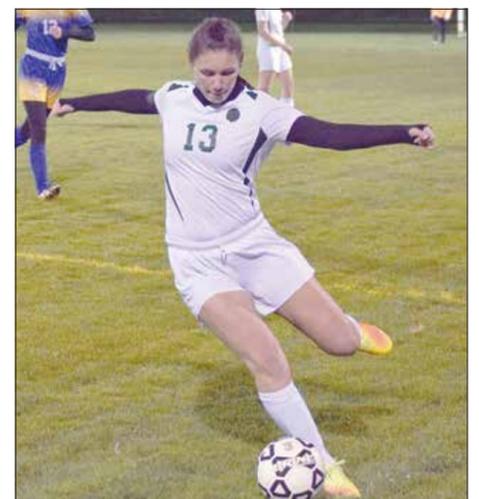
Saturday, Nov. 11 or Sunday, Nov. 12 at Westfield State University at a time to be determined.



The Ware girls soccer team wrapped up the regular season with a 0-0 tie against Mohawk.



Andrea Hall (12) chases the ball down in the mid-field area.



Chloe Cahalan (13) steps into a kick with her left foot.

Indians prepare for Hurricanes

By Dave Forbes
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LEE – With the win over Lee in the semifinals, the Ware football team took a couple of minutes to celebrate before their mindset shifted towards the battle of the undefeated in the Western Massachusetts Division 8 finals against Hoosac.

“We know that we are going to have to play much better than we did tonight against Lee,” Ware head coach Bill Gallagher said. “We made some mistakes tonight that we know we are going to have to clean up against Hoosac. We have a week to get ready for this game.”

Senior tight end Jayson Jamilowski is excited for the opportunity to go on to the next round.

“I have been working hard for this my whole high school career,” Jamilowski said. “To have this chance in my senior year to play in the finals is an amazing feeling.”

Junior offensive and defensive lineman Alex St. Cyr said one of the keys for the Indians will be to get out to a fast start, something that has been a problem for the squad at times this year.

“We need to come out ready to play from the start,” St. Cyr said. “We have to come out fired up and ready to play Ware football. If we do that, then we are very capable of winning this game.”

Hoosac comes into the contest with two running backs and one quarterback carrying the ball for over 350 yards each and 25 total touchdowns. David Crittelli leads the team at 567 yards on 72 attempts, followed by Matt Hall at 403 yards and Eugene Vance at 362 yards. Vance and Hall each have nine touchdowns, while Crittelli has seven.

While the passing game is not a big part of the attack for Hoosac, there are a couple of dangerous receivers on the squad. Nicholas Waterman has six catches on the yards for 237 yards, but all six of them went for touchdowns. Running back Steve Stojda and wide receiver Izaha Stubbs each have seven catches, while Hall leads the team with 10 catches.

On the defensive side of the ball, Crittelli leads the team in sacks with five and is tied for the team lead in solo tackles with 21. Vance also has 21. Some of the Indians did have a chance to see Hoosac in person when they traveled to Commerce a couple of weeks ago when the Hurricanes topped the Red Raiders, 51-20.

Tickets for the Division 8 final, which will take place at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Holyoke High School, are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors.