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Provost presents AP Honor Roll update

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - Superintendent Dr. John Provost provided an update on the AP Honor Roll during his Superintendent's Update on Feb. 4.

Provost explained this has existed in the College-Board program for the past three years, with Minnechaug Regional High School a medalist "for two of those three years."

"Of the 16,068 eligible schools in the United States, Canada and Department of Defense, 5,723 schools or 36% earned a place in the 2025 AP School Honor Roll. Unlike some other measures, which we've talked about in these meetings, that only consider student AP course taking and performance in grades 11 and 12, the honor roll takes into account all four years of a student's high school experience," Provost said.

Provost said in order to qualify, schools "must meet or exceed criteria on all three metrics included in the award."

"The first metric is college culture. That is determined by the percent of students in graduating class who took an AP exam at any time in high school. 45% of students from the class of 2025 took an AP exam at some point during their high school career. This meets the bronze stan-

Please see **UPDATE**, page 2

WSC hosts Second Annual 'SOUP'ER BOWL



Photo courtesy of Wilbraham Senior Center
From the left, Maria Cacela, Brenda Willard and Jen Finnigan in a group photo during the Souper Bowl. The three women all placed in second, first and third place this year for their entries.

Funds raised support a family in need through YMCA

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The senior center hosted its Second Annual "Soup"er Bowl to great fanfare on Feb. 6, with attendees sampling a variety

of homemade soups ahead of Super Bowl weekend.

All funds raised at this year's event went to support a family in need through the Scantic Valley YMCA, in memory of Membership Director Ryan Windyka, who passed away in September 2025.

Social Services Coordinator Barbara Harrington said the event was a "a heart-warming community event filled with homemade soups, friendly competition and gen-

erous giving."

"This year's soup entries were lovingly prepared by our front desk volunteers and staff and included seafood chowder, turkey kale, Italian wedding, potato and ham, chili, loaded potato, cream of broccoli, chicken pot pie, Tom Kha Gai and Pasta Fagioli," Harrington said. "The competition was close as every soup was truly delicious."

Please see **SOUP-ER BOWL**, page 11

New firefighter/EMT approved to join the WFD

John Monty was appointed by the Select Board on Feb. 2

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Select Board approved the addition of a firefighter/EMT to the town's fire department during its Feb. 2 meeting.

John "Jack" Monty is a Granby resident who previously worked full-time for the American Medical Response ambulance service in Springfield as a paramedic.

"I've been there for about three-and-a-half years now, going on four," Monty said. "I also work in a per diem EMS capacity for South Hadley Fire District 2, doing mostly ambulance over there. I've been there about two years now."

Monty said he is looking to move away from private EMS and thinks the Wilbraham fire service would provide an interesting opportunity. He'd like to head in that direction.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey asked Monty which part of the fire/EMT position he liked most and why. Monty answered that most of his experience is with the medial side, working on the ambulance.

"I've done that a long time now," Monty said. "But I think the shift into firefighting and more of a public safety role is definitely a thing I want to look at getting into. I was primarily putting that aside while I was doing my paramedic school. That

was about two years while I was in South Hadley, so I didn't get a ton of experience with that, but now I think it's a good time to start the shift over into that role."

Ducey also asked Monty to share with the board his most rewarding experience as an EMT. Monty brought up a call in South Hadley where he helped respond to a woman giving birth with twins in a high-risk situation far from the hospital.

"We were able to get them to the hospital, and they had a safe delivery and a good outcome," Monty said. "We actually got a postcard from the family after."

Clerk Sue Bunnell asked if Monty has considered any other careers and, if so, what has led him back to the firefighting service.

Monty said when he was in school, he wanted to be a police officer. That was his initial goal, and he went to school for a while to study criminal justice.

"I was getting my EMT [because] I thought it would help me through the police process and all that, but I ended up really falling in love with the medical side of things," Monty said. "I ended up forgoing the criminal justice side to further my career here."

Bunnell also asked if Monty had the opportunity to make a change to a current regulation what it would be.

Monty said he wouldn't change anything specific but noted he thinks, as a whole, he would favor a more progressive system that would give fire departments more access to critical medica-

Please see **FIREFIGHTER**, page 4



Turley photo by Natalie Proulx
Attendees trade a bunch of their trinkets.

Hampden Public Library hosts Teen Crow Party

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - At noon on Saturday, Feb. 7, the library held their Crow Party for teens to trade little trinkets, encouraging them to dress in dark colors like curious crows and later making trinket trays for their new treasures.

Sitting in a little circle on the floor, attendees poured out the variety of trinkets that they brought from home. The term another man's trash is another's treasure couldn't have been

more true. The most random items were sprawled on that library floor, from beaded items to jewelry, to plastic toys to stickers galore. There was something for everyone to enjoy and trade for.

After the attendees decided they were completed with the trading, they moved onto making air dry clay trinket trays. Attendees dove into a large bucket of air-dry clay, using all sorts of cookie cutters to create different shapes for their trinket trays.

Please see **CROW PARTY**, page 3

Valentine's Day celebrated with bustling luncheon

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Companionship was the theme of the day at the Valentine's Day Luncheon.

The time-honored tradition, which took place on Feb. 13 at the Hampden Senior Center, was a bustling hub of communal togetherness.

United over a plate of rose chicken smothered in mushrooms localized over a bed of penne supplemented with garlic bread and garden salad, provided by the GSSSI and tiramisu provided by The Reserve at East Longmeadow, the savory course sparked intimate conversations.

Madeline Korytko and Herve Gousy were among the numerous couples in attendance, accompanied with their mutual friend Don.

Gousy, 88, is a prominent member of the senior center community, frequently participating in bingo and other social events across the wider Hampden area. Though Korytko, 81, isn't quite as active as her partner, she is a church volunteer and donates her time to the Saint Rose Grief Support Group in Aldenville in Chicopee.

"I think you have to be able to vent and compromise," Korytko said when asked about what makes a



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez
Hampden Senior Center representatives are hard at work in the kitchen. Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles pitches in on the front lines.

happy relationship. "When you get to be our age, you get stuck in your ways."

Gousy nodded along and added: "You have to be tolerant and you have to be flexible. You have to have commitment."

Both lost loved ones prior

to meeting each other, with Gousy having been married for over 50 years when his partner passed due to lung cancer.

Korytko also lost her spouse to brain cancer after 37 years of marriage.

The two met at a now defunct grief support group that ran out of Mercy Medical Center. Both Catholic and French speaking prior to learning English, their commonalities as well as connection through loss brought them through their respective troubles together.

"It's a good group for a small town," Gousy said as he glanced about the room.

Please see **VALENTINE'S DAY**, page 4



Vintage table decorations from the 1930s and 1940s are prepared for the day's festivities.

COMMUNITY

EV Charging Station increasing to 55 cents

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The EV Charging Station will increase from 45 cents per kilowatt-hour to 55 cents per kilowatt-hour effective Feb. 9.

The announcement was made at the Feb. 8 Select-board meeting.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained he's still working with National Grid on trying to "figure out and adjust the bills like they should with the removal of the demand charges."

"Going through the most recent couple bills, what's happened is—as everybody knows the electric rates have increased—they've increased on the chargers as well. So, in these past two months, the return that we get from having the chargers is not covering the electric bill," Domina said.

Right now, Domina said, "we're not talking big money, but we're at that point where we're starting to subsidize the use of the chargers with general fund money."

"Which is not something that we had," Domina said.

"But, you think that's more of a billing problem with the grid rather than the usage part?" Chair John Flynn said.

"It's because of the kilowatt-hour rate is essentially doubled," Domina said.

"Right, but we were charging—Don—right, 45 cents was it?" Flynn said.

On Flynn's question, Domina clarified that covers fees to the Red E Network.

"I've also noticed—comparing the bills to the payout



The EV Charging Station in Hampden increased from 45 cents to 55 cents per kilowatt-hour effective Feb. 9.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

from Red E it's not a kilowatt-hour to kilowatt-hour. It's not a one-to-one match. So, what we're getting paid out doesn't match our electric bill," Domina said.

As an example, Domina said if an electric bill was \$50, "we're only getting paid out—Red E Network—for \$40."

"So, we need to increase the per charge cost to cover that difference. That's the bottom line is that they're not covering it," Domina said.

"So, are there two debits against the thing? Obviously, one is the electricity that is provided to the car. Plus, there's a charge from the company that's, if you will, promoting the location," Flynn said.

"And potentially, that could exceed the money we're getting from the charging?" Domina said yes and when the price was set at 45 cents, the National Grid kilowatt hour charge, meanwhile, was 10 cents.

That has now risen to 19 cents a kilowatt hour.

"So, it's essentially doubled," Domina said.

"I understand that, but on the face it would look like we're still making 26 cents per kilowatt hour. But, there's an offset from Red E as well," Flynn said. "I understand, I mean, on the face of it, if they're charging us 19 cents for the 45 cents we're getting in, plus whatever Red E is charging."

"And now we have this kilowatt-hour discrepancy," Domina said. "I don't know if it's the electricity to run the screens or I don't know. Are the screens on 24/7? Probably."

After Selectboard Member Erik Vandeleeeden asked if it was level two or three, Domina confirmed a level three. He then shared his findings.

"So, just quick search here online. Average, just an average charging station per kilowatt hour for a level three is roughly 35 to 65 cents per kilowatt hour," Vandeleeeden said. "So, if we're in the range

of where it's costing us money, it wouldn't be unseemly to go up at this point."

"But, it does seem odd that even at 45 cents, we're not going to make a ton, but we shouldn't be losing money," Flynn said. "So, I mean, I think it gets back into the billing. The confusion at the beginning with the Rise Engineering, etc. And, Don, we saw that between the grant. They didn't think it was going to be level three, there was extra charge, the whole thing and I think we got left a little bit there."

On Flynn's question of the recommendation, Domina said "at least 55 cents."

"I don't want to go more than that because that gets into the top end around here," Flynn said.

Flynn then presented a motion to increase the EV Charging Station to 55 cents per kilowatt hour, effective Feb. 9, which passed unanimously.

SB addresses facilities maintenance responses

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The Select Board addressed the responses received from the Hampden Selectboard and the School Committee on facilities maintenance on Feb. 8.

The update comes after the topic was first presented on Jan. 27, when the Select Board discussed a request presented by the Finance Committee to review transferring the facilities management of HWRSD buildings to the town of Wilbraham Facilities and Maintenance Department.

The Finance Committee had, also, voted unanimously on Jan. 21 to ask the Select Board to approve representatives to discuss with the School Committee to have the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham take over the facilities management of the schools inside the school district.

After much discussion at their Jan. 27 meeting, the Select Board agreed to have Town Administrator Nick Breault reach out to Hampden Town Administrator Brian Domina and Superintendent Dr. John Provost to get ideas on where the Hampden Selectboard and School Committee stood on this request.

The item was discussed by the Hampden Select-

board on Feb. 3, while the School Committee discussed it on Feb. 4.

Chair Michael Squindo summarized his understanding of the request to the board and Breault.

"The School Committee—although not necessarily in 100% agreement—was willing to engage in a conversation and, I believe, Hampden effectively said, 'Thanks but no thanks at this point. We want to hear what your proposal is,'" Squindo said. "So, I don't know what that means for us wanting to move forward, how we move forward, if we drop it from here. I know the board has said if one said no, we would just consider basically dropping it."

Clerk Sue Bunnell said this.

"I see this as a non-starter, unless something shifts in the bigger, broader picture," Bunnell said.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey agreed.

"They don't want to move forward with it," Ducey said.

After Squindo agreed with his fellow board members, Ducey suggested that this update be conveyed to the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

Breault said he would note it to the Finance Committee if the item is brought up.

UPDATE from page 1

dard, which is set at 40%," Provost said.

Metric two is college credit.

"Which is the percentage of students who scored three or higher on at least one AP exam. A score of three indicates that a student is qualified, meaning that they demonstrate sufficient mastery of college-level material on the exam. 39% of Minnechaug students earned at least one score of three or better," Provost said. "This meets the gold standard, which is set at 35%."

The final metric, meanwhile, is college optimization.

"Which is determined as the percent of students in the graduating class who took five or more AP exams in high school, with at least one of the exams being taken when the student was in 9th or 10th grade," Provost said. "11% of Minnechaug students met this mark. This also meets the gold standard, which is set at 10%."

On the three measures as a whole, Provost said MRHS "had a bronze and two gold."

"However, the school's overall distinction is determined by the lowest achieved credit across the three criteria. So, we were awarded bronze," Provost said. "As you can see from

the goal-setting section of the announcement we received, the next step we need to take to advance to the silver distinction is to ensure that at least half of our students take an AP course at some point in their high school career, and we're certainly on that path."

Provost added the AP program has grown "from a low of 75 test takers in 2007 to a high of 264 test takers last year."

"Moreover, student performance has remained solid as the number of test takers has grown. We have maintained a high percentage of students obtaining scores three or higher, typically somewhere in the 80's," Provost said. "The bottom line is that participation in AP courses is surging. So, it's only a matter of a year or two until I predict we can say that most of our graduating students have experienced the AP program at some point during their career, which means that we will be moving up to silver."

Provost then congratulated all those who made that possible.

"The staff, the students, the parents who support them. That is a great path for us to be on and I look forward to us climbing the medal rankings as we go forward," Provost said.

Wilbraham Junior Women's Club Scholarship available

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is pleased to announce the availability of its annual scholarship for graduating seniors at Minnechaug Regional High School.

In keeping with the Club's

mission to strengthen the community through volunteer service and support of others, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who exemplifies these values and plans to attend a two-year, four-year, or other accredited

institution of higher education.

Scholarship applications are available through the Minnechaug Regional High School Guidance Office. Completed applications must be postmarked by April

1, 2026 and mailed to Katy Reed, Scholarship Committee, 490 Glendale Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Students are encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to support their postsecondary educational goals.

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HSC hosts First Annual Souper Bowl Lunch

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The senior center hosted its first-ever Souper Bowl Lunch event on Feb. 6 ahead of Super Bowl Weekend.

The festivities included turkey rice soup and a sandwich made by Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty and Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles, with dessert donated by JGS Lifecare.

Also, attendees got in the football spirit with Paula Federico leading fun games of Super Bowl trivia.

Moriarty shared how the event came together.

"While we've had Super Bowl events in the past, we thought with the extremely cold weather this year, that we would incorporate a delicious, hot bowl of soup and make it the "SOUP"-er Bowl lunch. Wendy offered to make her famous Turkey and Wild Rice Soup that everyone loved, and we know how popular trivia events are, so we invited The Trivia Guy, Paul Federico back for football-specific questions. We awarded prizes to trivia winners and JGS Lifecare sponsored the event with cookies,

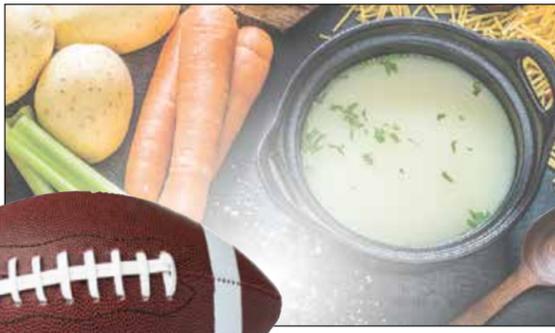
cupcakes and brownies for dessert," Moriarty said.

When asked about the secret to a perfect soup, Moriarty said this.

"In the words of English novelist and playwright Margaret Kennedy, 'Soup is a lot like a family. Each ingredient enhances the others; each batch has its own characteristics; and it needs time to simmer to reach full flavor,'" Moriarty said. "Soups are a great comfort food and when we make soup here at the senior center, we add fresh ingredients, yummy seasonings and we always prepare everything from the heart."

Moriarty added the senior center staff and volunteers had a great time at the event, expressing excitement at the attendees enjoying the festivities too.

"This event was a great way to bring football and non-football lovers together for a great lunch and trivia fun. Everyone had a good time enjoying the company of good friends, a nice meal and a good game of trivia," Moriarty said.



Moriarty credits the community for their continued support, as it also helps the senior center curate new, fun and creative events for everyone to enjoy throughout the year.

"It is always important for us here at the senior center to bring in new events, while keeping regular programming on the schedule to try to meet the wants and needs of older adults in the community. We enjoy hearing from participants about new programs, guest speakers, entertainers and activities they would like to see at the center," Moriarty said. "Our goal is to provide a diverse calendar of events so

we can reach as many people as possible with our programming. And, as always, we would not be able to have so many great programs without the amazing senior center staff, support of our dedicated volunteers and generous community sponsors."

Moriarty encouraged the community to stop by to check out all of their events, because there's more to come very soon.

"The Souper Bowl lunch was a success, and we hope to bring it back again next year. We have a full calendar of events coming out for the month of March. We hope people will take advantage of all the great programs and services we have to offer," Moriarty said.

CROW PARTY from page 1

Some teens bedazzled their clay creations with tiny multicolored mosaic pieces to give an almost stained glass effect to their designs.

Snacks like Rice Krispie Treats, Mini Oreos, Cheese Puffs, and Caprisun juice boxes were also set out and provided for the attendees to munch on while both trading their trinkets or creating their trinket trays.

There was much conversation in the party room, teens asking each other questions, chatting, and being curious like crows.

All the attendees agreed that trading their old items to get newer and free items—that they may not have needed but very much enjoyed—was their favorite part, aside from conversing with the other people and having fun.

"It may seem strange to say this," the Young Adult Librarian, Maxine Girard said. "Given that it was a library program, but my favorite part of the program was the noise that I heard throughout the program. I really enjoyed hearing the attendees laughing, talking, and having fun."

Girard explained how there was a lot of excitement around trading trinkets and how she enjoyed seeing what everyone brought to trade.

"I think that a program



Clay trays embedded with little mosaic tiles that were made to hold the teen's trinkets.

Turley photo by Natalie Proulx

like this helps to build a stronger sense of connection in the sense that this was an 'unplugged' program," Girard said.

She mentioned that the core activity centered around talking to each other and sharing trinkets that had a story or two to go along with them.

"One of the core goals of our teen programming is to facilitate a sense of belonging and community and I'd like to think that providing teens with a place where they can just be is invaluable," Girard said.

Many of these teens are collectors and were able to find little pieces of them-

selves in others.

Girard also discussed how this Crow Party idea came to be.

"The idea for the Crow Party actually came from a library programming Facebook group," Girard said.

She mentioned how the idea of wearing all black, trading trinkets, and enjoying snacks seemed like such a fun and unique idea that she thought the teens would really enjoy.

"And it seemed like," Girard said. "making trinket trays paired well with a Crow Party, especially since another aspect of the program was trading trinkets with other at-

tendees."

The Crow Party actually ended later than its original scheduled time of 1 p.m., with the teens getting carried away with both the trading and crafting. This was the Hampden Public Library's first time holding this event, but given how much fun the attendees seemed to have, Girard mentioned how she would love to host it again.

If you're interested in other teen events like this, be sure to check out the Hampden Public Library's event calendar on their website at: <https://hampden-library.org/events>.

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'A Watershed Moment'

C4R promotes conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of rivers

By Keith Davies
Coordinator, Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Guest Contributor

water-shed 'wôder SHed, 'wâder Shed noun: watershed; plural noun: watersheds

1. an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas.

• an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water.

2. 2. an event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.

"these works mark a watershed in the history of music"

Editor's Note: This is the first part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.

Just over a decade ago, a small group of people began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries should be better known and appreciated by local residents and even people beyond.

It was a watershed moment, meaning what happened could tip in one of two directions: either people engaged or did not. Fortunately enough people became involved.

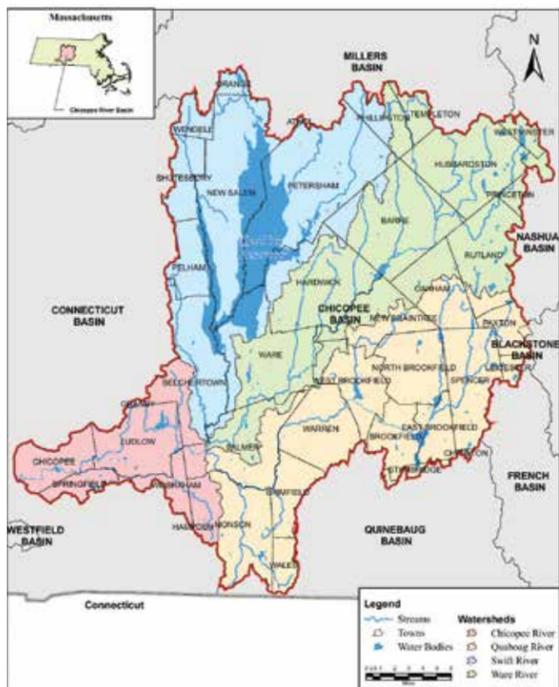
The name of the idea was the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council because four rivers made up the watershed.

It was a slow but positive start, initial goals and actions were modest. C4R sponsored river area clean ups, fun paddles, and a modest six site sampling program on two rivers.

By 2017 C4R had expanded to 10 sites on all four rivers and began to lay out two paddling trails. Things were progressing.

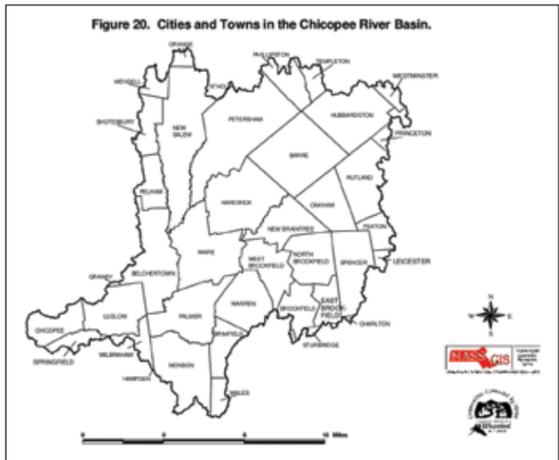
C4R has sampled up to 25 sites and has developed two

Figure 1.4-1. Chicopee River Basin



This map shows the Chicopee River Basin.

Figure 20. Cities and Towns in the Chicopee River Basin.



Cities and towns are shown within the Chicopee River Basin.

more Blue Trails. Yet to continue to serve, it needs help.

Then we hit some bumps: COVID stemmed momentum, how people volunteer and commit to things have changed and we have found it more difficult to continue progress. The hope of maintaining C4R as a voice for the watershed and rivers has dimmed.

So, 2026 is a new watershed moment! Which way things tip will depend on if new and younger people step

forward.

Over the next two issues, we will share C4R stories and hopes to help people see what has been done and what the opportunities are for a vibrant watershed family.

For more information about C4R and to get involved, people may visit www.c4rivers.org, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com, or mail C4RWC, P.O. Box 126, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

Babes, Brews & Browsing presents 'The 90s Boom'

HAMPDEN - Babes, Brews & Browsing will be presenting "The 90s Boom" on March 28 from 5 to 9 p.m. at GreatHorse.

Throwing back while giving back!

Tickets are \$60 and can be found on EventBrite.

Attendees can eat, shop 10 to 12 Babes Brews & Browsing women owned businesses, dancing, music spun by DJ Dave Costa, the JD 360 Photo-booth and more.

All proceeds will support Shriner's Children's New England.

FIREFIGHTER from page 1

tions. "We seem to be getting that way, especially with the state. It seems to be improving outcomes, and it's just been showing that we've been making a lot of moves," Monty said.

Chair Michael Squindo asked Monty to name three characteristics that make an effective team member and how he relates to them.

Monty responded that strong communication is a primary aspect, as far as making sure that everyone is on the same page and knows their responsibilities and duties.

"That everyone knows their role and what our end goal is and how we can get there. I think also just integ-

riety, making sure that everyone is staying true to what our values are and how we're providing the best care we can, at least in that setting as a team member," Monty said. He also listed honesty as being important, noting that everyone should be true to their role and responsibility while not deviating from them.

After hearing a recommendation from Fire Chief Michael Andrews, the board unanimously approved Monty for the fire department contingent on several tests.

Next up, Monty will attend the fire academy, which starts in June. Enrollment begins in April.

Monty will begin as a firefighter at a time to be determined down the line by Andrews.

Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to offer Sewing Classes in March

WILBRAHAM - Have you always wanted to learn how to sew? Now's your chance!

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is excited to offer a beginner sewing class series for Wilbraham and Hampden resident adults and children ages 10 and older. Whether you are brand new to sewing or just looking to refresh your skills, this supportive, hands-on class will guide you step-by-step as you create a lined fabric tote bag.



Sample Bags

(example in photo)

Classes will be held at the Wilbraham Senior Cen-

ter on three consecutive Saturdays beginning March 7, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

The class is free, though participants will be asked to bring some of their own materials. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

To register or for questions, please contact Cate Duquette at CDuquette@charter.net or 413-596-8315.

FlashVote sign ups coming soon

WILBRAHAM - Do you have about one minute a month to help make Wilbraham better?

The Town of Wilbraham is working with FlashVote to engage the community and gather valuable input from residents to inform our decisions.

We encourage residents to sign up here now: <https://www.flashvote.com/wilbraham> or call 775-235-2240 to participate by phone or text only.

Sign up takes less than

one minute and your input is always kept anonymous. Personal or demographic information collected by FlashVote is never shared with the Town or anyone else. When residents sign up, they can determine how surveys are received - whether by email, text or phone call. They will receive a notification whenever there is a new survey, and they will have 48 hours to participate before voting closes. Once a survey is closed, everyone who par-

ticipated will automatically receive a summary of the overall results and be able to see how their responses compare to the group.

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo said, "The Select Board is very excited to use the input collected in these surveys to inform decision making for the Town in ways that serve our residents better."

Sign up now so you don't miss the first survey - coming soon!

VALENTINE'S DAY from page 1

"It's like Cheers; everybody knows your name. The intimacy here is great."

The general feeling of community and belonging was ripe in the air, and the quaint meeting hall was packed with talkative friendly seniors enjoying each other's company. The event is so popular that seats need to be registered days in advance.

With the bustling atmosphere supplemented by live entertainment, it's no wonder why the luncheon is in high demand.

Patrick Tobin lent his talent as he belted Frank Sinatra classics in a voice both melodic and uncanny. There were times where it was hard to distinguish the current singer in the room from the immortal crooner himself.

A veteran of the lounge hall, Tobin has been covering Old Blue Eyes for 30 years. As the charismatic lounge singer paused between sets, Korytko reflected on what was most important to her in life.

"Growing old, I think it's important to maintain your relationships. It's all about people," Korytko said.

During a holiday that spotlights relationships, it can be difficult for those that find themselves single during the romantic holiday. As the two glanced at each other, the couple offered words of encouragement to those that are still out there and seeking.

"You can't isolate yourself," Gousy said.



Turley photo by Ben Hernandez

Elementary school students donated hand-made Valentine hearts to celebrate the day of love.

He added that becoming involved in wider society and attending grief support groups made him realize that he was not alone.

Korytko nodded along as he discussed further about his activities, which included bingo nights and other social gatherings that Gousy estimated on average housed 100 to 150 people.

"Keep looking and don't give up," Korytko added. "Socialize, go where the people are."

Gousy emphasized this point by mentioning that an old friend of his found love and got remarried at the ripe young age of 83.

Though all three acknowledged that it can be hard to find someone, they all stressed how important it was to maintain and foster new connections.

All agreed that this pursuit is one of the richest parts of being alive.

"One day at a time," Don reflected between bites of his garden salad. "That's it."

Gousy finished his thoughts by borrowing a quote from an old friend as the festivities came to a close.

"If you're on the right side of the grass and you're still upright, it's a good day," Gousy said.

Hampden - Wilbraham Regional School District

The Road to Kindergarten 2026-2027

Parents and Guardians please join us for **The Road to Kindergarten.** This program will address Kindergarten Readiness, Screening, Curriculum, and a typical Kindergarten day.

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium

(In the event of a snow day, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 12, 2026.)

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The Healy's, have you heard of them? Don and Sheila to be more precise. If you're a lover of Irish music and live in the area then I'm sure you have. This couple, parents of five, just celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary in December and have been singing as an Irish duo for forty of those years.

Don & Sheila are an amazingly talented couple who are not only loyal to their Irish heritage but also their friends. Once when a friend needed help after surgery, Sheila brought her a meal every evening during her recovery. Friends were their fans but many fans have become their cherished friends. This couple certainly knows about giving back not only to their friends and family, but also with their dedication to local communities.

As you can imagine for any entertainer, various charities and private causes have asked them to perform voluntarily which they've certainly done their share of. They performed from 2011-2017 for the Rays of Hope walk as well as for Cerebral Palsy, SIDS and many other private fundraisers.

Don and Sheila have developed a pretty full agenda these days and don't have much time to offer that any longer unfortunately. A couple of the things filling their schedule is planning trips to Ireland, organizing over thirty group ones as well as their own. They generally travel there twice a year, once with a group and another just the two of them. Even though on vacation, they wind up having singing engagements there too! I don't think they know the words, "slow down!"

Every year at Christmas you will find Sheila in the kitchen, covered with flour as she prepares Irish breads she shares with family, friends and fans. This year she was busy creating 142 loafs! They also explained how they love doing the twelve days of

Christmas at their holiday gigs, giving gifts each of the twelve days. They shared how they collect Irish scarfs to give to people as they sing along with all the well-known Irish tunes.



By Barb Turcotte

When I spoke about their loyalty to their Irish heritage, I would be remiss not to mention Don's radio show named appropriately, 'Healy's Irish Program.' He has broadcasted this program from his home on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11am for approximately forty years. In order to keep this going for his listeners this isn't something he gets paid for, instead he's had to find his own sponsors for the air-time. He also buys, on his own,

T-shirts which he gives away weekly to contest winners. You can hear his program on FM 97.7 & 1250AM. Enjoy!

During Covid when places weren't allowed to have live music inside, they would set up outside venues in order to help some of the Irish facilities keep their business going. So much money was lost during that time and it was their way of giving back. Instead of charging a fee, they offered to perform a full evening of enjoyment for tips alone. Then as the colder weather came and singing outside was no longer an option, they became creative so they could be inside to entertain, though still not allowed to sing, even with masks.

Don, having the set up at home for his radio show came up with the idea of what is called, 'cyber-vocals'. They recorded, sitting at their kitchen table, some of their most requested songs. Now they could entertain guests

while inside yet following the mandated protocols. They had to wear masks, so as they played their instruments the folks enjoyed their vocals, yet it was from the recorded songs so sounded as though they were actually singing. Brilliant! And for those gigs, they were paid half of their usual price, again, helping the business thrive during a difficult time.

Then at the Irish Pub at the then Eastfield Mall, they didn't have an outside venue, so instead Don became a 'celebrity bartender' making everyone Irish coffees. They just always have found a fun way to give back.

They also perform at many local locations, such as once a month on a Sunday afternoon at the "new" Donovan's in Holyoke. The Irish Cultural Center is another, the last Saturday of the month plus other regular venues in the Worcester area. Also, they randomly perform at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club as well as other places.

Though they have enjoyed much happiness throughout their lives and brought such joy to their audiences, they've also known extreme heartache. Unfortunately, they lost their son ten years ago and since this interview have tragically lost a daughter. My heartfelt sympathy to all this family. A blessing; they've welcomed their 6th grandchild who's been given the middle name Seamus after his uncle. What a wonderful tribute, Seamus' legacy will live on.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

Grand reopening of Michael's Café on the JGS Lifecare Campus

Thursday, Feb. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

LONGMEADOW – JGS Lifecare, a leading health care system serving seniors and their families and an affiliate of Legacy Lifecare, is excited to announce the Grand Reopening of Michael's Café, the nonprofit organization's popular dining venue.

Michael's Café is named in honor of Michael Frankel, past board chair, cherished friend, dedicated leader, and longtime supporter of JGS Lifecare. Following his sudden passing in 2013, the café was designed as a centerpiece of the Sosin Center for Rehabilitation — a kosher eatery to serve residents, families, staff, and volunteers, while also welcoming members of the broader community. Donations to build the café were raised through the Project Transformation Campaign.

“Michael's Café is a lasting tribute to Michael Frankel, an extraordinary young man whose life was tragically cut short,” says Susan Halpern, Vice President of Development at JGS Lifecare. “He was a cherished member of the JGS Lifecare organization and served as an inspiration to us all.”

Following its reopening, Michael's Café will offer a refreshed menu featuring seasonal weekly specials, rotating sandwich options and daily homemade soups. Additional offerings include convenient grab-and-go items, a full salad bar with specialty sides, snacks, and a wide selection of hot and cold beverages. Staff and residents are looking forward to the café's reopening. “My personal favorite is the tuna salad on multigrain with lettuce and tomato,” adds Halpern. “I also highly recommend the pastrami on rye with mustard and a side pickle!”

The February 19th Grand Reopening event will include light refreshments, welcoming remarks and a lively social hour. A special spring reception is also being planned to celebrate all donors who made Michael's Café possible.

Located at 770 Converse Street in Longmeadow, Michael's Café will be open five days a week from 11am-3pm, staffed by dedicated volunteers working with our café manager, Vivian Hatwood. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Mary-Anne Schelb at 413-935-1791 or email mschelb@legacylifecare.org.

Rotary Club Scholarship applications available

WILBRAHAM - The Scholarship Committee of the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden has announced that applications for the 2026 Rotary Club Scholarships are now available in the Counseling/Guidance Departments of Minnechaug

Regional High School, Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Pope Francis Preparatory School and LPVEC's Career and Technical Education Center.

Applications are due no later than April 1, 2026. The scholarships are available to

qualified high school seniors who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden. The club will award nine scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000.

Applications may also be obtained from Brad Sperry by calling 413-537-4171.

Wilbraham Women's Club to award scholarships

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Women's Club will be awarding \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden and who will be attending a four year college or university

this fall. The criteria considered are academic achievement, character, and leadership. Applications are available in the Guidance Office at Minnechaug Regional High School. For those at-

tending other high schools, please email Mrs. Rae Teed (rae.teed@gmail.com) and an application can be mailed to you. All applications must be postmarked by March 20, 2026 to be considered.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

Dear Rusty:

I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

For Your Information, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred

to the preceding year - that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you - rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Letters to the Editor

The Cemetery Commission needs you!

Dear Wilbraham Residents,

I am writing to you as the current Chair of the Cemetery Commission. The purpose of this letter is to appeal to the residents of our town to please run for Cemetery Commission in this year's upcoming election. We have two seats open: a two-year term, and a three-year term. Town election is on May 16, 2026. The Town of Wilbraham owns three cemeteries: Adams Cemetery, Glendale Cemetery, and East Wilbraham Cemetery. The Board of Cemetery Commissioners is made up of three elected individuals, who act as the supervisors for their assigned cemetery. As a Cemetery Commissioner, you must be available to attend to cemetery matters as they arise. This position is best suited for someone who mostly stays close to town and is someone who is available to be on call during the daytime to attend cemetery matters. The commission meets quarterly.

Our cemeteries are beautiful, historical spaces in town, enjoyed by all, and act as a sacred resting ground for ancestors and loved ones of

the residents of this town. If you have an interest in helping others, historical preservation, cemeteries, or just being more involved in your town, then this would be a great position for you! Anyone with bookkeeping experience would greatly benefit the commission. The newly elected commissioners will be trained and provided a binder with helpful resources.

If you have any questions about the Cemetery Commission to prepare you for running for office, please contact me at nayres@wilbraham-ma.gov or by phone (978) 806-7869. I am happy to answer your questions and describe more about what this job is like. I encourage folks to visit our three town cemeteries when the snow has melted to see what they are like, especially if you are interested in running for election. Thank you, and I hope from this letter, we receive lots of interest in helping to carry forth the maintenance and operations of our beloved cemeteries!

Sincerely,

Natashia Ayres
Cemetery Commissioner,
Adams Cemetery

Onion culture, continued

This morning, after reading last week's column, my mom commented, "Boy, I didn't realize onions are so challenging to grow."

Oh no, I truly hope that the column did not convey that message. I've been growing onions for years, and find them no more challenging than any other vegetable that you start indoors.

I hope I didn't discourage anyone. In fact, I hope just the opposite happened, whereby everyone purchased some seed to give growing onions a whirl.

Read on to learn more from where we left off last week.

Growing on

How does one achieve lots of top growth so that by seasons' end a big bulb will result? Provide sufficient moisture and nitrogen, and lots of it, but only early in the gardening season.

Amend a 100 square foot area with a bushel of aged manure or finished compost prior to planting, then top dress when plants are six-eight inches high and again for the last time three weeks later. Fish emulsion is a great foliar fertilizer for this purpose.

Because onions have limited top growth and are relatively shallow rooted, it makes it hard for them to compete with more aggressive plants for moisture and nutrients. For that reason, be sure to address enemy #1: weeds!

I have found that a hand held circle hoe is great for getting into the narrow space between plants as well as within the rows. Perform this task once or twice a week and you will be weed-free all summer.

You can also apply grass clippings or chopped up leaves as mulch. It will reduce weeds and conserve moisture, and, as it breaks down add valuable organic matter to the soil.

As the summer solstice draws near, the need for nitrogen drops as the bulb switches from top growth to bulbing up. From this point on, no additional fertilizer is necessary and watering can be cut back some.

Harvesting

In early fall your onion tops will begin to yellow and bend at the necks. As mentioned earlier, reduced daylight has signaled the plant to go into dormancy.

When half have bent, bend the rest and allow them



in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



ing through them to cut, or braid, be sure to separate out those with double bulbs, as well as those whose necks remain thick; neither will be good keepers and should be used first.

This is also a great time to think about good traits and the prospect of saving some of your best onions for seed production.

Save the seeds

Saving the seeds of your open-pollinated, non-hybrid

onions is the next frontier for allium aficionados. In the north, we employ what is called the "bulb to seed" method.

Our bulbs are harvested normally and stored over the winter, and when the ground is ready for planting, three or four of your best onions are replanted three inches apart. Soon a flower stalk will form. It can get quite tall (three-five feet!) so place a stake for support early on and tie it off as you need to.

After the flower head has formed be on watch for the black seeds to ripen and loosen up - you want to catch them before they shatter. This can be accomplished by clipping a few sections of the head at a time.

Dry in an airy spot for a few days before storing in paper envelopes in a cool, dry location for use the following spring. Be advised that to avoid cross pollination, only one variety of onion can be in flower at a time; it is fine, however, to have first year onions in the garden.

Onion seeds are viable for one-two years.

Now that you know the ins and outs of onion culture, embrace the challenge and try growing onions from seed this year.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



DAVE GRANLUND www.davegranlund.com

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Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Thursday at noon.

Correction Policy
The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-8458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

Life in &

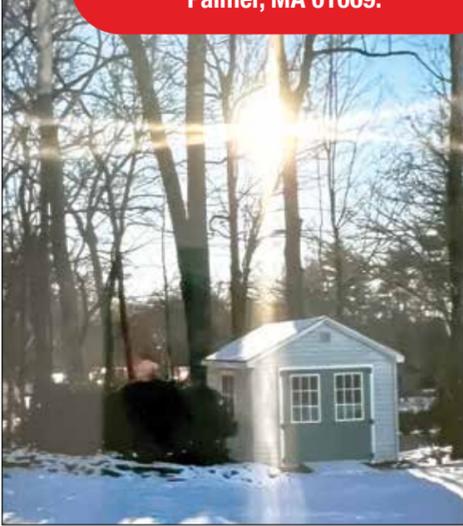
Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to krivers@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Send us in your announcements! Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to krivers@turley.com



Submitted photo and caption Norah Kazin

Times sighting in Aruba

Norah and Craig Kazin took themselves to Aruba for the first time, and brought the Wilbraham-Hampden Times along too! Too bad they missed the snowstorm!



Submitted photos Shelby Hines

Winter in Wilbraham

As winter continues, Shelby Hines shared these photos of a winter scene.



Submitted photos and caption Carissa Flanagan

Wilbraham/Hampden Elementary Schools at the Thunderbirds!

The Wilbraham/Hampden elementary schools enjoyed a fun day at "Kids Takeover Day" on Jan. 19 during the Springfield Thunderbirds game! We sold over 600 tickets and had an absolute

blast. The students from Mile Tree School, Green Meadows, Stony Hill School and Soule Road School rode the Zamboni, held the American flag on the ice, sang the National Anthem and were able to high

five the players in between periods. Our elementary school mascots were there, many teachers, students and their families. We had such a great turnout this year and I'm hoping to promote for next year.



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| <p>Saturday Feb. 21 BRAD SHEPARD</p>  | <p>Saturday Feb. 28 LUTHER</p>  | <p>Saturday March 7 PETER NEWLAND</p>  | <p>Saturday March 14 ATOA RIPLEY</p>  | <p>Saturday March 21 BAIRD SOUL</p>  |

COMMUNITY

Theatre Guild of Hampden to present 'The Wisdom of Eve' in March

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden will be presenting "The Wisdom of Eve" on March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

"The Wisdom of Eve" is adapted from the story by Mary Orr, on which the Oscar winning film "All About Eve" and the hit musical "Applause" were based.

The cast includes Rick Malone as Tally-Ho Thompson, Nathan Alvarez as Harvey, Allison Reardon as Eve, Amanda Emet as Vera Franklin, Andy Price as Bert Hinkle, Andrea Stolar as Leila, Heath Verrill as Lloyd, Jeanie Wysocki as Margo, Margie Secora as Karen and Phil Godeck as Clement.

The artistic director is Mark Giza and stage manager is Gail Weber.

The showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.



Tickets are now on sale and can also be purchased at the door.

To learn more, visit theatreguildofhampden.org.

Snowman Contest 2026 makes a return

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Calling all kids: the 2026 Snowman Building Contest is back.

Winter fun is officially on the horizon, and the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is inviting kids across Wilbraham and Hampden to grab their mittens, roll up some snow, and let their imaginations run wild! The 2026 Snowman Building Contest is here, and it promises frosty

fun, friendly competition, and fantastic prizes.

Young snow artists are encouraged to build their best, silliest, most creative snowman and snap a photo featuring the 2026 Snowman Building Contest flyer, which can be found on the club's website at www.WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org. Once the masterpiece is complete, parents or guardians should post the photo to the Wilbraham-Hampden

Snowman Contest Facebook page. Entries will be accepted throughout the winter season.

Winners will be chosen by the Junior Women's club and announced on the Facebook Page at the end of the season.

Prizes will be awarded to three top snow creations:

- First Prize: \$30, a trophy, and ultimate bragging rights
- Second Prize: \$25
- Third Prize: \$20

The Snowman Building Contest is proudly sponsored by the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club, an organization dedicated to supporting local programs, charities, and community events in Wilbraham and surrounding towns.

Have questions about the contest, the club, or interested in joining the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club? Visit www.WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org to learn more. You can also contact Barbara Croteau at barbcroteau@gmail.com.

So when the snow starts falling, don't stay inside—get building, get creative, and get clicking. Your snowman could be a winner!



Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO (right), and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO and YMCA of Greater Springfield Board Chair & Chief Volunteer Officer (left), presented a \$100,000 donation to Dexter Johnson, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield.

Scantic Valley YMCA's Capital Campaign

MONSON - Monson Savings Bank has announced a \$100,000 pledge to support the Scantic Valley YMCA's Capital Campaign, helping fund major facility renovations and enhancements. Monson Savings Bank President & CEO Dan Moriarty and Executive Vice President & COO Michael Rouette, who also serves as Board Chair & Chief Volunteer Officer of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, recently presented the pledge to Dexter Johnson, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield.

The Capital Campaign focuses on several key improvement projects for the Scantic Valley YMCA, including a new roof, renovated locker rooms, modernization of the workout area, and the construction of new outdoor pickleball courts.

"Monson Savings Bank has long believed in invest-

ing in the organizations that strengthen our communities," said Dan Moriarty, President & CEO of Monson Savings Bank. "The Scantic Valley YMCA is one of those organizations. This pledge reflects our commitment to supporting their future, ensuring that local residents will benefit from a more modern facility for years to come."

Michael Rouette emphasized the significance of the partnership from both his roles at the Bank and within the YMCA.

"As both a member of the Monson Savings leadership team and the Board Chair and Chief Volunteer Officer of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, I am deeply proud of this moment," said Michael Rouette, EVP & COO. "The Scantic Valley YMCA is a hub for health, connection, and community. These capital improvements

are essential to meeting the evolving needs of the people we serve, and I'm excited that Monson Savings Bank is stepping forward in such a meaningful way."

Dexter Johnson expressed his appreciation for the Bank's longstanding support and the impact this pledge will have on the YMCA's ability to grow.

"We are incredibly grateful for Monson Savings Bank for this extraordinary pledge," said Dexter Johnson, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield. "These upgrades, new locker rooms, an improved workout area, a new roof, and pickleball courts, will significantly enhance the member experience and expand our ability to serve local families. Monson Savings Bank continues to demonstrate what true community partnership looks like."

Great Decisions returns to the WPL

WILBRAHAM - Registration has begun for the 2026 Great Decisions Discussion Group at the Wilbraham Public Library. Starting Feb. 4, the group will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. through March 25.

Each year, Foreign Policy Association selects eight critical issues facing the country to be the subjects of conversation. The topics for 2026 include America and

the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy, Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy, U.S.-China Relations, Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation, Ukraine and the Future of European Security, Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order, U.S. Engagement of Africa, and The Future of Human Rights and International Law.

Participants are encour-

aged to order a briefing book to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Briefing books are available on the association's website, fpa.org. One copy of the briefing book will be available at the Service Desk for in-library reading. To register and learn more, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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Falcons pull away from Blue Devils in semifinals



Cailin O'Brien goes for the open layup.

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday afternoon, Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball was in a close matchup with Northampton until the later stages. Thanks to some key baskets and free throws, the Falcons pulled away in the fourth quarter to take a double-digit lead and ended up heading to the Western Mass. Class finals 45-33. Their opponent had yet to be determined as of press time. The Falcons were led by Zahara Wilson with 17 points. Elizabeth Woytowicz had nine points.



Ava Manning squeezes through a pair of defenders to get to the hoop.



Kelly Cronin heads down the court.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Elizabeth Woytowicz looks to drive to the hoop around an opponent.



Lyric Nelson takes a free throw.



Brie Foisy attempts a three-pointer.



Zahara Wilson heads for the arc.

Chaug boys drop Western Mass. quarterfinal to Chicopee Comp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – A hard fought defensive battle.

That's probably the best way to describe the Western Mass. boys Class A quarterfinal game between sixth-seeded Minnechaug Regional and third-seeded Chicopee Comp.



Darren Duah tries to bring down a rebound.

The Colts, who held the Falcons to only nine first half points, advanced into the semifinals with a 50-30 victory at Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium, last Wednesday night.

"Minnechaug is a very tough physical team, and we always seem to struggle against them," said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. "Our main focused coming into tonight's game was defense. It was a total team effort defensively tonight."

Comp (16-3), who also posted a 60-58 non-league home victory over Minnechaug on January 31, were scheduled to play at second-seeded Springfield Central in the semifinals on Monday night.

The Colts lost to Holyoke High School in the Class A quarterfinals the past two seasons.

"It feels great to finally win a Western Mass. tournament game, especially after we lost in the quarterfinals the past two years," said Comp junior Elijah Kleps, who scored 15 points against the Falcons. "We're trying to win the Western Mass. title for the seniors because it's their final year. Those guys really mean a lot to us."

While the Colts have already clinched a berth in the Division 2 state tournament, the Falcons (9-10) are still hoping to accomplish the same goal. They were ranked 32nd in the Division 2 power rankings.

The Falcons were sched-

uled to play a non-playoff game at Amherst on Monday night.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament, along with the other teams with a .500 or better record.

"We're still hoping to finish in the top 32," said Minnechaug head coach Mike Orzech. "We just need to get ready for our next game now."

Four of the five Minnechaug starter missed practice the day before facing Comp due to injuries.

Sophomore Max Fergus, who's one of the Falcons leading scorers, will miss the rest of the season with an injury.

"We're a little bit banged up," Orzech said. "The guys tried their best to battle out there. I'm proud of their effort."

The Falcons made just three field goals and a 3-pointer during the first 16 minutes of the quarterfinal game.

"Comp put a lot of pressure on us defensively," Orzech said. "They just shut us down offensively."

A total of seven Minnechaug scored in the tournament game against Comp, but none of them reached double figures.

The duo of Elijah Kleps and senior Brody Fay (16 points) combined to score 31 points for the Colts.

Fay, who became a member of the elite 1,000 point club at the end of the regular season, scored 13 points in the second half.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Max Baroni fakes in the air before taking a shot.

The other three seniors listed on the Comp varsity basketball roster are Modesto Galindrez (7 points), Colby Paul (6 points), and Francis Jordan.

Galindrez made a lay-up and a pull-up jumper, which increased Comp's lead to 8-2 with less than two minutes left in the opening quarter.

Following an inside hoop

from Minnechaug senior Miles Fergus (7 points), his classmate, Landyn Eldridge, knocked down a 3-pointer, which closed the gap to 8-7 twenty seconds into the second quarter.

The Falcons' leading scorer was senior Drew Grasso with eight points.

Please see **BOYS**, page 10

Falcons fall in finale

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday afternoon, Minnechaug hockey found itself in a tough matchup against Marlborough, falling 5-1 as the regular season came to a conclusion. The Falcons finished 11-6-1 overall and are heading into the Western Mass. and state tournaments over the next two weeks.

The Falcons would open up the Western Mass. tournament with a quarterfinal matchup against league rival Longmeadow on Monday, Feb. 16. If the Falcons win, they would face Westfield in the next round. The state tournament is then set to start next week.

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SPORTS

Thunderbirds outslug Wild on road

DES MOINES, IA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-24-4-2) once again posted a prolific offensive showing, outpacing the Iowa Wild (13-28-4-1) for a roller-coaster 8-6 victory on Saturday night inside Casey's Center in Moines.



glanced off Zach Dean's blade, skipping through Petersen to make it a 2-1 game in the T-Birds' favor. Jakub Stancl followed up 3:10 later with his second goal in as many days, finishing off a 2-on-1 pass from Hugh McGing to extend Springfield's lead to 3-1.

Like an evening ago, though, the Wild refused to go away, and Pitlick cashed in on his second of the period off a 2-on-1 setup by Hunter Haight to make it a 3-2 game at 15:14.

The one-goal deficit was short-lived for the Wild, as Thomas Bordeleau stripped the puck from an Iowa defender and rifled home a perfect shot past Petersen's blocker at 15:43 to make it 4-2. The goal was Bordeleau's first in a T-Birds uniform.

With just precious seconds remaining in the period,

the Wild again responded in kind, as Nic Aube-Kubel set up Jack Peart in the left circle for a buzzer-beating tally in the midst of a delayed Springfield penalty, sending Iowa into the break trailing by just a goal at 4-3.

Yet, despite the potential momentum changer from Peart, Springfield quickly responded to begin the middle frame, as Chris Wagner went to a knee to guide a power play feed from Matt Luff in behind Petersen at 1:32 of the second, making it 5-3.

The T-Birds' defense stabilized after the chaos of the first, and the offense continued its confident weekend, as Theo Lindstein cashed in for the second time in two games, punching a shot through Petersen's glove side at 9:15 off another Luff assist to push the lead to 6-3.

Springfield's power play added to their tally when Michael Buchinger whistled a shot through the legs of William Rousseau, who entered the net in place of Petersen to begin the third. Buchinger's fifth of the season gave the T-Birds a 7-3 advantage.

Even facing a huge deficit, the Wild continued to scratch and claw. A pair of Springfield penalties opened the door for Iowa, and the home side took full advantage as Dylan Gambrell cashed in on a rebound to the right of Romanov at 8:04 to make it 7-4.

David Jiricek followed with a slap shot from the blue line that caromed in behind Romanov at 12:47, and the Springfield lead shrank to 7-5.

Things got even hairier for the T-Birds when Caedan Bankier got to his own rebound at 16:32 to beat Romanov along the near side, and Iowa incredibly got the lead shaved down to a single goal, 7-6.

In the end, though, Iowa's miraculous comeback attempt came up one tally short, as Luff delivered a much-needed empty net goal with 26 seconds remaining to seal the win. Luff and Stancl each finished their evenings with a goal and two assists, and Springfield's eight goals from eight different players set a club record for most goals in a game on the road.

Railers fall at home against Lions

WORCESTER - Worcester suffered a 4-1 loss to the defending Kelly Cup champions Sunday afternoon. The Railers earned just one point of a possible six for the series. They went into the weekend with 12 of a possible 14 points in their seven previous games.



kind since Jan. 24. Jesse Pulkkinen set up Anthony Repaci at the right point and the captain put a shot on net.

There was traffic, a good thing for Hatten, and he popped a rebound home from in close.

After the Railers failed to take advantage of their power play time early in the second period, Trois-Rivieres began to dominate the action. The Lions finally tied it at 12:15 on Joe Dunlap's goal. He scored on a rebound from the bottom of the left circle.

They netted only three goals for the weekend and have 12 in their last seven games. Their power play betrayed them Sunday as they were just one for seven. That included a wasted four-minute man advantage on a high sticking double minor to Mathias Laferriere at 7:02 of the second period.

Worcester put only three shots in the direction of the net in those four minutes.

It was 1-1 going into the third period but the Railers could not beat Hunter Jones, who stopped 29 shots for the game. With the victory, Jones became the first opposing goaltender to beat Worcester in every game of a 3 in 3 series.

The Railers had five power plays in the first period and scored on one of them.

Lincoln Hatten got his 12th goal of the season at 17:03. It was his fifth on the power play and first of any

In the third period, Trois-Rivieres took a 2-1 lead at 2:17, then made it 3-1 at 8:44. Both were doorstep goals. Isaac Dufort had the first one, Cedric Desruisseaux the next one.

Morgan Moisan-Adams, who had a killer series, got the fourth visitors goal at 10:54 on a penalty shot after being hauled down on a breakaway.

While the Lions arrived in town as a sixth place team, not resembling the ECHL defending champion, they are an entirely different team with Jones in goal. Trois-Rivieres improved to 13-5-0 with him as the goaltender of record. The Lions are 21-20-4 overall.

A 30-Year Tradition at Risk: Minnechaug's Ultimate Party needs the community now

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - For more than 30 years, Minnechaug parents have come together with one shared goal: to keep our graduates safe on one of the most important and risky-nights of their young lives.

That tradition is now in serious danger.

Since 1992, the Chaug Ultimate Party has provided Minnechaug Regional High School graduates with a fully supervised, all-night, alcohol- and drug-free celebration on graduation night. The event-planned entirely by parents-offers students a safe place to be together, have fun, and celebrate without the pressures of drinking, impaired driving, vandalism, or other high-risk activities that too often accompany graduation night.

For decades, this event has worked. And now, it may end.

Due to declining community support, a shrinking volunteer base, and critical budget shortfalls, the Ultimate Party is at risk of not continuing beyond this year's senior class. If action is not taken soon, there will be no Ultimate Party for the current juniors or underclass-

men-ending a tradition that has protected generations of Minnechaug students.

This is not a school-sponsored event. The Ultimate Party is privately funded and relies entirely on fundraising, donations, and volunteers. Every dollar raised helps cover transportation, venue costs, food, entertainment, and supervision to ensure graduates have a safe and memorable night.

The reality is stark: Without renewed support over the next few years, this program will disappear.

And once it's gone, it will be incredibly difficult to bring back.

This Is Bigger Than One Class

Fundraising for the Ultimate Party is not just about the current senior class-it's about sustaining a tradition for future graduates. Every donation and every volunteer hour helps ensure that Minnechaug students continue to have a safe alternative on graduation night.

How the Community Can Help-Right Now
Donate: Cash contribu-

tions, merchandise, or gift certificates from individuals or local businesses are urgently needed.

Volunteer: Volunteers are the backbone of this event. Parents, guardians, and community members are needed to help plan, fundraise, and work the night of the party.

Spread the Word: Community awareness is critical. Please share this message.

Photos of recent graduates enjoying the Ultimate Party can be found on Facebook at Chaug Ultimate Party-a reminder of what this community has built together.

Volunteers & Support Needed

Anyone interested in learning more, donating, or volunteering is encouraged to contact committee member Jen Pelletier at jpelletier18@gmail.com.

This is a call to action. If the Ultimate Party matters to you-if student safety matters to you-now is the time to step forward.

Because graduation night should end with memories, not regrets.

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Cohen Nelson goes for a one-hander.



Andrew Grasso goes for a three-pointer.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Caden Duke attempts a layup with pressure.

Evangel Assembly hosts Open Door Open Mic Night

WILBRAHAM - Evangel Assembly is excited to announce our Open Door Open Mic Night, a vibrant community event taking place on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Evangel Assembly, located at 348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham in the East Wing.

This event is open to all, inviting guests to enjoy a night of diverse performances or take the

stage themselves for a five-minute performance of their choice. Whether you're a singer, poet, comedian, or storyteller, this is your chance to shine!

Open Mic participants can sign up to perform by visiting <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1120002>. Spectators are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy an evening

of local talent and entertainment in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Admission is free, there will be coffee and treats for donations, and all are welcome.

For more information or to register for a performance slot, visit <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1120002>.

BOYS from page 9

The visitors from Wilbraham was only trailing, 11-9, with a little more than three minutes left in the second quarter before the Colts ended the first half with a 9-0 run. The home team built a 20-9 halftime lead following four consecutive free throws by Elijah Kleps, who made

nine of his 11 attempts from the free throw line.

"Elijah went to the line a lot in tonight's game," Miller said. "Everyone contributed offensively."

Both teams scored 15 points during the third quarter. The Colts entered the final eight minutes of regulation holding a 35-24 lead. Elijah's twin brother,

Xavier, who's the Colts sixth man, scored all five of his points in the fourth quarter.

With 2:35 left in regulation, Xavier Kleps drained a 3-pointer giving the home team a 47-27 lead.

At that point, the Colts players and supporters were probably already thinking about the semifinal matchup.

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'SOUP'ER BOWL



Photos courtesy of Wilbraham Senior Center



Attendees try out the entries during the Second Annual "Soup'er Bowl event at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

A crowd shot of attendees enjoying the soup entries.

SOUP-ER BOWL, from page 1

Harrington said first place went to Brenda Willard for her cream of broccoli soup, second place to Maria Cacela for her loaded potatoe soup and third place to Jen Finigan for her chicken pot pie. "A \$5 donation was requested to participate and raffle tickets were also sold for a beautiful Cusinart stock pot generously donated by Ryan's parents, Stephen and Cynthia Windyka. In addition, volunteer Brenda delighted attendees with chocolate football and vanilla cake pops, which were sold to help raise additional funds," Harrington said.

Harrington shared this event "holds special meaning for me," reflecting on Windyka's role and impact on the community.

"I had always wanted to sponsor a Souper Bowl fundraiser after being inspired by Ryan, who brought this event to the YMCA each year. Every February, I looked forward to seeing him come

down the hallway with a big smile, inviting everyone to choose their favorite soup. It was clear how much he loved this event and the people he served," Harrington said. "Hosting this and future Souper Bowls, I will always think of him and the wonderful things he did. It felt important to honor him, as he truly embodied giving and made everyone at the YMCA feel welcome."

Harrington also expressed gratitude for the community support, noting the turnout was wonderful, "and the energy in the room was heartfelt."

"Many attendees shared how difficult it was to choose a favorite because every soup was outstanding," Harrington said.

As for the secret to the perfect soup?

"I might say—the secret to a perfect soup is a great broth," Harrington said. "The very first taste that puts a smile on your face, and there was plenty of smiles to go around."

Harrington thanked the community for attending and for helping make the event another success.

"I sincerely thank everyone who attended, volunteered, donated and helped make the fundraiser such a success," Harrington said. "The generosity, support and joy shared that day were truly special. We are already looking forward to next year's Souper Bowl!"



It was a beautiful day for a "Soup'er Bowl.



Social Services Coordinator Barbara Harrington poses with the Cusinart stock pot donated by Stephen and Cynthia Windyka. The funds raised supported a family in need through the Scantic Valley YMCA in memory of Membership Director Ryan Windyka.



Entrants were also Super Bowl Weekend ready adorning a Patriots shirt and soup entries at the ready.



Here, we have the Italian Wedding and ham and potato soup entries.



It was a great crowd for the Souper Bowl ahead of Super Bowl weekend.

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The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to: selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

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COLLEGE NEWS

James Jolicoeur named to Assumption University's Fall 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER - Assumption University has announced that James Jolicoeur, of Hampden, Class of 2026, has been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Paige Coite named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH - Paige Coite of Wilbraham has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Owen Perry achieves Fall 2025 Dean's List at Carthage College

KENOSHA, WI - Carthage College recognizes Owen Perry from Wilbraham for their academic achievement and being named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List.

Dean's List honors are accorded to Carthage students who achieve a minimum 3.5 grade-point average while carrying at least 12 letter-graded credits in a given semester.

Local student earns place on Furman University Dean's List

GREENVILLE, S.C. -Allison Shayna Kandel of Wilbraham earned a place on Furman University's dean's list for the 2025 fall semester. Furman's dean's list is composed of full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher on a four-point system. Kandel's parents and/or guardians are Anthony Kandel and Anne Kandel.

Conor O'Brien earned President's List honors during the Fall 2025 semester

CANTON, NY - Conor O'Brien, a SUNY Canton Information Technology major from Wilbraham earned President's List honors during the fall 2025 semester.

"Your academic achievements during the fall semester reflect your dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence," said SUNY Canton President Zvi Szafran. "We are proud of all you have accomplished and applaud your success on behalf of the faculty, staff and administration at SUNY Canton."

To earn a spot on the President's List, full-time students must earn a 3.75 or greater GPA during a single semester of study.

HCC announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE - Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2025 term:

Hampden: Adelaide Fay, Adison Oliveras, Adam Edward Poulin.

Wilbraham: Liam George Colclough, Kayla Ann Coolbeth, Mia Yareisha Figueroa, Khaliyah Jordan Gagner, Celia M. Labarbera, Daniel Patrick Loomis, Jeremie Joseph Marquez, James George Martine, Madison Elizabeth Meunier, Alek Milov, Olivia Catherine Picard, Jason Nicholas Sutter, Aaron Treat.

WPI announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean's List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List:

- William Bao of Wilbraham, class of 2029, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Siena Dansereau of Wilbraham, class of 2028, majoring in Chemical Engineering
- Samuel Manteria of Wilbraham, class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering
- Maggie Michels of Wilbraham, class of 2029, majoring in Computer Science
- Molly Olsen of Wilbraham, class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

Wilbraham native named to SRU dean's list for Fall 2025 semester

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA - In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Jacob Ferri from Wilbraham was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025

semester at Slippery Rock University. The dean's list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average

of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

Alexa Patrakis named to Hartwick College's Fall 2025 Dean's List

ONEONTA, NY - Alexa Patrakis of Wilbraham was named to Hartwick College's Fall 2025 Dean's List. Patrakis, who is pursuing a major in Biology with a minor in Healthcare Administration, was among the approximately 400 students who were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List.

Making the Dean's List is an indication of excellence in academic work. To qualify, students must complete at least 12 academic credits during a term with a grade point average of at least 3.50 and no incompletes.

Lasell University's Lucas, Stogner receives Collaboration Recognition Award

NEWTON - Lucas Stogner (Wilbraham) was selected to receive the Collaboration Recognition Award at Lasell University for the Fall 2025 semester.

This peer-nominated award recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in collaboration through effective communication, idea-sharing, and teamwork. The award reflects Lasell's emphasis on collaboration as a core learning outcome and a key career readiness competency identified by the National Association of Colleges & Employers.

Jaidan Kertenis named to SUNY Potsdam President's List

POTSDAM, NY - Jaidan Kertenis of Hampden was recently named to the President's List at The State University of New York at Potsdam.

Kertenis, whose major is Business Administration, was among 738 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Fall 2025 semester. SUNY Potsdam President Dr. Suzanne Smith recognized the students for earning top marks.

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

McKenna Hatch earns Fall 2025 Dean's List honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, RI - McKenna Hatch, of Wilbraham has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:45PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law described below:

- 1) To amend Section 4.10 of the Zoning Bylaw, Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Regulations, to require 1 off-street parking space for all ADUs, except for ADUs within a 1/2 mile radius of a transit station.
- 2) To renumber and recaption the Zoning Bylaw by (a) designating the Zoning Bylaw as Chapter 250 of the Code of the Town of Wilbraham; (b) renumbering each section and subsection of the bylaw accordingly; (c) inserting article, section and subsection titles; and (d) updating internal references to reflect the new numbering system
- 3) To make the following changes to the renumbered and recaptioned Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 250):
 - a. General revisions to ensure consistency of terms and correction of typographical errors
 - b. Amend Section 250-1.3 to modify the following definitions: assisted living residence, building envelope, clearing envelope, family day care home, hazardous material, registered marijuana dispensary and sign
 - c. Amend Section 250-3.5B(14) to remove the special permit requirement for a family day care home consistent with recent changes to state law
 - d. Delete blank Section 3.9.4 "Accessory uses: industrial"
 - e. Amend Section 250-4.11.G, to remove a duplication of the word "snowplowing"
 - f. Amend Section 250-5.1 to clarify language in the Residential Multiple Dwelling District
 - g. Amend Section 250-6.5 to clarify applicable zoning districts for new vehicle sales
 - h. Amend Sections 250-6.5.I & 250-7.2G to change "American Standards Association" to "American National Standards Institute"
 - i. Amend Section 250-7.6 to reflect changes in state law and regulations related to Registered Marijuana Facilities
 - j. Amend Section 250-9.1 to correct and update legal and map references applicable to the Floodplain Overlay District
 - k. Amend Section 250-10.4 to make grammatical corrections and to change "Federal Aeronau-

tics Administration" to "Federal Aviation Administration"

- l. Amend Section 250-10.5 to correct terms related to civil engineers and land surveyors and to delete a reference to the MA Department of Environmental Protection "Division of Air Quality"
- m. Amend Section 250-10.7 to correct scrivener's errors
- n. Amend Section 250-15.3 to increase the fine for violations from \$100 to \$300 for each offense.
- o. Amend the appendix related to scenic roads to include the entirety of the language in MGL c. 40, Section 15C

The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/684280605> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 684-280-605).

James Rooney, Chair
02/12, 02/19/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD13P0241GD

In the matter of: Christopher M Tubbs Of: Hampden, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by: **Dept of Developmental Services** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **03/17/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 10, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/19/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Probate and Family Court Department HAMPDEN, Division Docket No. HD25P2271PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Barbara A. Vickery, of Wilbraham in said County, a person under Conservatorship, single.

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - certain real estate of said Barbara A. Vickery, for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA, before 10:00 a.m. on the **9th day of March 2026**, the return day of this petition.

Witness, **CLAUDINE T. STOUDEMIRE**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court this second day of February 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register
02/19/2026

NOTICE ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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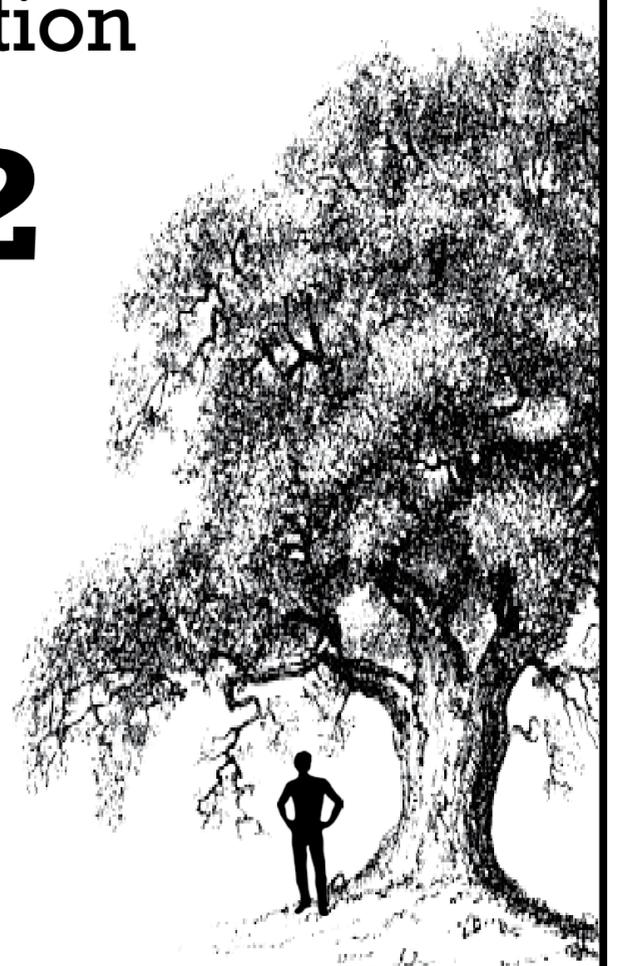
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