

TOWN
YMCA promotes healthy living
Page 14

SPORTS
Spring Season begins
Page 17



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Children's Librarian Heidi Kane, pictured in the Brooks Room, is retiring from the Wilbraham Public Library after nearly 24 years.

Children's Librarian Heidi Kane retires

Kane's last day is March 29

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - After nearly 24 years, Children's Librarian Heidi Kane is retiring.

An art major who previously worked for an artist, Kane came to the library in 2000 and worked part-time in the children's department after her husband told her about the position. In 2008, she was hired full-time as an assistant children's librarian.

After former Children's Librarian Elaine Wrubel retired, Kane applied for the role and became her successor.

Reflecting on her career, Kane stressed how libraries are "the heart of a city or town," sharing the impact libraries had on her children growing up.

"Not only was it helpful money-wise, but it opened their minds to everything. Everything, all their interests,"

Kane said. "That's where they learned to love the library and learned to love reading."

Kane shared one thing she's most proud of is enhancing safety, including cameras, more lighting in the parking lot and paving projects.

A sexual crime in the teen department in 2020 motivated Kane to protect the library's patrons and staff, meeting with the library's trustees, conducting research, connecting with other libraries and consulting with Local 98 for their input.

"I end my career with such happiness because of having that safety for this community, for the kids and everything," Kane said. "I can retire with peace with that."

Another thing she's proud of is the summer reading program to keep children reading during the summer months.

"When we have kids coming in after school visits and they say, 'We're signing up.' Kids I haven't seen. The success of that really makes me

Please see **KANE**, page 7

International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame inductee



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Al Gag, the 2024 inductee to the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, holds up his plaque as he greets family and friends after his induction ceremony at the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show on March 23.

Al Gag officially inducted into the Fishing Hall of Fame

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Albert Gagliarducci, or Al Gag as he's well known, was officially inducted into the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame 2024 Class on March 23.

Gag, a longtime fisherman, owner of Al Gag's Custom Lures and host of "Gone Fishing" on

WWLP and WGGB, was recognized for his contributions to the fishing industry.

The International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, located in Hayward, WI, has inducted only 500 people from its 1960 inception to today, including legendary Red Sox player Ted Williams, 26th U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, Author Ernest Hemingway, sportscaster Curt Gowdy and many more.

The ceremony took place during the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at the Mohegan Sun Earth Expo & Convention Center, where Gag was also a vendor.

With family, friends, his students, fishing enthusiasts and many more in attendance, Gag joined Kristie Gonsalves, the Fishing & Outdoor Show's producer, atop a 5,000-gallon Hawg Traugh fishing tank, where he was presented with a plaque and performed a ceremonial cast into the fish tank.

Reading a prepared speech from the Hall of Fame's Selection Committee member Jim Grandt, who was unable to attend, Gonsalves read about the history of the Hall of Fame and how "this honor has not been

Please see **AL GAG**, page 5



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A group shot of the cast of "Oklahoma!" as they practice in The Red Barn at Fountain Park in Wilbraham on March 24.

Theatre Guild of Hampden to present 'Oklahoma!'

Tickets are on sale now

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The Red Barn at Fountain Park in Wilbraham was abuzz with activity on March 24 as the Theatre Guild of Hampden began rehearsals for their upcoming production of "Oklahoma!"

The classic musical, the first collaboration from leg-

endary composers Rodgers and Hammerstein, is set in 1906 and centers on farm-girl Laurey Williams, who is courted by two rival suitors, cowboy Curly McLain and farmhand Jud Fry.

The show dates are April 5, 6 and 7 and April 12, 13 and 14, with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinee shows at 2 p.m.

The directors are Christopher Rojas and Mark Giza, with Bobby Scott as music director and Dina DelBuono as

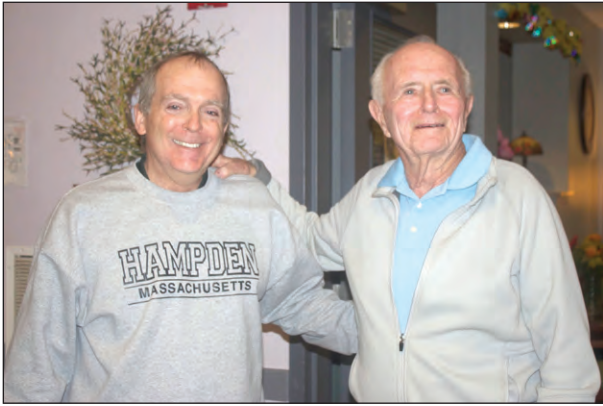
choreographer.

As production week begins, Ally Reardon, who plays the lead Laurey Williams, expressed excitement, sharing how being in the musical has helped her become more familiar with "Oklahoma!" and its songs.

"I like to sing. Out of the three threads: dancing, singing (and) acting. Singing's my thing. She's got a couple of really good numbers and Bobby's been a great musical director to work with," Rear-

Please see **THEATRE**, page 7

Building Committee unveils update for senior center



Turley photos by Harrison Giza
Chairman, Don Collins, with Hampden Selectman, John Flynn.



A slideshow detailing who uses the Senior Center.



The audience was packed with people eager to know more about the committee's plans.



edmSTUDIO Architect, Christopher Wante, going over the existing floor plan.



Executive Director of the Senior Center, Becky Moriarty, started off the event.



Kimberlee Converse going over her notes from the proposed floor plan with Noreen Nowak-Moran.

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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HAMPDEN – Many residents gathered at the senior center on March 21 to learn about its future renovations.

Executive Director Becky Moriarty began her remarks thanking staff and those who provided fundraising help, including members of the Friends of Hampden Seniors, the Council on Aging and the Hampden Senior Center Building Committee.

Following this, Moriarty presented a slideshow detailing research and data collected on who uses the senior center.

“This year is the first year that the senior center has not been 1% of the total town budget,” Moriarty said. “We’ve actually moved to 2% of the total town budget. We have 37% of the town population that is over the age of 60 and our budget is just 2% of the total town bud-

get...so we do a lot with a little.” Moriarty then got down to the reason everyone was there.

“We do have space limitations within the building and we do have times when we have to cancel programs,” Moriarty said. “If we have a large event that comes in, our exercise classes usually bear the brunt of those cancellations, but we have also had to cancel programs in our craft room, our knitting group and our quilting group have also suffered cancelled classes. We have transitioned our custodian’s closet into an auxiliary room, it is lovely, you’ll see it if you take the tour later, but that is where if you come you can get your nails done or have a massage or have foot care with the foot nurse, so it is a tiny little closet and we are making every inch of space in this building usable.”

Moriarty added the center no longer has adequate storage for things like their staging unit, noting that tables and boxes now must be stored in the halls.

“We just don’t have room to store those things,” Moriarty said. “We also have our library that is a wonderful space, but it is used for programs and classes and games as opposed to being able to be utilized as a library, what it was intended for, to just go in and read a book... we would like to have space for people to come in and be able to have meetings with people where they might need a little more privacy. You may not want to share your financial information with someone in the middle of this big room, but if you had a quieter space, where you could do that, we’d also like you to have personal need services done outside of the custodian’s closet so you are not next to the mop bucket, but that you are in a comfortable environment to do that. So, there are a lot of things that we need that we could expand upon.”

Building Committee Chair Don Collins provided a background on the plans.

“In October of 2022, the Selectmen appointed a Senior Center Building Committee. It included 9

citizens of the town. We’ve met for the last year and a half, twice a month, to go over the needs of the center. We have compared them and looked for alternatives, and eventually came up with a mass list of the needs,” Collins said.

Collins then broke down the needs into three categories: confidential space, health insurance and personal situations, adding how the committee has gone out to look for estimated prices for the impending project.

“As Becky pointed out, people come in for discussions on their personal situations, personal financial aspects or to get recommendations on their health insurance. Becky is certified in that area and is excellent in it and you don’t want to have that done in the library,” Collins said.

edmSTUDIO Architect Christopher Wante shared the floor plan of the existing facility, emphasizing the designs are still pending.

“We are over 7,000 square feet currently,” Wante said. “It is a little over 400 square feet of orient us as to what the existing facility has so that we can have something to compare it to.”

The estimated total cost of the project is \$6,600,000.

Noreen Nowak-Moran, one of the attendees, raised her concerns, particularly focusing on the square footage of the bathrooms.

“I have a little bit of difficulty with the amount of bathroom space that is being situated here,” said Nowak-Moran. “And I just think that I don’t see a big run on the bathroom use here. I do not see problems with the hallway space here. I don’t know how large these hallways are going to be expanded, but as far as putting wider hallways, you are taking away from, I think, the storage situation and the use of the facility.”

Wante replied to Nowak-Moran’s concerns.

“There’s code requirements,” Wante said. “It is basically you calculate how any folks are using the facility, and there are co-calculations, so without getting into the nitty gritty of that, we calculated every single room, and unfortunately you have to plan for the code for (the) worst case scenario.”

From here, the town will decide the next steps for the renovations.

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HWRSD meets with town committees for budget roundtable

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee was joined by town committees on March 25 for their budget roundtable meeting.

The committees from Hampden were the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Committee and the Capital Planning Committee. From Wilbraham, the committees were the Select Board, Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee.

State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) were also in attendance.

Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent for finance, operations and human resources, and Superintendent Dr. John Provost led the overview, highlighting accomplishments and trends for the prior year's budget.

A major highlight was when Osborne explained why their budget is different from towns like East Longmeadow and Longmeadow, a question he gets asked a lot.

"One of the things we have to recognize is, as we're preparing our budget, is that the school district, or regional school district, carries a number of costs that a municipal district like a Longmeadow or East Longmeadow or West Springfield doesn't," Osborne said.

Osborne then highlighted some examples including employee health insurance, retiree health insurance and retirement contributions.

"Those three items alone add up to around \$80.5 million in our budget, so that's a significant item that doesn't sit on those budgets," Osborne said.

On the major increases, Osborne focused on instructional technology, which was requested to be put on the operating budget, totaling \$254,000.

Chromebooks are the biggest item at \$154,000, followed by classroom projectors at \$25,000, \$40,000 for staff laptops and \$35,000 for software for Chromebook security and control.

"This is something we funded in the past few years out of the ESSER Grant. We've used ESSER funds to maintain this at the middle and high school levels. Those funds have dried

up, so we need to fund these going forward," Osborne said.

For budget savings, totaling \$593,430, Osborne explained the district "had some pretty significant reductions in staffing due to moves from Green Meadows Middle School classes to Wilbraham Middle School."

"So students have, by and large, left Green Meadows and gone to Wilbraham Middle School via a transfer process. So, we reduced some staff



there," Osborne said. "We, actually, had despite a 3% increase to our retiree health insurance, we actually had a pretty significant decrease in retiree health insurance overall. Some of that has to do with retirees choosing Medicare plans rather than certain cost plans."

With revenue changes, Osborne emphasized the impact of losing the ESSER Grants and how the budget would have been supporting \$350,000 on that to save jobs and keep programming in place.

"Our current excess and deficiency sits at \$763,000 and that's the amount that we put against the budget this year, so we resolve our excess and deficiency," Osborne said.

For the proposed FY25 budget, the total is \$54,239,159, a net increase of \$1,299,219, or 2.45%.

Osborne said this on the FY25 proposed assessments.

"So total assessment for Hampden, we're looking at \$8,813,481. Wilbraham, \$30,237,234 for a total combined assessment of \$39,050,715," Osborne said. "Hampden is looking at a total change of \$245,288 at a net percent change of 2.86%. For Wilbraham, we're looking at \$1,118,010 for a change in assessment of 8.34%."

Finally, for Minnechaug and district capital needs, Osborne focused on technology, totaling \$225,000, with \$43,279 for Hampden's share and \$181,721 for Wilbraham's.

"We do have a great opportunity to sort of leapfrog technologies which is a good thing and move to the next standard," Osborne said.

Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport asked about the staffing reductions, particularly at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

"Do you anticipate using Thornton Burgess in the near future?" Davenport said.

Osborne replied, "That's a conversation we're having."

"We are moving students out of it this year, now that eighth grade pretty much made the decision not to move eighth grade up here for this year. This is sort of our window to move the students from there to here," Osborne said. "Just having students there

means we have to have a custodian on pretty regularly. We only have eight to 10 students in that program there at any given time. It makes less and less sense to keep that program there while we need to have a full-time custodian for that building basically."

After asking about post-secondary success numbers, Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich also inquired about staffing reductions.

Goodrich was especially concerned about the reduction in school counselors.

"Why are we reducing school counselors when kids are facing more and more challenges socially, emotionally, everything under the sun. Why are we reducing instead of increasing those positions?" Goodrich said.

Osborne responded, "Some of it is budget" and those positions were funded through the ESSER Grant.

"That money has gone away. Dries up this year, so we just don't have the funds available to keep counsel at that level," Osborne said.

Provost added class size also plays a role along with a financial constraint.

"I agree. If their conditions were such that the budget could support more counseling staff, it certainly would be a benefit for the students. It's a choice of one student-facing staff member versus another kind of student-facing staff member," Provost said.

After School Committee member William Bontempi shared his concerns about Chapter 71 funds being 90%, Vice Chair Sean Kennedy echoed the same sentiments and added 100% should be the goal.

"That really helps us out, because any money that we're spending on a bus, we're taking away from a teacher, we're taking away from education. Counselors, exactly," Kennedy said.

After Bontempi urged the state to do more to support education, Ashe agreed more work needs to be done.

"We hear you and we feel the pain. We understand it and we'll continue to keep doing whatever we can to move forward, to hopefully get that 100%," Ashe said.

Puppolo also agreed on the 100%, adding how he and Ashe serve on the Regional School Caucus at the Senate and met recently.

"The goal is to get to 100% and hopefully we can do that at some point," Puppolo said.

Hampden Advisory Committee Chair Doug Boyd thanked Ashe and Puppolo for being at the meeting.

"We appreciate the fact that you do show up. You hear our concerns, our frustrations and I think you both have done this long enough to know these comments are not directed at you, directed at your positions," Boyd said.

Boyd also thanked the School Committee and administration for presenting a reasonable and modest budget request.

"In the environment that we're in, I think it's an accomplishment and as a tax-paying member of the community, I thank you for that," Boyd said.

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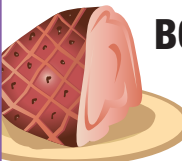
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Wilbraham library holds Craft and Play for kids

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The library held their Craft and Play event on March 23 as heavy rain poured all morning.

Assistant Children's Librarian Rachel Smythe was there that day for any and all who didn't mind baring the storm outside.

"We do these monthly," Smythe said. "We just wanted to create an event that maybe wasn't as formal as some of our other ones. You can just drop in if it is convenient for their schedule and we wanted something that would appeal to a wide range of ages and interests for the kids so that whole families could come in... or grandparents or grandchildren, caregivers, so we try and choose art projects that a wide variety of ages could do."

Smythe loves what she does and tries her best to present as many fun opportunities for kids and their parents as possible.

"We try to have things for some younger kids and then for kids who don't want to do an art project we have Keva planks," Smythe said. "It is so informal people can kind of treat it as a social kind of get-together thing, so well have kids and families where the kids are playing and the adults are talking, or sometimes it is the parents or the grandparents down on the floor playing with their kids. It is just really informal and kind of fun."

Keva is like educational pickle ball for kids by way of the classic group bonding game, Jenga, which is why Smythe is keen on using the planks at her sessions.

"They are all exactly the same size," Smythe said. "So, they are very precise when you build with them. If you are looking at it from an educational standpoint, kids are working on mathematics and physics as



Rachel Smythe, assistant's children's librarian at the Wilbraham Public Library, was a beacon of light for kids and parents that rainy day as she oversaw Craft and Play on March 23.



A display of colored self-portraits WPL staff put together.

they are building things. They are doing problem solving kind of stuff and art stuff, they are working on their fine motor skills... but also, they just think it is fun. You can do structures, pictures, buildings, games you can do with them. I have had some Craft and Plays where the kids do a road all the way around the room and they're all playing together, you know, but there is enough of them that a children can build their own tower.



A mother and son playing with Keva planks as the rain pours outside.



Spider-Man and Hulk now live at the Wilbraham Public Library, sharing a bin filled with ping pong balls.

Smythe continued about her appreciation for Keva planks while a child assembled some behind her.

"What I really love about them is that they are so intergenerational," Smythe said.

"You get dads that are down on the floor playing with their kids and the dads seem to be as much into it as the kids. And then we have the Hulk and Spider-Man, who just ended up at our library and they kind of live here with the planks and the kids absolutely build houses for them and roads for them, so, they kind of hang out with the kids."

Smythe is excited to share more library events with kids and parents in the future.

"We'll have our summer reading program this summer," Smythe said. "We do the Craft and Plays every month, but they aren't a set Saturday so you just kind of have to watch for that. And we always have our Pathways for Parents program that we have going but as we approach summer, everything really does focus in on summer reading. Nothing is firm but usually we have a lot of programming for that."

Old Post Road Orchestra performing at Minnechaug on April 5

WILBRAHAM - The Old Post Road Orchestra (OPRO) will perform on Friday, April 5, 7:30 pm, at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham.

Our spring concert, titled "Bohemian Landscapes (in the European Mountains)", will include selections from Strauss, Sibelius, Smetana and Mahler.

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Al Gag takes a group photo with some of his fishing students after he was inducted into the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame on March 23.



Al Gag listens as Kristie Gonsalves, the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show's producer, reads a prepared speech on behalf of the International Fishing Hall of Fame Selection Committee member Jim Grandt.

AL GAG from page 1

done at a sports show out east in decades and it's going to happen today."

"The great honor of induction into the hall of fame is the highest bestowed to an individual for his or her achievements in the great outdoors and fishing industry and is simply legendary, which Al is," Gonsalves read.

After reading the names of prior inductees, Gonsalves read the Hall of Fame was excited to induct Gag.

"Al's achievements are many, but to keep it simple. He has earned this great honor with integrity, paying close attention to paying it forward to our next generation and supporting the industry we all love: fishing," Gonsalves read.

After presenting Gag with his plaque, Gonsalves read this final message from Grandt.

"Al, it's my great honor to have been able to work with you through this great lifetime achievement. Enjoy the ride. Congratulations," Gonsalves read.

Gonsalves then got emotional, sharing how Gag has impacted the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show and her family.

"My family has produced fishing shows for over four decades, and you have been instrumental to their success year after year," Gonsalves said.

Gag said the honor "finally feels real" and seeing everyone in attendance to celebrate him made him realize how many people he's impacted, including the Gonsalves and Sousa families.

"I love what I do and I think I manufacture happiness and that's what it is (about)," Gag said.

Gag shared his students "are special kids" and wants to set a positive example for them.

"That's what it's all about, is about getting these kids out there, making them believe in themselves, making them believe they can get out there and catch fish," Gag said. "So that's what we're doing."

Gag said he's currently designing new lures and thinking of ways to raise money for the Hall of Fame by making a commemorative lure.

"I'm going to be there, I want the hall to exist. I want it to flourish and if I can contribute to it like that, that's what we're doing to do," Gag said.

Gag wants the community to know how grateful he is to them, calling Wilbraham "a great community."

Gag added he wished he could have had the whole town at the ceremony.

"I'm very proud to live there and I'm very proud of the town. I hope I can help the community, too, someday. I'm out there, so if the community needs me, bring me out and we'll do what we have to do," Gag said.

Moving forward, Gag will focus on his students and how to help the community, thanking everyone for their support.

"I want to watch them prosper. That's my goal," Gag said.



A book on display during the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show where attendees could write messages of congratulations to Al Gag.

PV Financial Group Unveils 7th Annual Plan with A Purpose Scholarship

LUDLOW – PV Financial Group (PVFG) is thrilled to announce the launch of its 7th Annual Plan with A Purpose Scholarship, dedicated to Ludlow, Belchertown and Wilbraham graduating seniors. This year, PV Financial will award a scholarship of \$2,000 to each town's recipient.

At PV Financial, the philosophy is centered around the belief that one does good by doing good. They measure their success not by transactions, but by the positive

impact they have on people's lives. The Plan with a Purpose Scholarship aims to recognize a graduating senior who is actively planning a purposeful future, utilizing their academic achievements to make a meaningful difference in their community.

"We are seeking students with compelling narratives, showcasing how they intend to leverage their academic pursuits to effect change and become integral community members," says Managing Partner

Ed Sokolowski. "We are privileged to invest in their future and ongoing success as they embark on their college journey."

Applications for Ludlow and Belchertown seniors remain open until May 1, 2024. Interested students are encouraged to inquire at their local Guidance Departments for application details.

To learn more, contact Edward Sokolowski, managing partner, at 413-589-1500 or esokolowski@pvfinancial.com.

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VIEWPOINTS



It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the

Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room

temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



By Lee Hamilton

The American economy is thriving, and immigration should get some of the credit.

That's the message from experts who highlight the critical role that immigrants are playing in the workforce.

This may seem surprising when immigration is under attack and chaos at the border is a staple of political rhetoric. But immigrants are filling essential jobs – in childcare, health care, food service and agriculture but also in science, technology and entrepreneurship – at a time when employers are struggling to find workers.

About half the recent growth in the labor market came from foreign-born workers, according to an Economic Policy Institute analysis. A recent report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that growth in the labor force, largely from immigration, will add \$7 trillion to America's GDP in the next decade.

More people working means more people paying taxes, which reduces the federal deficit.

Of course, this doesn't mean our immigration policies are working the way they should. They haven't been seriously updated since 1986.

We need an immigration system that advances our national interest and reflects our values, and we don't have that. Our current system prioritizes family unification, which is important; but it hasn't kept pace with changes in technology and the economy.

Obviously, many Americans are concerned about immigration. A recent Gallup survey found 28% of respondents named immigration as the top problem facing our nation, more than cited inflation or any other issue; and it's not just Republicans who worry. Liberal cities like New York, Chicago and Denver have been overwhelmed by migrants bused from Texas.

But some fears are overblown. Research finds that immigrants don't take jobs from native-born Americans or drive down wages, at least in times of robust employment. Neither do they rely excessively on public assistance or commit more crimes.

The vast majority play by the rules and contribute to society. The Pew Research Center estimates that just 22% of foreign-born workers are undocumented.

America is a nation of immigrants, but immigration has often been controversial.

HAMILTON ON FOREIGN POLICY

Immigrants drive U.S. economy

An anti-immigrant backlash 100 years ago produced legislation to bar most migrants not from Northern and Western Europe. It wasn't until the 1960s that a point-based system replaced national-origin quotas.

Today, immigrants account for 13.6% of the U.S. population, a modern-day high and about the same percentage as a century ago. The share of foreign-born workers in the labor force is higher, largely because immigrants are likely to be of working age.

That's important because the native-born population of working age isn't growing.

The Baby Boom generation has reached retirement, straining programs like Medicare and Social Security. As Brookings Institution analyst William H. Frey writes, "immigration levels are crucial in leading to national growth as opposed to decline, and countering what would otherwise be extreme aging."

A well-designed immigration system could maximize the benefits of immigration while reducing border issues and other concerns. Unfortunately, getting agreement on immigration is extremely difficult.

We saw this recently when the Senate reached a bipartisan deal to pair border restrictions and funding with aid to Ukraine and Israel only to see the House reject the plan.

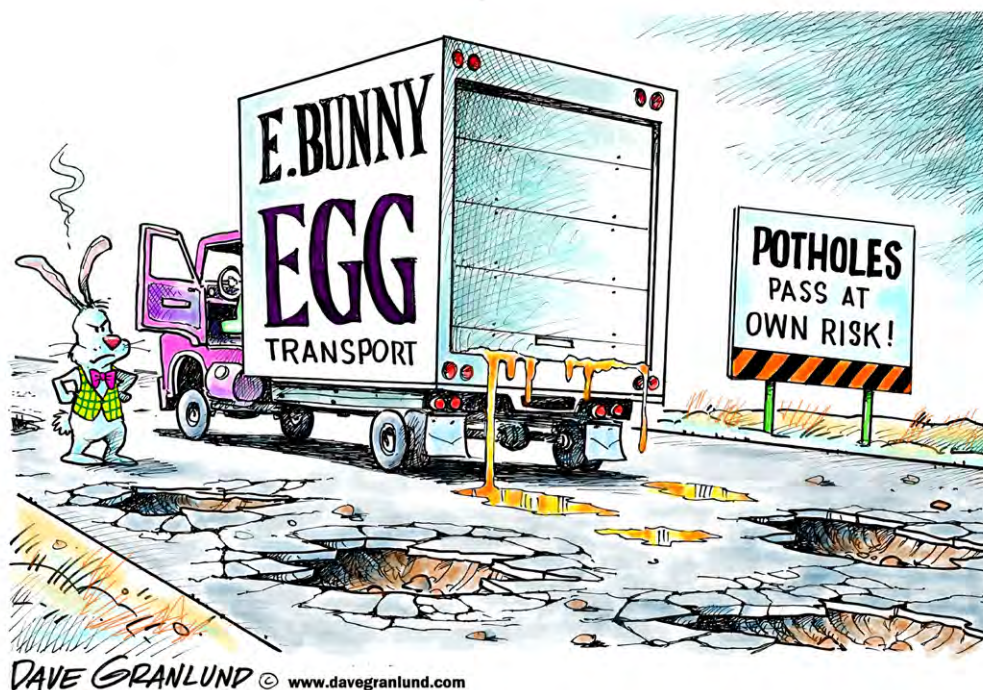
Almost 20 years ago, former Sen. Spencer Abraham and I chaired a task force to study America's immigration policies. We recommended a simplified and streamlined system with consistent federal oversight, updated technology, improved border security, protection of human rights and a path to legal status for unauthorized immigrants.

These ideas shouldn't be controversial, and they are as worthwhile today as when they were written.

It may be too much to expect Congress to pass immigration reform in an election year, when politicians are eager to exploit the issue. But we can't keep kicking solutions down the road.

Immigration is too important: to the economy and to our identity as a nation.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



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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 800-824-6458 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.

Hartsprings Drive coming to Senior Center

HAMPDEN – A Hartsprings Drive will be taking place at the senior center on Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

The Hartsprings Truck will be at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St., Hampden to collect your items that may be too large to put in the bin. As you begin your spring cleaning, please save all your unwanted clothing, books, dishes, towels, sheets,

bedspreads, glassware, sporting equipment, suitcases in good condition. However, we cannot accept bed pillows or baby items such as car seats or toys. We accept small kitchen items, such as toasters, microwaves and toaster ovens

If you have any questions in regards to what you may bring or if assistance is needed, please contact Joan Shea at 566-8224. The Hartsprings Bin will remain

in place before and after the Truck Drive in the parking lot of the Hampden Senior Center. This special pick-up will assist you with the many bags you may have or if they are large in size.

Again, thank you for your continuing support of this special fundraiser which raises money for The Hampden Senior Center Building Fund.

CAMPUS

NOTES

Allison Kandel named to Furman Univ. Dean's List

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Allison Kandel earned a place on Furman University's dean's list for the 2023 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.

KANE from page 1

feel proud because I feel like I'm making a difference," Kane said. "If they come in because they need (to) talk about what for whatever reason and they're going to read that summer, then I did my job."

Kane said she would miss the families the most, crediting the teachers for their partnership with the library.

"The hugs from the kids. The kids coming back and saying hi to me. Their parents would bring their kids who would come for storytime years ago and they want me to see how they've grown up," Kane said.

On her favorite memories, Kane said there were too many to name, including doing peace doves, locks of love and wishing birdhouses with the kids and connecting with the staff.

"Staff is like family, so there are so many good memories and even with the new staff, we are creating memories every day just laughing and talking about our families and friends. We always worked together and helped each other out," Kane said. "It doesn't matter old or new. My memories are just with everyone."

Kane assured residents they're in good hands with Jaimie Hageman, who will succeed her as children's librarian.

"I'm very happy about that. We're on the same brain waves and she's going to be a really great person to work with," Kane said. "She'll be a great children's librarian. I feel good about that too."

Post-retirement, Kane plans to spend time with family and friends, work on her artwork and volunteer.

"I'm going to do whatever I feel like doing. I'm even going to read more books," Kane said.

Kane wants the community to know it was an honor to serve them and to continue supporting the library and its programming.

"Just keep supporting the library. Even if you don't use it, you just want to support the library. It's an important component to the community," Kane said.

Kane also thanked them.

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.



From the left, Joseph Valencourt as Curly McLain, Kathy Renaud as Aunt Eller and Ally Reardon as Laurey Williams rehearse a scene from "Oklahoma!" inside The Red Barn at Fountain Park on March 24.



Max Levheim as Will Parker and Dominique Libera as Ado Annie during a kiss scene as they practice their parts in "Oklahoma!"

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

THEATRE from page 1

don said. "I think singing and exploring acting with music is my favorite part about performing."

Reardon has been with the guild since she was 10 when she performed in "Guys and Dolls" and has worked with Giza before, looking forward to working with her fellow cast members.

"There's a lot of new people that I haven't worked with, so I think that's my favorite part. Getting to know some of the cast members that I've never worked with and they're all really great," Reardon said.

Reardon emphasized the importance of local theater bringing communities together to enjoy their favorite shows.

"It's a great way for people to come together and enjoy the famous tunes that they've heard and that they might not be able to see on Broadway. (A) sense of nostalgia too," Reardon said.

Rojas explained the musical is his directorial debut and is co-directing with Giza, whom he calls his creative mentor.

"I was really excited to journey

into this and do something new and, honestly, I wouldn't be doing it if it wasn't for Mark Giza. If I wasn't doing it with Mark Giza, I probably wouldn't be doing this," Rojas said.

Rojas said the guild chose "Oklahoma!" to provide an opportunity for a sight-specific show, utilizing The Red Barn for the backdrop.

"Its structure is that of a barn, so making it sight-specific to Oklahoma, there's no better place to do it than in a place that you feel like you're stepping into the territory that's about to become Oklahoma. We have hay bales, all sorts of southern accents," Rojas said. "I want it to feel like you're stepping into the play when you enter the barn and I think that this is the correct place to do something like that."

Joseph Valencourt plays cowboy Curly McLain, one of Laurey's suitors, sharing that it is his first show with the guild.

Valencourt got involved when Rojas reached out to him after he moved back to the area last year.

"Since then, working with this group, it's just been so much fun. Everybody's like a family and very hard-working," Valencourt said.

Valencourt's first show was when he was five years old, getting into the-

ater more when he was a high school junior playing Snoopy in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!"

He emphasized connecting with your audience.

"The audience plays a role in the show," Valencourt said. "It's great in a venue like this. It's very intimate, very small venue and so just being able to make them laugh and have them feel every emotion and kind of make them feel part of the story as well."

Reardon, Rojas and Valencourt encouraged Wilbraham and Hampden residents to check out the show and get their tickets soon, as they're going fast, and consider auditioning for future shows.

"If you want a chance to see it, I would get right on it," Reardon said.

"Support local theater and step out of your shell and check out something worth seeing," Rojas said.

"Always audition. This group, especially, is very welcoming and very helpful and are willing to put in the work if you put in the work. So, follow your dreams and have fun and don't take life too, too seriously," Valencourt said.

To purchase your tickets, visit <https://www.theatreguildofhampden.org/tickets.html>.

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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Oderay Boyer, died Dec. 21, 2023. Lombard Funeral Home in Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Carol A. Eaton, formerly of Wilbraham died March 18, 2024. Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Patricia Kmon of Wilbraham died March 18, 2024. Wilbraham Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Oderay Boyer 1928-2024

WILBRAHAM - Oderay Boyer, long time resident of Wilbraham, MA, died on Thursday, December 21, 2023. She was 95 years old.

Born Oderay Arsenia Moscoso on September 15, 1928, she was the only child of Venancia Bustamante and Antonio Moscoso Herrera. She was raised in the village of her birth, Lajamina, and in nearby Pedasi, both in the province of Los Santos in the Republic of Panama. She was educated in the public and private schools of Panama, graduating in 1945 from the Escuela Profesional Isabel Herrera Obaldia in Panama City, and was a certified IBM data input specialist. After her graduation she was employed by Guardia y Sia, SA., and later the Tribunal Electoral.

In 1955 she gave birth to her first son, Adolfo Chandeck, the son of Luis Alberto Chandeck. In early 1961 she met H. Carl Boyer, of Wilbraham, MA, then serving in the United States Army at Fort Amador in the Panama Canal Zone. They married later that year, and the following year she gave birth to her second son, Carl Peter. The new family moved to the United States in 1963, settling in Wilbraham, where she gave birth to her third son, John. In 1965 the family moved into a newly built home on Beebe Road in Wilbraham, where Oderay would reside with her husband for the rest of her life.

Known as Ode to family and friends, she quickly adapted to her New England home, falling in love with the beauty of the winter snows. Part of the last generation of stay-at-home moms, she was a fine cook, busily preparing daily meals and elaborate holiday spreads. She was an avid gardener, transforming her multi-acre property into a veritable park, highlighted by extensive flower beds, decorative shrubs, and exotic ornamental trees. She loved embroidery, creating beautiful tablecloths, shirts, dresses, and anything else she felt could benefit from decoration. She also enjoyed reading celebrity magazines and romance novels and was a great fan of films from Hollywood's Golden Age.

In the late 1970s, as the United States transformed into a two-income economy, she followed along, learning in her late 40s to drive a car, which she used to commute to Sunshine Art Studios in East Longmeadow, where she was employed for more than 20 years until her retirement.

On winter weekends throughout the '70s and early '80s, she could be found at her favorite table at the main lodge at Berkshire East Ski Area in Charlemont, where her husband Carl worked on weekends as a ski instructor and ski school director. There, while her husband and children were skiing, she would pass the day at her cold-weather pastime of embroidery, chatting with the ski area staff, mountain regulars, and any other ski families who chose to share her table.

While she resided in the United States for the rest of her life, becoming in 1986 a citizen, her heart remained in her native Panama. In her later years she returned home annually for several weeks to Lajamina, where she retained the rustic house of her youth across the street from the village church. A cousin of one Panamanian president and a family friend of another, she seemed to know everyone, from the highest office holders to the most modest farmers. But no matter what his or her station, she treated everyone with the same interest and kindness.

She is survived and greatly missed by her husband of 62 years, Carl; her three sons: Adolfo and his wife, Luz, of Boca Raton, Florida; Carl Peter and his wife, Halina, of Monson, Massachusetts; and John, of North Granby, CT; her three grandchildren: Michael Chandeck and his wife, Meghan, of Green Bay, WI; Marc Chandeck and his wife, Kristen, of San Jose, CA; and Nicole Chandeck, of Miami, FL; her goddaughter Sanya Moscoso Rodriguez of Panama City, Panama, and many cousins from her native country.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, April 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St. in Monson. A Funeral Mass will be given on Saturday, April 6, at 10 a.m. at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Wilbraham, followed by a burial service at Glendale Cemetery in Wilbraham. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Association (<https://www.alz.org/>) or the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/>). For online condolences/directions please visit www.lombard-funeralhome.com.



WPL offering presentation with Ancestry Library Edition

WILBRAHAM - Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Thursday, April 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief demonstration of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

"Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I and II draft cards, and other records worldwide. International records available include particularly good cov-

erage in Canada and the United Kingdom," said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive, printed, or sent to your email from Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both library computers or personal devices connected to the library's Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited due to the number of computers available, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. Residents can also contact Mary Bell at 413-596-6141 or mbell@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale returns in May

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), are delighted to announce their annual book sale will be held May 1-4! The WFOL Annual Book Sale is a major fundraiser providing funds for programs for children, teens and adults as well as museum passes, furnishings and other library equipment.

We know the sale is a little way off still, but this is the time to collect your old books. How would we have a sale without donated books? Start your spring cleaning now and box or bag up your extra books, CDs and DVDs for us. Children's and adult books, fiction or non-fiction, hobby books etc. in good condition are all welcome. Due to space restrictions, we cannot accept encyclo-

pedias, magazines or Readers Digest condensed novels.

As a thank you for their support, donors will receive a coupon good for two free books of their choice from the sale when donations are dropped off. Donations of books and materials will be accepted at the library from Friday, April 26 through Monday, April 29 during regular library hours.

For more information or questions about the sale contact friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Friends of the Library to hold dine out fundraiser at Pizzeria Uno

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a dine out fundraiser on Thursday, April 11 at Pizzeria Uno at 1722 Boston Rd., Springfield MA.

Work, sports, meetings, everyday life can make for a hectic day. The Wilbraham Friends of the Library want to help you out! Take a break and eat at the Pizzeria Uno on Boston Rd. in Springfield any time 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. on April 11 and up to 20% of your check will go to the Wilbraham Public Library. Eat-In, take-out, drinks, and catering will all count towards the total donation to the

Wilbraham Public Library.

You must bring either a printed or digital version of the coupon available on the library's website, www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, or the WFOL Facebook page.

The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings and other library equipment.

For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Representative Puppolo Says "Good Riddance" to MGM Springfield

SPRINGFIELD - State Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. (D- Springfield) isn't surprised MGM Springfield is on the market to be sold.

Puppolo has been critical and very disappointed in MGM Springfield's hiring practices, entertainment fulfillment, handling and the disposition of City Stage, and their overall commitment to honoring their host and surrounding community agreements which have left a lot to be desired.

"I for one won't be sad to see them

pack up and leave," stated Puppolo.

Puppolo says the writing has been on the wall for several years that MGM Springfield has had one foot out the door. Given the public statements made by President William Hornbuckle last year.

"Our original valuation of this market simply was off — full stop."

He also said that if the market conditions in Springfield were fully understood at the time, the casino might not have been built.

"We thought there would be more business here than ultimately materialized," Hornbuckle said. "Scale, scope, etcetera. It is what it is."

Puppolo added, "It's evident to me that since day one MGM has not been ful-

Please see **PUPPOLO**, page 17

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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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Easter Services Schedule



Maundy Thursday

March 28th

6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Worship*

Good Friday

March 29th

12:00 noon Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Worship*

Easter Sunday

March 31st

8:30 a.m. Spoken Worship
10:00 a.m. Festival Worship*



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YouTube: Christ the King-Epiphany Church Wilbraham

*Services available on livestream.

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- **Maundy Thursday** - March 28 - 6:00 p.m. (Tenebrae Service)
- **Sunrise Service** - March 31 - 6:00 a.m. (at Old Cemetery)
- **Easter Services** - March 31 - 10:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact
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HOLY THURSDAY

MARCH 28

7:00 pm

The Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29

3:00 pm

Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm

Passion of our Lord

EASTER VIGIL

MARCH 30

7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31

8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am



All Are Welcome

Wilbraham United Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

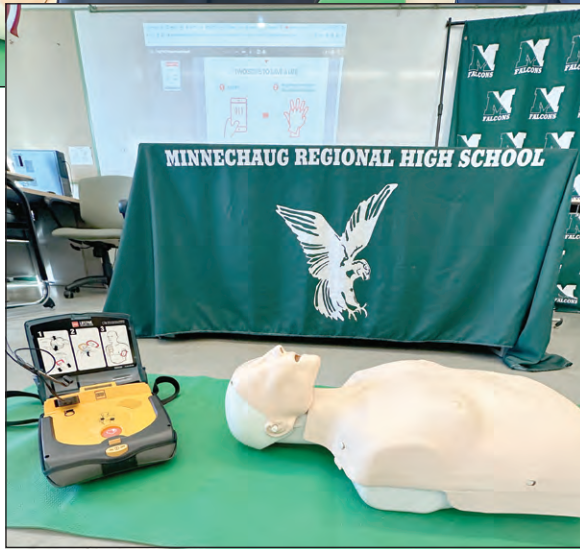
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.
- March 29 - Good Friday Service at 12 p.m.
- March 31 - Easter Service at 10 a.m.

All are welcome

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA



A COMMUNITY GALLERY



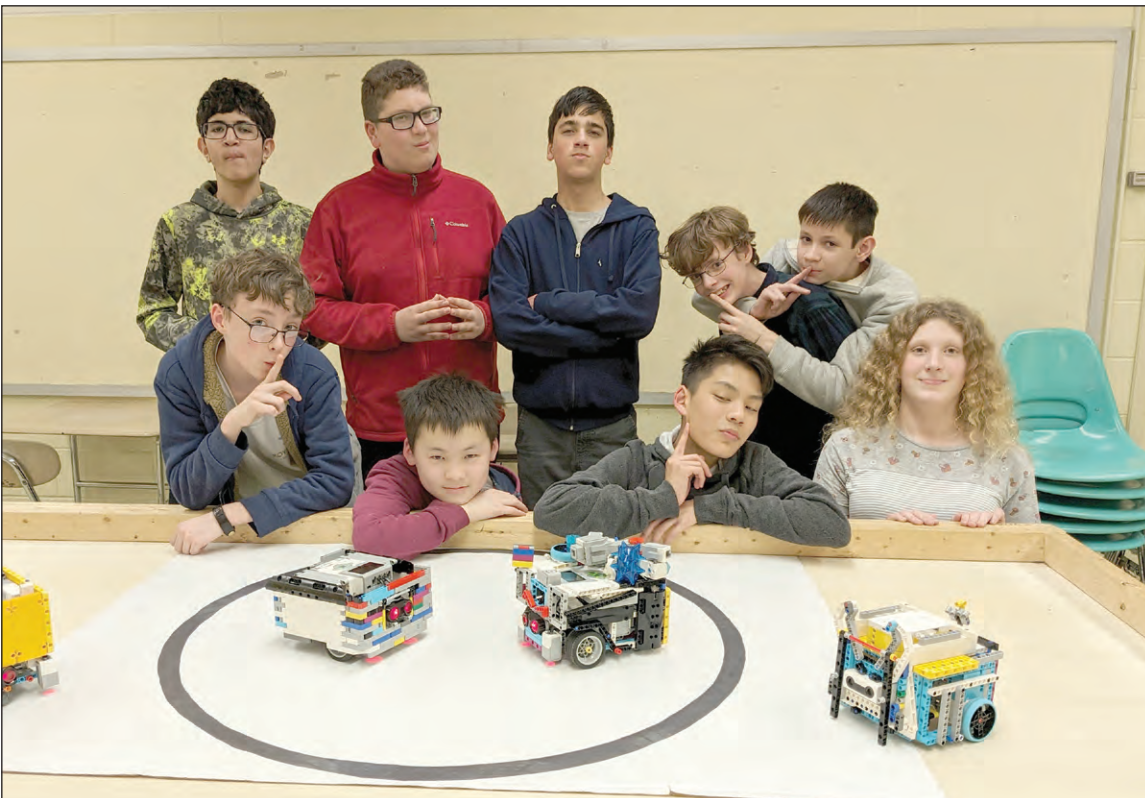
On March 11 and 12, the Wilbraham Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Education team, in collaboration with the nursing staff from the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, held informative sessions at Minnechaug Regional High School. These sessions covered hands-only CPR, AED awareness, and the usage of nasal Narcan. A total of 200 11th and 12th-grade students participated. Pictured left to right is Firefighter Jeff Witek, HWRSN Nurse Coordinator Amy LoMascolo and Firefighter Patrick Farrow. Photos and caption courtesy of Patrick Farrow, Wilbraham Fire Department

Life in & **WILBRAHAM**

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to dzbierski@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please note that if you send us a photo of the Times in different parts of the world, please include a recognizable landmark in the background. Examples: Eiffel Tower; castle in Spain.

WILBRAHAM

Wilbraham Public Library hosted Gregory Maichak on March 18 for his pastel painting workshop, Seascapes inspired by Winslow Homer. Pictured here is Joyce Belliveau with her painting, with the picture taken by her daughter, Heather Hitchcock. Photo submitted by Emilie Lang



The Wilbraham Middle School Robotics Club had a great sumobot competition at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on March 15. Pictured left to right: back row: Hussein Saleh, Mario Garcia, Elijah Mathias, Liam Shattuck and Quintis Saviengvong; front row: Emmett Shattuck, Jason Cao, Willis Lam and Ellen DiNino. Photo and caption submitted by Samuel Lam



Children had a roaring good time during a recent Storytime with Assistant masks and heard stories about the zoo. Photo submitted by Heidi Kane

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Children's Librarian Rachel Smythe when they made their own lion

The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 held their annual St. Patrick's Day dinner at St. Cecilia's Parish on March 16 to huge fanfare. The event included a traditional Irish meal of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, rye & soda bread, raffles and an Irish sing-along. Photos courtesy of Knights of Columbus Council 10195



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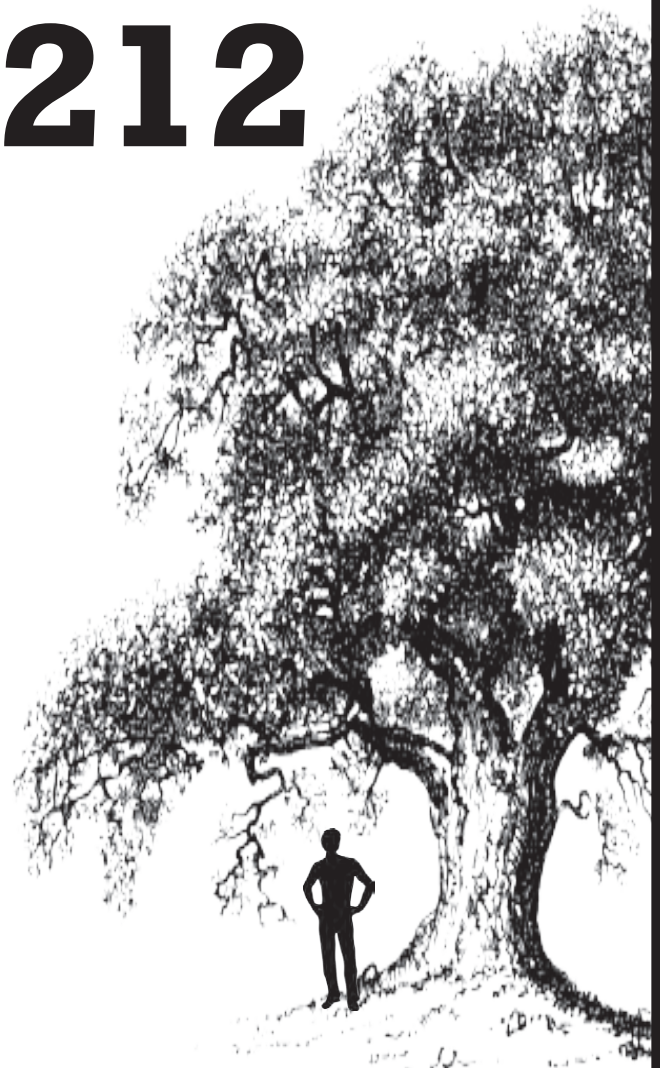
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Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Tucker Derosia fields a low pass.



Derek Semanie does a drill during practice last week.

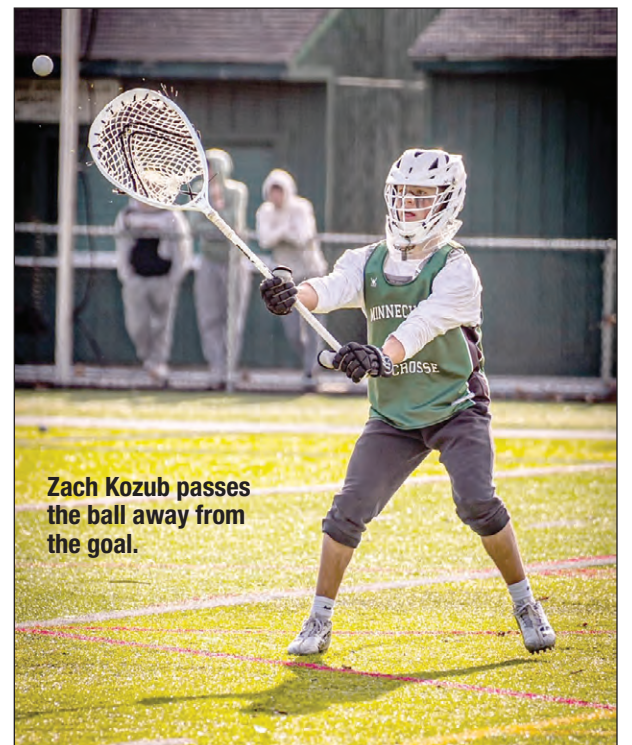


Jack Derosia fires up the field during a scrimmage.

Boys lacrosse opens against Wahconah

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday, the Minnechaug boys lacrosse team had its first scrimmage of the spring. The Falcons, which had a phenomenal season last year, are getting set to face Wahconah in its season opener on Thursday, March 28 at 5 p.m. They face Pope Francis next on April 5.

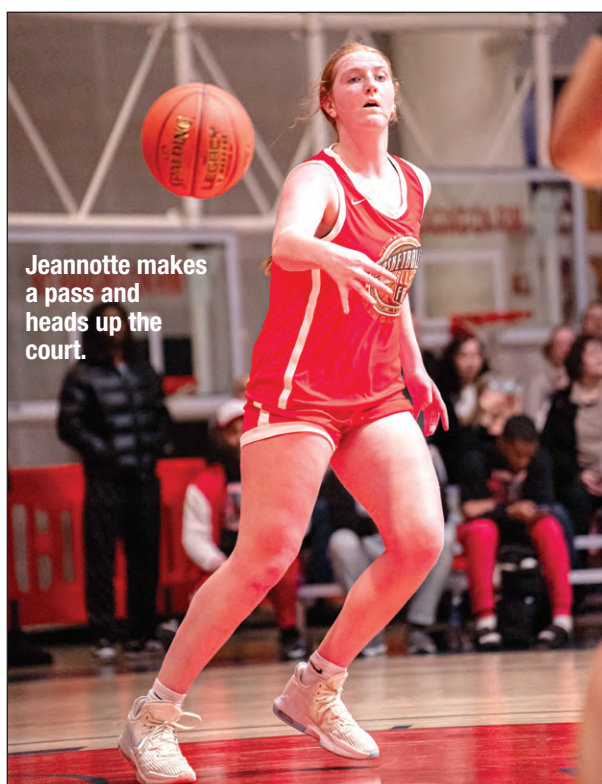
Matt Beaudin passes as the Minnechaug offense works.



Zach Kozub passes the ball away from the goal.



Lylah Jeannotte goes the tipoff in the girls game.



Jeannotte makes a pass and heads up the court.



The Minnechaug all-star heads for the hoop.

Senior All-Star showcase

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday evening, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame hosted three

basketball games to honor 60 seniors throughout Western Massachusetts. Among the participants was Lylah

Jeannotte, who represented Minnechaug in the girls game.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Softball set to face rival in opener



Alexa Sherman throws during warmups.



Angeline Cross fires a throw back to the infield.



Ava Peabody makes the throw.



Amy Dunklee makes a play and throws back to the infield.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School softball team worked out last week as

they get ready for their season opener. The Falcons are set to face rival Ludlow on Good Friday morning,

March 29 at 11 a.m. The game will be held in Ludlow at Baird Middle School.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night

Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The team feeling lucky in the third and final round is Acres who stand in first place at 14-2.

Behind Acres in second place is the Blue B's at 12-4 and in third place is the Champs R Here at 11-5.

The #1 seed Acres bowled against #2 seed Blue B's on league night of March 19. In game one, Acres were victorious over #2 seed by a score of 402-358. Three out of four bowlers on Acres broke the century mark with Kenny Trudel as high bowler of the game with a 109.

In game two, Blue B's bounced back with a win 349-328. In game three, Blue B's won a close game 392-388. Mark Pafumi of Blue B's led the team in the last game with a 109.

Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1121-1099. Each team received two points.

Compression bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line won the first game 358-321. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line led the team with a 103. In game two, Compression was the winner 345-330. In game three, Last in Line won 358-349.

Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1046-1015.

Thursday Night

Mixed League

This league night was the second to last league night of the season for the Thursday League.

Team Six, the winners of round one, is leading in first place as the season comes to an end. Team Five is five points out of first place and competed against Team Six on March 21.

In game one, Team Five won the first game by a score of 403-402. In game two, Team Six won by a score of 416-381. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 405-390.

Total pinfall scores were Team Six at 1223 and Team Five at 1174.

Team Three bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team Three was the winner by a score of 426-388. Wayne Hughes of Team Three led the team by starting off with a 113.

In game two, Team three won again by a score of 403-387. Jesse Danek of Team Three led the team with a 108.

In game three, Team Three won 397-394 for a three-game sweep. Danek finished with a 106. Total pinfall scores were Team Three at 1226 and Team Four at 1169.

Team One bowled against Team Two. In game one, Kris Rickson bowled a 126 to lead Team One to winning 421-413.

In game two, Team Two won the second game 413-406. In game three, Team One dominated game three with all four bowlers breaking 100 and scoring 493. Dena Rickson bowled 124, Mike Jacobs 107, Sean Comerford 114 and Kris Rickson 108.

Team Two finished with 436 and Cody Allen had his best game of the year, 115.

Total pinfall scores were Team One at 1320 and Team Two at 1262.

T-Birds rebound to defeat Crunch

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-29-3-2) got a hat trick from one of their key stars en route to a 6-4 triumph over the Syracuse Crunch (35-20-4-2) on Saturday night before the 11th consecutive sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

It was the home team that drew first blood on the scoreboard. Right winger Will Bitten intercepted a Syracuse pass in Springfield's defensive zone and went in alone on a breakaway. Bitten made a nifty forehand to backhand move before tucking the puck past Syracuse netminder Hugo Alnefelt, notching his 14th goal of the season and giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 3:37 of the first.

Unfortunately, the Springfield lead slipped away in the waning seconds of Syracuse's first power play. After taking off on a rush up-ice into the T-Birds zone, Felix

Robert filtered a pass into the blue paint that glanced off a defender before slipping in past Vadim Zherenko at 16:22.

The T-Birds, though, responded in kind and regained their one-goal lead with less than a minute to play in the opening period. After a brief give-and-go between Hugh McGing and Hunter Skinner at the offensive blue line, Skinner made a terrific pass through traffic to the left-wing side. Ryan Suzuki received the pass and wasted no time whistling a release past Alnefelt on the glove side of the net for his 10th tally on the year. That marker gave the T-Birds a 2-1 lead going into the first intermission, and Zherenko made that stand up with a sensational diving stop on Walteri Merela with barely a second remaining on the clock on a crease scramble at the end of the frame.

It only took 30 seconds for the

Thunderbirds to add to their lead in the second. Mikhail Abramov found his linemate Jakub Vrana streaking down the left wing on a stretch pass. Vrana took the feed and ripped a perfect shot past the glove of the Syracuse netminder to give Springfield a 3-1 lead.

Still, Syracuse would not go away as they narrowed the Springfield lead back to one less than three minutes later. After a Syracuse shot took a crazy carom off the plexiglass behind Zherenko, the puck found the stick of Crunch defenseman Devante Stephens, who quickly spun a turnaround shot through Zherenko to make it 3-2 at 2:44.

Tempers flared shortly thereafter as Sam Bitten and Tyson Feist dropped the gloves at the 14:11 mark of the period. As he had done all season, Bitten's fight fired up the sold-out crowd in the Thunderdome, and it, in turn, led

to offensive fireworks a few minutes later. After Quinn Schmie-mann was called for a hooking infraction, Will Bitten got his second of the night, taking advantage of a crazy carom off the corner glass that skittered right to him in front of Alnefelt. While the Crunch goalie got a piece, the puck squeezed home, and the two-goal lead was restored, 4-2, at 9:59 of the middle frame. Vrana and Bitten's line was not done, either. As the game went to 4-on-4 in the closing minutes, Vrana and Abramov capitalized on a 2-on-1, as Abramov slipped a left-wing shot over Alnefelt's glove, giving Springfield a 5-2 lead at 17:46, a lead that carried into the intermission. Syracuse did not go quietly into the night, and Ilya Usau's goal at 4:46 made it a 5-3 game. Zherenko kept the Crunch at bay until Alnefelt went to the bench for an

extra skater with under six minutes to play. Just moments after the ensuing faceoff, Cole Koepke redirected a pass in the slot from Alex Barre-Boulet, and the Springfield lead was down to 5-4 with just 5:05 to go.

Things got dicey for Springfield with just over a minute to play when a Barre-Boulet shot squeezed through Zherenko's legs and rolled precariously across the goal line. Jack Finley seemed to have a wide-open net, but he could not get the puck across the line, and the T-Birds survived the threat. Bitten capped off his sweet night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final. Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

Pioneers fall in Open Cup



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Abdel Talabi sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Santiago Blasco Gomez dribbles up the field.



Joaquin Lauria Calvo settles the ball before making a pass.

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Western Mass. Pioneers opened their season with a matchup in the US Open Cup. The Pioneers faced Union Omaha and unfortunate-

ly were shut out by a 4-0 decision. With the loss, the Pioneers Open Cup chances have ended after just one game. The Pioneers will now gear their preparations toward the May

18 season opener. The Pioneers will also have an exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during

the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skat-

ing and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

“We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their ‘Time to Shine,’” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across

the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games.”

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

PUPPOLO from page 8

ly committed to this project - look no further than the change in the high-rise hotel and shortened gaming space along with a short selection of restaurants and entertainment it's clear that this was a placeholder for them.”

Puppolo feels this may be a silver lining in that a new owner/operator can bring new fresh life to the area. “I’m optimistic that a new owner, maybe even local ownership, can make this the destination and resort style experience that our area deserves and was promised.”

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This Week in Rec Summer Program registration opens April 2

WILBRAHM - Do you have an aspiring artist living in your house? Or maybe a gardener in the making? Possibly a young golfer that dreams of being the next Masters winner? Well the good news is that for each of those interests, and many more, our upcoming summer programs offer a wide range of activities and classes that are sure to be a fun and rewarding experience.

Registration for all of our summer programs opens on Tuesday, April 2, and they are sure to fill up fast. We have offerings for ages 3-15 with plenty of options to get your young ones active, interested, and engaged. For sports, we offer programs for softball, volleyball, soccer, golf, tennis, futsal, baseball, basketball and football. These programs feature high quality in-

struction and athletes will benefit from our top-notch facilities available here in Wilbraham. For activities and classes, we offer a Garden Club, Circuit Labs, Incrediflix Animation, Play-Well Lego, and ART-ventures.

We are also excited to roll out a new Pre-K program (Ages 3-5) led by Learn in Motion that will meet for 4, one-week sessions starting at the end of June. We are also thrilled to bring back the Tinker Arts program for ages 4-5!

If your 14 & 15 year enjoys working with children, we offer the Counselor in Training Program (CIT) at our Spec Day Camp. The aim of the CIT Program is to provide the opportunity to continue with the camp experience, with the goal of gaining the skills nec-

essary for potential employment as a camp counselor at this or any other camp. If chosen to participate in the CIT Program, it is our hope you would develop skills necessary for future success in any workplace.

All these offerings will provide participants the opportunity to do something that interests them while socializing and hopefully making some new friends. Our programs have been filling up, so register to make sure you get a spot!

NOTE: To register for all of our programs and for more information and specifics, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

Erin Carroll,
Assistant Director

Classifieds

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*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

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4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15". Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

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Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Call Pete **413-433-0356**.

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CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

SERVICES



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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

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NEED AN ELECTRICIAN? Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

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HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing, references, licensed and insured. Please call Brendan **(413) 687-5552**

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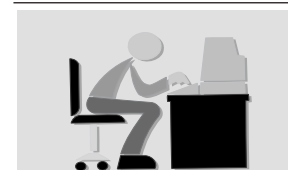
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HELP WANTED

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**



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| 29 | Base Price \$30.50 | 30 | Base Price \$31.00 |
| 31 | Base Price \$31.50 | 32 | Base Price \$32.00 |
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PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD24E0012PP

To Kyle Bruno of Longmeadow, in the County of Hampden, Gianna Bruno and Juan Arango, both in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Ashley Weisse of Longmeadow, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as joint tenants, in an undivided part or share of land lying in Hampden, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Sixty Thousand (\$360,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twentieth day of May 2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this eighteenth day of March 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register 03/28,04/04,04/11/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24C0074CA In the matter of: Everly Celeste DaSilva CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Everly Celeste DaSilva of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Everly Celeste DaSilva-McNellage IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/05/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 06, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 03/28/2024

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, April 17, 2024 at 5:45PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on the following proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law:

A. Change "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" throughout the Zoning By-Law (Sections

1.3, 12.3.2, 12.10.1, 12.10.2, 13.6.2.1, 13.6.6.1.A, 15.1.1, 15.4.2.1 & 15.6)

B. Corrective Amendments related to Child Care Facilities and the Flood Plain Overlay District (Sections 1.3 & 2.3.2)

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/964983757 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 964-983-757).

John McCloskey, Chair 03/28, 04/04/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of April 12, 2024 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2002 Dodge Ram 150 VIN: 3D7HU18N22G123820 COLOR: Gray LKO: Leon Ramos Marie Yarieel 155 Allen St Apt A Springfield MA 01108

2004 Acura TL VIN: 19WA66294A069698 COLOR: Gray LKO: Lois Batay Mulero 40 Sprague St West Springfield MA 01089

2008 Toyota Camry VIN: 4T1BE46K88U752541 COLOR: Black LKO: Yogesh Dava 153 Laconia St Springfield MA 01129

2005 Ford Explorer VIN: 1FMZU73E65Z05200 COLOR: White

LKO: Sheila Roberts 768 Oak St East Hartford CT 06118

2002 Dodge Ram 150 VIN: 1D7HU18N75J538070 COLOR: Gray LKO: Kreanna A Hale 10 Blanding St Apt 1 Indian Orchard MA 01151

R & S Assoc. Inc. Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374 03.28, 04/04, 04/11/2024

INVITATION TO BID TOWN OF WILBRAHAM Road Resurfacing and Related Work 2024

The Select Board will receive sealed bids for the contract entitled "ROAD RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK 2024" until 3:30 PM on Thursday April 18, 2024 at the Engineering Department, Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 where they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope plainly and legibly entitled "ROAD RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK 2024". Bid will be available for pick up on Wednesday March 27, 2024, or via email at DPW@wilbraham-ma.gov. Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the bid price. The bid deposit must be in the form of a Bid Bond, a Certified Check, or a Treasurer's or Cashier's Check issued by a responsible Bank or Trust Company having office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Bid Deposit shall be made payable to the Town of Wilbraham.

Prevailing State Minimum Wage Rates must be complied with as per MGL Ch 149 section 26-27d. These wage rates are contained within the contract documents. Bidders who bid on the project must provide their prequalification certificate of approval from the Massachusetts Department

of Transportation along with their bid proposal.

Bidders must provide with their bids the a signed "Contractors Certification" found in the Bid Proposal, which certifies the goals of women and minority percentage for personnel working on the project, Labor Harmony and OSHA training certification and paperwork, Non-Collusion and Non-Discrimination.

Contract documents are available at the Engineering Department, Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 or email, Tonya Capparello DPW@wilbraham-ma.gov. The estimated cost for the Road Resurfacing and Related Work 2024 is \$1,500,000.00.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, to advertise for new proposals, as deemed in the interest of the Town.

Tonya L. Capparello, P.E. Director of Public Works 03/28/2024

INVITATION TO BID Boiler Replacement Minnechaug Regional High School Wilbraham, Massachusetts

The project consists of the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham MA.

HVAC GC Bid will be due, publicly opened and read aloud on Wednesday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Superintendents Conference Room, at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, securely sealed, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked "Boiler

Bids must be addressed to Michael Messier, Director of Facilities & Operations, Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked "Boiler

Replacement at to the Minnechaug Regional High School" on the outside of the envelope.

Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted under any conditions.

The Project involves the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School.

The estimated cost of the work is \$100,000.

Bids shall be accompanied by a proposal guaranty in the form of a bid bond, cash, or a certified check or a treasurers check issued by a responsible bank or trust company having offices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The proposal guarantee shall be in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid made payable to the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District.

Contract Documents are available from the Engineer after 2:00 PM on April 3, 2024. Each Bidder may obtain sets of bidding documents from Robt. W. Hall Consulting Engineers by emailing Richard Willoughby (rwilloughby@rwhall.com)

A Prebid Conference will be held on April 17, 1:00 PM at the School. The meeting place will be outside the Superintendents office on the east side of the school.

A Payment Bond will be required of the successful bidder.

Attorney-in-fact who signs Payment Bonds must file with each Bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney. Prevailing Wage rates have been established for this project by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, and to take whatever action it believes to be in the best interest of the School District.

03/28/2024

HELP WANTED

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PALMER seeks a skilled, outgoing, and caring Church Administrator to manage the business affairs of the church and to work closely with our Pastor, Moderator, and church members to advance church missions and community outreach. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organizational skills, be proficient in the use of computer and website technologies, and be creative in developing procedures and practices. The applicant must maintain strong, positive interpersonal relationships with members, ministries, and staff. This job is a 25-hour/week position, Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm, with PTO benefits. Pay commensurate with experience. Please email resumes to scc1847media@gmail.com.

TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email highway@hampdenma.gov for inquiries and application/resume submissions.

HELP WANTED

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Administrator. Responsibilities include professional, administrative, supervisory, and technical work. See job description at brookfield-ma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cover letter to Selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Open until filled. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

REAL ESTATE

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

REAL ESTATE

SHOP/STORAGE/MECHANIC FOR RENT. 3,000 ft2 plus garage for rent in Gilbertville. Two lifts, compressor, office, bathroom/washroom. Large 10 ft overhead electric garage door. Oil heat, 3 phase electric. Room for 5 vehicles plus inside and outside parking. Located right on Rt 32. Perfect for a business or? \$1,500/month. Call Don @ (413) 758-3039.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

Monthly Highlights for April at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

Create a Greeting Card with Ellie!

Tuesday, April 2, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come and discover endless possibilities for creating your own personal greeting cards.

Meet new friends and learn new techniques each month.

Cost is \$3 per person. All materials are provided.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat, space is limited.

Meet your Veteran Service Officer, Jason Burgener

Wednesday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampden Senior Center. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Jason is available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampden Townhouse auditorium.

Please call Jason directly at 413-640-0540 to schedule an appointment.

The Beatles arrived in America 60 years ago!

Thursday, April 4 at 1 p.m. Come and enjoy a cultural and historical reflection of the 1960s through the music of The Beatles.

Presented by Fran Hart, founding Member of 4EVERFAB.

This presentation features live acoustic music and audience sing-alongs, coupled with rare audio and video clips.

Cost is \$3 per person. Light refreshments will be served.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

Sponsored in part by United Healthcare.

“African Drumming” with Jason

Fridays at 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. New 12-week session Beginning April 19 through July 12. No class on July 5.

Save money by paying for the session in full. Cost is \$65 for session or \$6 per class.

New students are welcome.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Join in the fun and see what we’ve learned. We are having a concert on April 5 at 2:45 pm.

The Friends of Hampden Seniors are hosting a Hartsprings Truck Event

This is not a recycling event. All donations should be in working condition and saleable.

Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Will accept all cloth items, such as clothing, including scrap sewing/quilting material, bedding, linens, towels, shoes, and purses. Books, kitchenware, breakable knickknacks, small appliances, small speakers, and sporting goods. Toys must be boxed to be accepted. Table lamps will be accepted only if they are boxed and protected from breaking. NO encyclopedias, textbooks, or baby items such as strollers, cribs, carriages, stuffed animals, or pillows.

This truck event is an opportunity to drop off all your larger bags or boxed items for Spring Cleanup. In doing so, you’re also helping the Senior Center earn a small percentage based on the total weight of items received from Hartsprings for helping their cause.

There is no charge to drop off these items, however, all monetary donations will be accepted and appreciated. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Hampden Senior Center Building Fund.

The Zoo In Forest Park & Education Center

Wildlife on Wheels Program

Wednesday, April 10 at 10 a.m.The Hampden Senior Center is excited to, once again, provide an intergenerational opportunity for the senior center community and our friends at Green Valley Preschool. Educators from The Zoo at Forest Park & Education Center will bring five animal ambassadors to enjoy a morning filled with learning about the animals and you’ll have the opportunity to see them up close and interact with them.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Crafting with Sheree

Tuesday, April 16, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.This month, we will make Spring Hat Décor. Hang it on your door, beautify a spot in your home, or gift it to a friend. Cost is \$8 per person; all supplies will be provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Grab and Go Dinner

Thursday, April 25, pick up from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enjoy a delicious dinner of American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Bread, and Dessert.

Cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting April 1st to

order your dinner.

Learn to play the Ukulele with Sue

Mondays, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Instructor Susan Mc Hand will teach you the necessary skills to master this charming instrument.

Accepting new students. Cost is \$5 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Elms College Nursing Students are here

Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. to Noon They will do blood pressure screening and provide educational health information.

STCC Dental Hygiene Program is hosting a community dental day.

Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Springfield Technical Community College, One Armory Square, Springfield, MA

FREE fillings, extractions, etc. For more information and to make an appointment, please call 413-755-4900.

STCC Dental offers the following procedures:

Dental Exams, Regular Cleanings with X-rays, Deep Cleanings, Full Mouth X-Rays, Panoramic X-rays, etc. A full menu of procedures and fees is available at reception at the Hampden Senior Center.

Springfield Technical Community College dental hygiene students are under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienists. Dentists provide all treatment procedures.

Please call 413-755-4900 to make an appointment.

HELP US STOCK OUR

SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!

Thank you to those who donated toothbrushes and Toothpaste last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

D & R Winter Farm Share PICK-UP is on Wednesdays, April 3 & 17 at 9:30 a.m.

D & R Farm is offering fresh produce twice a month FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$40 per month.

New applications are required. If interested, please contact Wendy to get your application in! Please let us know if you need your shares delivered. Shares are limited.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

COMING SOON... D & R Farm Summer Farm Share

D & R FARM is offering fresh produce twice a month, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered. Shares are limited.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

New applications for Summer Farm Share are required and must be completed by and submitted to Wendy by May 15.



GRAND OPENING!

Saturday, March 30th at 10am

A HAVEN FOR COLLECTORS & ENTHUSIASTS

Relive your childhood or make space in your basement.

WE BUY, SELL & TRADE

TOYS AND COMIC BOOKS

FROM THE 60S THROUGH TODAY.

We carry everything from LEGO, Transformers, G.I. Joes, Star Wars, TMNT, Wrestlers & more!

Call us at **413-279-4389** or email us with pictures of items for sale at info@hasbeentoyandsandcomics.com



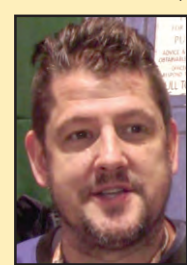
WE BUY VINTAGE TOYS AND COMICS:



Saturday, March 30, 11am-2pm
Special Guest:

MATT (MATMAN) HERRING

A podcaster/writer who has written several books based on music. This year, he released an all ages adventure, MONKEY SEE...



SEE MONKEY. His podcasts, THE RADIO ECLECTIC & 53:5 - THE ODDICIAL STRYPER PODCAST can be found wherever you get your podcasts.



2378 Boston Road, Wilbraham (Right next to Frame & Picture Shoppe) • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 11-6 • Sat. 10-5 • Sun. 11-4