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Cabaret



Photos courtesy of Wilbraham United Players

The Cabaret cast in their production number.

Performing in 'Cabaret': A Reflection

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players recently finished up their 2024/2025 season spring musical "Cabaret," and I was just one small part of this fabulous show.

This was my 10th year with the Players and I started my theater career in Wilbraham as the Painter's Apprentice, Amah and Grandmother Lion in "Where the Mountain Meets the Moon" with the Young United Players in 2016, Chip in "Beauty and the Beast" in 2018 and in

the musical revue "All Together Now!" in 2021. I also did publicity through TikTok for "Little Women" in 2023, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" in 2024 and "One Slight Hitch" in 2024.

For "Cabaret," I played the role of the Kit Kat Girl Texas—and needless to say—this has been one of my favorite characters to date. This was definitely a role that I have never been used to before, but I loved every second of it.

Being a part of theater is a very passionate experience and the cast and crew has been so dedicated to this pro-

duction every second. They are extremely hardworking and stayed strong until the end.

"Cabaret" is a special show with a very important meaning, as I shared in my recent review for the Times. The fact that the Players brought this show to Western Massachusetts is so important.

I love this cast with all my heart and this was the perfect group. There were people who I have shared the stage with before and I was so excited to return to the stage with them.

But, this show also Please see **CABARET**, page 4

wouldn't have been possible without all of the new talent that was introduced through the large number of new cast members to the WUP family. Together, they were phenomenal and created such a beautiful show.

I am so grateful for the phenomenal production team who brought this show all together and Director Deb Trimble who casted me in my very first production when I was eight years old, and she continues to support me, now, at 18 years old in the role of Texas.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Barrett

These students show off their display called "Famous Constellations" to help educate attendees about the constellations in space.

Barrett selected for Challenger Center trip

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Jessica Barrett, a science teacher at Green Meadows Elementary School, has been selected for a trip to the Challenger Center at Framingham State University.

Barrett, who has taught for eight years, was chosen for her work with Massachusetts Project Lead the Way with the fifth-grade classes' Solar System Showcase. Now, she and the entire fifth-grade class at Green Meadows will head to the Challenger Center for "Expedition to Mars" with the Challenger Center's state-of-the-art spacecraft and mission control simulation center.

The Hampden PTO will host a Can and Bottle Drive on April 26 from 9 a.m. to Noon in the Green Meadows parking lot to help raise funds to cover the transportation cost for the field trip. The goal is \$1,200.

Barrett explained Project

Lead the Way is a staff-based curriculum the district uses and, recently, a grant was received to bring this curriculum to Minnechaug next year. Project Lead the Way is supported by the One8 Foundation and the Mass Learning Project.

"So, the Mass Learning Project had put out a challenge saying, 'How Do You Showcase Your Students' Work?' How do they get to show off what they've done to classmates, to the community, families," Barrett said. "We do a Solar System Showcase—this is the second year that I've done it—and the kids create their own project, like they pick their own space topic, they research it, they make some sort of a 3D model and a presentation, like it's their own museum exhibit."

Barrett said the students did a big showcase at the school with families and students from other grade levels in attendance.

"Because of their hard Please see **CHALLENGER**, page 5

Provost provides transportation update to School Comm.

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Superintendent Dr. John Provost provided a transportation update to the School Committee on the three-tier busing schedule on April 3.

The update comes after the School Committee unanimously approved on Jan. 9 to move to a three-tiered system option after ongoing issues with bus transportation in the district, including staffing issues and buses arriving late to pick up and/or drop off students at school.

The three-tiered system would apply to the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Currently, the district is in a two-tiered system.

Provost explained the core issue has been persistent driver shortages, sharing a recent study from the Economic Policy Institute revealing "the total number of bus drivers in the U.S. is still down 12% from pre-pandemic levels" and that level pre-pandemic "was still down 22% from the staffing we had before the Great Recession."

"So, you're basically talking Please see **PROVOST**, page 4

Minecraft Madness at the WPL

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Kids from age seven to 11 came to the Wilbraham Public Library on April 1 to take part in activities and crafts based on the video game "Minecraft" in anticipation of the release of the Minecraft movie on April 4.

"Minecraft," the world's most popular video game, debuted in 2011, well before any of the children at the event were born. Many of the 17 children attending had played Minecraft for years and most hoped to see the movie as soon as their parents or others would take them.

Ophelia Murray, age eight, of Wilbraham said, "I love everything about Minecraft!"

In the video game, players build their own virtual characters, structures and worlds out of 3D blocks. It can be played alone or with others and offers many different play modes.

"It encourages creativity and teamwork," Jaime Hageman said, children's librarian at the Wilbraham Public Library. "It allows them to connect to all different types of people."

Hageman, a film lover, organized the event knowing the Minecraft movie release would be a major event for the game's fans.

Twins Easton and Chase Marchant, who attend third grade at Stony Hill School, will be bringing a large group of friends to the movie's opening at the Agawam Cinemas to celebrate their 9th birthday. Easton likes to make gi-



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Twins Easton and Chase Marchant display their Minecraft tattoos at the Wilbraham Public Library.

ant structures—some with lava—in Minecraft while Chase enjoys building houses complete with lots of glass and elevators.

"I'm shocked at how much they have learned from the game about using different construction materials," said their mother, Tiffany Marchant. "It's really interesting."

At the library's Minecraft Madness event, the Marchant boys immediately began making virtual Minecraft cakes. Other children played Minecraft Uno, tried a Minecraft matching game or made bookmarks.

The opportunity to learn to Please see **MINECRAFT**, page 4

Boards, committees hold fifth Municipal Meeting

The Latest on TWB

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard hosted its fifth Municipal Meeting with members from town departments and committees in the Townhouse Auditorium on April 1.

The meetings have been part of an ongoing discussion of prioritization and planning for municipal building renovations and capital improvements.

A future sixth meeting is to be determined.

The Latest on TWB

One of the highlights was updates on Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, with Town Administrator Brian Domina presenting the latest on technology, moving costs for the library, repairs and warrant articles.

On technology, Domina explained the current situation was how every classroom is wired.

"There are 10 switches in what I would guess they would call the IT

Please see **MEETING**, page 8

Select Board approves three fire department requests

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - The Select Board unanimously approved three requests presented by the fire department on March 31.

Fire Chief Michael Andrews presented the items to the board, beginning with a reserve fund transfer request.

"We're requesting a transfer of \$15,000 into our Repair Maintenance Budget we had for significant, unforeseen repairs in this fiscal year on our engines. Both engine pumps failed their annual pump test so we had to have those repaired," Andrews said. "One of those engines also had an exhaust system failure, so we had to have that completely repaired and then another vehicle we had a transmission failure, so we had to put in a rebuilt transmission into a vehicle. All totaled--separate occurrences--but all totaled that was about \$37,000."

Andrews added the fire

department waited "as long we could to see how much the budget could absorb of that before we came to request this transfer."

"Based on repairs that we need to continue to make this year, that's why we're requesting the \$15,000 of the \$37,000 be transferred in," Andrews said.

When Vice Chair Michael Squindo noted a negative \$2,500 item and asked if the overall projection would carry the fire department through the end of the year, Andrews confirmed it would.

"We expect that it'll carry us through. One of the other reasons we waited as long as possible, we only wanted to come once, obviously," Andrews said. "Anything that's preventive, we can wait. We can wait until July 1, but we do have a couple things that can't wait until July."

After the unanimous approval by the board, it would next go before the Finance Committee for a final review.

Next, declaring property as surplus for a surplus prop-



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Select Board unanimously approved three requests presented by the Wilbraham Fire Department on March 31.

erty designation.

"We've finally done an early spring cleaning to clean out stuff that's been there a little bit. 20 to 25 years that's obsolete, doesn't work," Andrews said. "So, we're going to put it on municipal bid, see what we can sell, and if it doesn't sell then we'll dispose of it. But it is all impertinent that it really has no value to us anymore."

Lastly, an update on the fire permit fee schedule.

Andrews explained it's been about 10 years since it was last updated.

"So, we gathered surrounding departments and other similar types of departments in Massachusetts to come up with an update fee schedule to put this in line with everybody else," Andrews said.

Andrews said they would go up to \$50.

When Chair Sue Bunnell asked about the anticipated revenues against previous years, Andrews replied that these go to the General Fund and not the fire department.

"So, right now, when I read the report last year we brought in about \$20,000 of permitting fees, so I would say at least a quarter of that. If not, I would think more depending on how much growth we have," Andrews said. "And some of these are yearly permits that they have to do every year. The significant one that's not on this that we have added is solar, solar panels. That requires permitting now, so we get those numerous ones every day."

This fee has also been adjusted.

Clerk Marc Ducey suggested these updates happen more often, to which Andrews agreed.

"Just because I think it's better, particularly as budgets get tight," Ducey said. "Kind of like our ambulance, we

kind of review that every two years now."

"We'd probably look to put it on the same schedule as that," Andrews said.

"And then the change aren't as dramatic, so it's less impactful to people," Ducey said.

Complete Streets Update

Another topic to note is the final prioritization plan for Complete Streets, a design approach to roadways to help prioritize safety and accessibility for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists of all ages and abilities, was also approved and will now be submitted to the Department of Transportation for consideration. This decision came after updates presented by Dena Grochmal, engineer and GIS coordinator.

The Springfield Street and Stony Hill Road intersection will be the first priority on the list organized by the Advisory Board.

Friends of HSC announce upcoming events

HAMPDEN - The Friends of the Hampden Senior Center would like to announce two events coming up - please save these dates.

Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Hartsprings Foundation Truck will be in the parking lot of Bethlehem Church, 123 Allen Street, Hampden, across the street from Hampden Senior Center. This truck event will allow you to bring larger bags of items, or heavier and bulky household donations that would not ordinarily fit in the Purple Bin

located in the parking lot of the Senior Center.

We will accept all cloth items, bedding, clothing, shoes, coats, purses, jewelry, books, small kitchen items such as dishes, toasters, glassware, books, puzzles, small appliances, small tables and sports equipment.

Items that cannot be accepted are: encyclopedias, Library Books, college books, pillows or Baby items such as highchairs, strollers or car seats of any kind. Any questions, please contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

WE are looking forward, once again, seeing you. Your support for the Hampden Senior Center is greatly appreciated.

Friday May 16, from Noon to 2 p.m. Pro Shred will be in the parking lot of The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden.

This event will be FREE to all of you. Please bring your documents and papers that need to be shredded and they will be taken care of on the premises.

The limit is five small boxes or five small bags from

each car.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens and although it is free we will gladly accept any monetary donation. These donations fund the programs and events that are held at the center for all who attend.

Please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224 with any questions or concerns.

Once again thank you for your participation and generosity with all our events.

Hampden Senior Center starting Parkinson's program

HAMPDEN - The senior center is starting a new program to support people with Parkinson's.

PWR! Moves Exercise Classes are a Parkinson-specific class with a goal to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do. It is led by Lisa Kern, OT, reiki master/holistic therapist.

Fitness goals include strength, balance, agility, aerobics and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve fitness goals and counteract your Parkinson's symptoms.

Classes take place from 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays at the Hampden Senior Center and are \$10 per class. Call to register for more information at 413-566-5588.

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Selectboards make progress on proposed regional agreement amendment

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The Select boards of both member towns in the Hampden-Wilbraham School District are making progress on a possible amendment that would make Wilbraham Middle School a regional school.

The April 2 meeting comes after both boards met on March 19 to discuss the potential amendment to the regional agreement. They will meet again on April 22.

Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell explained the board held a discussion during their Monday night meeting after a letter from Chair Don Davenport was received, looking for clarification on where the town stood.

"Our thinking is, basically--and I thought we closed out at the end of our last joint meeting along these lines--that we feel like the way the original agreement--the regional agreement--is currently drafted--is something with which we are relatively comfortable and very willing to acknowledge and consider the concerns that the Hampden board has," Bunnell said. "Our feeling is that if you want the agreement to, somehow, reflect something other than what exists that we need to hear what you're thinking."

Selectboard Member John Flynn replied he thought "it was fairly clear."

"We talked about equity. I mean, we're all in agreement that the way it's set up now for Minnechaug, nobody has any issue with. It's a jointly-owned building, we jointly have a stake in it, we jointly participate in upgrades and repairs, and when we're done, it's still the property of both communities," Flynn said.

Flynn said the issue here concerned "if the town of Hampden participates in an upgrade or a repair--putting capital into it--is there a return on that equity purchase, if you will," which Bunnell agreed.

When Davenport asked if Wilbraham was fine with the amendments "the way they



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Hampden Selectboard and Wilbraham Select Board held a second joint meeting on April 2 concerning the regional agreement, with the focus on Wilbraham Middle School being treated as a regional school.

are," Bunnell said, "specifically around the issue of the sharing of the middle school" and from the town's thinking, WMS "already should have been treated as a regional building because it's got all of our middle schoolers in it."

"I'm in agreement that I think we all came to that sense that we want to hear what you're thinking in terms of some way to participate in ensuring that the building is healthy and safe for our kids and not make investments into a building beyond what is reasonable and what both towns would, of course, have to agree to before any capital project moved forward," Bunnell said.

She added on the idea "of getting some sort of return on investment, I believe our agreement at Monday night's meeting was that we're certainly willing to entertain that."

Davenport said as the amendment stands right now, WMS would be considered a regional school and a split for a portion of the capital costs.

"I'm asking this question because the School Committee can just say to us, 'This is the amendments we want and we're obligated to put it on the town meeting,'" Davenport said. "So I'm wondering is do we just say, 'Go ahead and see what the people say?'"

Select Board Clerk Marc Ducey said that was a fair point.

"In fact, I've looked at the current agreement. I don't see where that says that necessarily in there and because

we never did it that way in the past," Ducey said.

Town Administrator Brian Domina then presented his draft to the Select Board reflecting thoughts on potential cost-sharing arrangements within WMS after he sent an email to the Selectboard the Friday before. He noted how he did "a lot of listening" from the last Joint Meeting and talked to people "about the historical happenings of how we all got here."

"So, I tried to reflect my understanding of the current situation and the viewpoint from Wilbraham and Hampden and, it seemed to me, that some arrangement where Hampden could contribute to capital improvements to the building with a defined useful life for a defined term of years," Domina said.

Pointing to a hypothetical example--which listed 10 years--Domina said it would be about agreeing on the terms of years for a capital improvement.

"If there's any remaining years left on that capital improvement when Hampden students are no longer in the building, then Hampden would be entitled to a refund in proportion to the cost per year that Hampden contributed for the capital improvement times the remaining years of the useful life of the equipment," Domina said.

Domina added this assumes Hampden "would pay upfront for the capital improvement and that it would be in the form of a refund."

"That's the idea. It pro-

vides Hampden with no equity--in equity, so to speak--in ownership of the building, which I think was a sticking point in the conversation and it addresses Hampden's concern that they're not investing in the building and--I guess for lack of a better term--enriching Wilbraham in the sense that the building is in really great shape when it's sold, so it has more value," Domina said.

If there's debt, Domina said "more thought would need to go into that."

"But in terms of capital improvement where Hampden pays upfront, I think that might work," Domina said.

After clarifying Hampden would review Domina's ideas, Flynn thought "it was a great starting point."

"I think Brian did a good job of summarizing a bit where Hampden stands on this," Flynn said. "Again, you can't equate this to the Minnechaug building."

After Flynn noted hypothetical scenarios, Ducey recalled when the MSBA took on a project at WMS years earlier.

"So, they expect us to be in that building for 20 years by virtue of that," Ducey said. "I don't think we're going to have a problem with some of that issue--conceptually at least--because it seems like we're going to be committed to that building for a number of years anyway."

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo suggested "an absolute return relative to the upfront investment based on the time left of the useful life doesn't account for the depreciation value of any capital improvements" should be kept in mind.

"So, I would just put that out there as a potential talking point would be an initial thought," Squindo said. "But again, framework-wise, I think this is a decent framework to start from."

After discussing other items that would need consideration in terms of value, it was agreed a deeper dive into this will need to be done.

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Hampden Garden Club meets April 17

HAMPDEN - The April meeting of the Hampden Garden Club is on April 17 at 7 p.m. at Academy Hall on Main St.

Becky Sadlowski will speak on growing colorful, home grown cut flowers. Becky and her husband founded Rooted Flowers, a specialty cut flower farm in Agawam.

Memorial Day Plant Sale

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club's Memorial Day Plant Sale will be taking place on May 26 from 8 a.m. to Noon at Academy Hall, Main Street, in Hampden, rain or shine.

Stop by and check out the plants!

Junior Women's Club to hold Annual Bunny Breakfast

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club will be holding its Annual Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 8 to 11 a.m. at St Cecilia's Church Parish Center located at 41 Main Street in Wilbraham.

Attendees will enjoy a "Bun-nylicious" Breakfast of freshly prepared pancakes and sausage, fresh fruits and their choice of orange or apple juice, coffee, tea, milk or water.

The Easter Bunny will be in attendance to visit and take photos with the kids. Guests can enjoy Face painting, Temporary Tattoos and lots of Arts and Crafts activities!

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for a chance to win

child and adult themed raffle baskets!

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club would like to thank our sponsor Luso Federal Credit Union! Their representatives will be distributing Easter-themed items to all of the children!

The Bunny Breakfast is a long-standing, cherished community event. Be sure to Hop on over! Tickets: \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under, can be purchased at the door via cash, check or Venmo or online at Wilbrahamjuniorwomens.org via PayPal or Venmo.

For more information, please contact Brenda Willard at BrendaWillard@aol.com or (413) 279-1394.

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about a third of the workforce doesn't exist anymore. In other words, the driver shortage is not likely to be resolved anytime soon, which is why the district made the decision to adjust its transportation model to fit the size of the available workforce by implementing a three-tier bus model," Provost said.

Provost noted the "greater economic efficiency" of moving to this system.

"I know some School Committee members were surprised to see that our total transportation cost for FY26 increased by \$170,000. But, if it had not been for the implementation of the three-tier model, we'd be asking for half a million dollars for transportation increases," Provost said. "The \$330,000 difference is the savings, we realized, by implementing a three-tier model."

Provost added the three-tier model "should be more reliable because we're projected to have enough drivers to actually run the routes."

For the next school year, Provost said the number of school buses would be reduced from 33 to 28 and 40 minutes as opposed to 20 minutes slated for planned time to cover the map between each pick-up and drop-off cycle.

"The logistical challenge is to find a way to maintain our current number on instructional hours and minimize disruption to families, including the routines of our own staff, to ensure that students have supervision all while doubling the time allotted for buses to cover the map," Provost said.

Another concern is the varying length of school days.

"The length of the middle school day is currently 10 minutes shorter than the high school day and the elementary day is five minutes

shorter than the middle school day," Provost said. "That makes it harder to design a system where buses arrive on time, especially when you put the school with the longest day on the first tier."

Reviewing the preliminary schedule, Provost said in the model how "everything works fine in the morning," but buses don't arrive to pick up students at the elementary or middle schools until 20 minutes after classes end.

"That would potentially leave students unsupervised because the teacher's duty date ends 15 minutes after the last class," Provost said. "The problem arises because the school with the longest day is on the first tier and there's just no way to make up the difference to get buses back in time for schools with shorter days."

Presenting alternatives, alternative one, he added, is to put a school with a shorter day on the first tier—which would be the middle school—at a start time of 7:35 a.m., five minutes earlier than the current start time.

Tier two would have the high school start at 8 a.m., 25 minutes later than the current start time, followed by the third tier for the elementary schools at 8:55 a.m., 25 minutes later than the current start time.

"In this model, all of the schools have a shift of less than a half an hour, which is one of the things I said was one of my hopes when we started this process and the high school, I think the shift is one that actually better aligns with their health needs," Provost said. "The buses still make it back in time to pick up all of the students so you don't have the supervision problem at the end of the day. We still save the \$335,000 and we still have a fleet that matches the size of our workforce and, importantly, a lot of discussions of a later start time

for the high school. We still bring older students back in before the elementary students so they can provide supervision for the younger siblings."

Provost did not recommend alternative two, which would have had the middle and elementary schools start earlier and the high school start at 9 a.m.

"The first is the magnitude of the impacts on everyone's routine. As opposed to alternative one, this has many more families moving a half an hour or longer from their current schedule. A second problem with the model is the bus company can't guarantee they'd be able to get buses back to the high school on time because young students need someone to meet them on the bus and if an adult is not present, then they have to take the students back to the school and this makes the time needed to complete the elementary drop-off unpredictable," Provost said.

Another concern was an "extreme shift" of the high school schedule "would have a negative impact on our student-athletes and SEATECH students."

"Our school day would be so far out of sync with SEATECH that it's really hard to imagine a way for the students to be able to connect with the high school schedule for the other half of the day, and our student-athletes would miss many of their fourth block classes, especially during fall season," Provost said.

Provost then shared a third alternative for consideration later on that is currently a conceptual example focusing on actual riders of the buses, with the Policy Subcommittee to review it in the future.

The presentation concluded with the School Committee members expressing their approval for the update.



Ophelia Murray of Wilbraham, age 8, wore a Minecraft shirt to Minecraft Madness.



Marshall Smith, age eight, was intent on drawing Minecraft characters.

Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

MINECRAFT from page 1

draw Minecraft characters captivated many of the children.

Ophelia Murray wore a Minecraft shirt to the event and explained that she likes to build houses out of cherry blossoms in the game.

Her mother, Melody Murray, sometimes plays alongside her daughter.

"She builds the houses

and I live in them," Murray said. "I tried playing the game years ago when I was younger and didn't get it. Now she's teaching me how to play."

Hageman was pleased with the turnout and with the children's level of involvement in hands-on Minecraft-themed activities.

"I love seeing them take an idea and make it their own," Hageman said.

During school vacation week, the WPL will offer a Teen Taste Test: Oreo Edition on April 22 and a Marshmallow and Toothpick Tower-Building challenge for children on April 25.

To register, call the library at 596-6141 or visit their website at wilbrahamlibrary.org.



Photos courtesy of Wilbraham United Players

Sally Bowles (Carolyn Averill) and the Kit Kat Girls (Julia Adamo, Shelly Capen, Naidelyn Cruz, Noelle Hisgen, Meaghan Snapp, and Jami Wilson) in their number "Don't Tell Mama."

CABARET from page 1

Benjamin Mabrey holds us all together in the musical aspect and does an amazing job doing so.

Jaqui Panascian's choreography is something I am so grateful for and her work has made me so happy to call myself a Kit Kat Girl for three months.

I loved this show, and I love everything the Wilbraham United Players stands for and I will continue to remember them for years to come and continue to support their upcoming productions as much as I can.

The Wilbraham United Players is, currently, holding auditions for their summer youth show (for ages 9-18) "Seussical Jr." on April 25 to 27. It is a great group that introduced me to theater, please consider auditioning for a phenomenal organization.

Community theater is thriving in Wilbraham, so please consider supporting the Wilbraham United Players in their upcoming endeavors.

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A shot of a posterboard asking "Why Can't We Live On Other Planets?" on display at the Solar System Showcase put on by the fifth grade students at Green Meadows Elementary School.

CHALLENGER from page 1

work that they did, we won this field trip to the Challenger Center," Barrett said.

She elaborated on the Bottle and Can Drive.

"The only piece that's not covered by the Mass Learning Project--and they told us when we first entered the challenge--was the bus," Barrett said. "I can't use the LPVEC buses because of the strict timetables that they have because they don't have enough buses. So, I have to use a King Gray bus to get the kids there which ups the cost dramatically."

Barrett expressed gratitude to the Hampden PTO for their support as they do "such amazing things," encouraging residents to support the drive.

"The PTO works so hard to make sure that every grade level gets to go on some sort of a field trip, to help offset

the costs, they help plan the trips," Barrett said. "To come up with the Bottle and Can Drive helps support the trip that my kiddos won, but also all the great things they do at Green Meadows."

Autumn Sheridan and Gabby Barroso shared what they enjoyed about doing the showcase.

"I liked the Solar System Showcase because I liked being a part of a team and working together and I learned a lot about my topic on dwarf planets," Sheridan said.

"My experience at the solar system showcase was amazing. I thought it was really fun to share all of the information me and my friends learned to other elementary school students and parents. I also thought it was fun that I learned so many new things," Barroso said.



Families and students check out the displays at the Solar System Showcase



These students focused on "Dwarf Planets" for their project, teaching attendees about what they are and where they are.

Hunter Houle expressed excitement about the students winning the field trip and how Barrett had the opportunity to share about the showcase at the Project Lead the Way Conference with other teachers after she won.

"I thought it was awesome that my school gets to win a field trip and also that our class got featured at (her) science meeting," Houle said.

Olivia Adams and Laine Bertelli were also ecstatic.

"It is amazing that we won this field trip because we put in all this hard work so it paid off!" Adams said.

"I felt really proud of our whole grade and happy for everyone to have won such an amazing field trip," Bertelli said.

Luke Armstrong and Colton Hersman are among the many students looking forward to the field trip.

"I am most excited about the field trip because we get to go with all of our friends and get to see cool things about space," Armstrong said.

"I am excited to go to a place that I haven't been to and do something fun with my friends," Hersman said.

Barrett was also thrilled



Green Meadows Elementary School students worked hard on their projects at the Solar System Showcase, leading to their teacher, Jessica Barrett, winning a trip for the students to the Challenge Center at Framingham State University.

to win the trip and for the opportunity the fifth graders will have.

"It's just such a cool way to encourage our kids that working really, really hard can gain you these awesome experiences. It's an opportunity they wouldn't have had before if they hadn't won this. There's no way I would have been able to get them to this field trip without this challenge," Barrett said. "It's kind of like a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these fifth graders to go."

She added how her students are interested in space.

"There's something about space and kids that they are just enthralled with it, and so, to actually go and do space simulations and really be a part of it, I'm sure that's going to help some kids find their passions," Barrett said.

Barrett wants the community to know how proud they should be of the students.

"We're a small school out in Green Meadows, but we do some big things even though we're a small school. These kids have a lot of potential," Barrett said.

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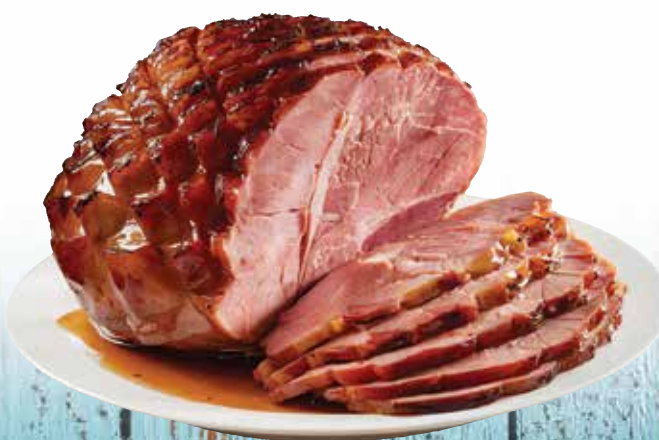
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VIEWPOINTS

Germination tests give way to garden experiments

Although the temperatures did not cooperate this past week, I have to say that spring vibes are all around me.

I saw my first blooming crocus, and even some early daffodils. The phoebe bird that makes a nest above our porch door is back, and hanging around, much to my husband's dismay!

My pepper plants are almost in need of transplanting from their seed pack, and the tomato seeds I planted last weekend sprouted in under a week. It is all so exciting! I don't think that I will ever not be amazed at the miracle of it all.

The other day I was going through my seed stash and I found two year old seeds of Loofah Gourd, Mini Popcorn, Mouse Melon and a variety of "climbing" Zucchini all of which I never planted. These purchases were "impulse buys" I guess you'd call it. I bought them but when it came time to actually plant them, I decided that my garden square footage was too precious to waste on frivolity.

But here we are and my frugal nature shines through once more. Since I bought them I might as well try and plant them; maybe one will end up being a new favorite.

But alas, does one risk planting two year old seed? What if the seeds don't ger-

minate? Partaking in germination testing gave me a chance to get my hands in the soil, (albeit indoors) and the outcome will help me determine how much I should "over-plant" or if that will even be necessary.

Wasting a few seeds now will save time later on.

First up, the Loofah Gourd. I planted four seeds as a trial and three popped up! That means I will be adding this to my garden come springtime.

Grow it like you would any other gourd or squash. It loves fertile soil, heat and a strong support.

When loofahs were first popular, I was a young adult and still living at home. Growing them was a project for my parents and I.

Before the first frost we harvested the fat, wrinkly looking cucumbers and allowed them to dry before peeling off the rind. What was left was fibrous matter, looking already very much like a scrubby sponge. It was a fun experiment then and it will be reminiscent to repeat it.

Next comes the Mini Colored Popcorn. This was the

first to sprout in my germination test pack with five of the six seeds popping up.

I have never had extra

the rest to push off.

Another fun thing to try, just to say I did it.

If you are growing sweet corn in your garden be sure to time these apart from one another, so that cross pollination won't taint the taste of your sweet corn.

I was really hoping that the climbing



space to grow corn, but I thought it would be fun to try these for both decoration and food. I am going to start them ahead of time, indoors in six packs and plant them out around the three week mark.

They will be spaced about a foot apart in rows about two and a half feet apart. Corn likes fertile soil, so I will amend the soil well with aged compost.

This type of corn will dry right on the plant, until the husks are brown. Then the ears will be harvested, shucked and dried some more. I have seen people remove the kernels first by using a blunt instrument such as the back of a spoon to start the kernels moving, then it looks somewhat easy to get

zucchini would sprout in my test pack. It took a bit, but they finally did and therefore they will be added to my garden this spring.

This variety, known as "Incredible Escalator" has a vertical habit. Funny enough, there are all sorts of videos online about training zukes to grow upright, but this variety seems particularly suited to upward mobility.

Zucchini are not true "twining" plants, however, so they will need to be tied to a strong trellis or stake to maintain their vertical nature. Because the plant is off the ground, there appears to be improved disease resistance, too.

Stay tuned as to whether this zucchini lives up to the

hype in terms of productivity and increased vigor.

Last on my list is Mouse Melon. I saw these for the very first time at the Hardwick Fair in 2022, hence my purchase. Also known as Mexican Sour Gherkin, these fruits grow to about the size of a grape, but taste somewhere between a cucumber and a watermelon, growing more sour as they mature.

The seeds were tiny, not what I expected at all and only half of what I planted came up, so I will definitely be sowing double the normal rate. The vine grows long - upwards of 10 feet, so be sure to trellis to make the best use of space.

I know little more than you do about this one, but I can't wait to try it out. Will it remain a curiosity or will Mouse Melon become a regular? Will any of these?

We'll have to wait to find out!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

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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.

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By Russell Gloor

Will my Medicare premium change because I sold investment property?

Dear Rusty:

I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property.

I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties, one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025.

My normal Adjusted

Gross Income has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255,000. I did a rough calculation on what my AGI will be for 2024 and it looks to be about \$318,000. How will this affect my Social Security benefit and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan.

My next question is about 2025, after the next property closes and I file taxes, my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be be-

tween \$700,000-\$800,000. How will this affect my benefits going forward?

Signed: Prudent Investor

Dear Prudent Investor:

Actually, the gross amount of your Social Security benefit will not be affected by these transactions, but the net amount of your SS benefit payment will change due to a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment.

Here's how this will work for you: Your Medicare premiums each year, typically for Medicare Part B and Part D are determined by looking at your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income," or "MAGI" from two years prior. MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had. Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your 2026 Medicare premiums to be higher than the standard monthly 2026 amount.

How much higher depends on how much you exceed the income level for your IRS filing status. Using 2025 rules, if you file as married/jointly and your taxable income (MAGI) is more than \$212,000 but less than \$334,000 then, instead of paying the standard 2026 monthly Part B premium, you'll each pay \$370 per month for Medicare Part B and likely a supplemental amount of \$35.30 if your Advantage plan includes prescription drug coverage.

Your Medicare premiums are recalculated every year, again based on income from two years prior. Thus, in 2027, IRMAA will also affect your Medicare premiums and your net Social Security payment because of your 2025 real estate transaction. If your MAGI in 2025 will be over \$750,000, then IRMAA will increase each of your 2027 Medicare Part B premiums to \$638.90 and likely also add a supplement of \$85.80 per month each to your Medicare Advantage premium for prescription drug coverage.

The good news is in 2028 all of this will be behind you and your Medicare premiums will revert to whatever

the standard monthly premiums are for that year because your income levels thereafter will presumably be below the then-IRMAA thresholds).

For reference, here is a link to Medicare's information on the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or "IRMAA:"

https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles

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



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN Guest Column

Love a good nap? So does your brain... maybe

The headlines were all over the internet a couple of months ago: Napping is good for brain health. But, as with all health studies, you have to read the fine print.

Habitual napping was associated with larger total brain volume, which is in turn associated with a lower risk of dementia and other diseases, according to researchers from University College London (UCL) and the University of the Republic of Uruguay. The researchers estimated the difference in brain volume between nappers and non-nappers was equivalent to 2.5 to

6.5 years of aging.

As I've noted before, though, association is not causation. Is brain volume larger because of napping, or could there be other factors at play - heredity or physical activity, for instance. The study only compared people who are genetically predisposed to nap and those who aren't - not those who elect not to nap. Also, the napping behaviors studied were self-reported by participants, which is not exactly the gold standard for research.

Even with all of those caveats, I agree with the re-

searchers that there's nothing wrong with a brief daytime nap. By brief I mean 30 minutes or so -- you don't want it to interfere with the next night's sleep. Afternoons are a good time for napping because that's when we tend to experience a dip in energy

levels.

Nappers tend to feel more alert and clear-headed after a snooze, and there's a movement afoot to permit naps on the job, particularly for office workers. Naps are especially helpful for people who don't work regular schedules or

who are doing shift work. Aging bladders can wake us up during the night, too. If you don't fall back asleep right away, a nap the next day might be just the thing.

Please see YOUR HEALTH, page 8



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

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.

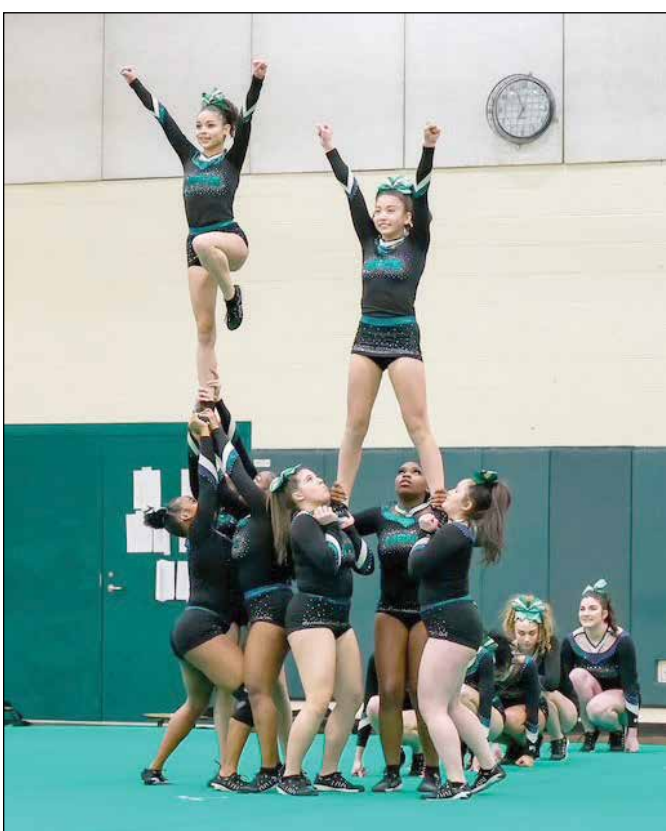
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Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Three cheers for Minnechaug Cheer!



Submitted photos and caption Kim Lee
Coached by Madelynne Crooks and Rianna Brathwaite, the Minnechaug Regional High School cheerleaders celebrated their 2024-2025 competition season and three seniors: Cierra Roberson Barron, Elizabeth Nguyen, and Jaina Hall with a year-end banquet on March 12. The team participated in four competitions this season at Wahconah, Chicopee, South Hadley, and West Springfield High Schools where they placed third in the Winter Wonderland competition.



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Saluting the Rotary Club...



Photo and caption Charlie Bennett
Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Peter Salerno (left) salutes along with guest speaker Patrick Renna, Wilbraham's new Director of Veterans Services, at the club's March 26 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Renna said he takes pride in providing advice and service to the town's veterans.



From Wilbraham to Boston Symphony Hall

Submitted photo and caption Linda Sherman

Alexa Sherman and Ella Gagliarducci both performed on Saturday March 29 at Boston Symphony Hall as part of the Massachusetts All State Concert Ensemble. The girls had to audition for a chance to be part of the Ensemble.

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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICE

Elizabeth Tomaya Porter
 Died March 19, 2025
 Services are private
 Wilbraham Funeral Home

Elizabeth Tomaya Porter

1943 – 2025

WILBRAHAM—Elizabeth Tomaya “Honey” Porter, 81, of Wilbraham, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, the only child of the late Graham Hervey Jenkins, 1st Lieutenant of the 366th Regiment, and Elizabeth Tomaya (Miranda) Jenkins. After her father died in the war, her mother remarried. Tomaya was raised in Philadelphia and New York by her mother and dad, the late Robert Peacock, a World War II veteran. She relocated to Wilbraham, MA, in 1974, where she raised her family with her husband, Ronald N. Porter. They were married for 59 years.



dish than it did on the canvas, as she was a talented painter. She has left her artistic presence in oil paintings that adorn both the walls of her home and those of others.

Tomaya loved life! Her ever-energetic personality brought joy and enthusiasm to people of all ages. People were touched by her presence and often regarded her as a “vibrant” person who was a “ray of sunshine.” Her sense of style was flash and flare, accessorized with healthy doses of hipster. She was earnest in her dedication to helping those in need. She regularly donated to the Springfield Rescue Mission and St. Joseph’s Indian School. She was silly, honest, passionate, carefree, and dedicated to those she loved. She regarded her grandchildren as her “treasures.”

In addition to her parents, Tomaya was also predeceased by her brother, Robert “Bobby” Peacock. She will be sadly missed by her beloved husband Ronald and their three devoted daughters: Candice Porter of Wilbraham, Heather (Ed) Adamson of Sturbridge, and Kelli (Charlie) Murphy of Haverhill, MA; her sister Lezlie Peacock of Fountain Hills, AZ and niece Stefani Peacock of Portland, OR; nephew Bobby Peacock of Peekskill, NY; five cherished grandchildren Destiny, Jakob, Miranda, Kendra and Kailin and three great-grandchildren Lula, Jacob and Eddie.

The family has planned a private celebration of life for a later date. Those who wish to honor her name are encouraged to make a donation to the American Heart Association or another charitable foundation that supports children in need.

Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

YOUR HEALTH from page 6

But if you’re not regularly getting seven to nine hours of sound sleep a night, I don’t recommend long daytime naps to make up the difference. First, you’re more likely to wake up groggy after an extended nap because your brain is trying to enter the deep sleep phase. There’s evidence that people make more mistakes after a long daytime nap.

Second, a nap doesn’t give you the benefit of the restorative nature of sleep – when your eyes and muscles fully relax and your body is repairing and rebuilding bone and muscle, consolidating memories and shoring up the immune system.

Everyone has a bad night once in a while. For many consecutive nights of disrupted sleep and days filled with naps, though, consult your doctor. You might need a sleep study to determine whether something like sleep apnea could be the cause.

Napping is associated with other issues as well. EL-

derly adults who napped at least once a day or more than an hour a day were 40 percent more likely to develop Alzheimer’s than those who did not nap daily or napped less than an hour a day, according to a study published in Alzheimer’s and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association, in March 2022. Also last year, a study found that people who often nap have a greater chance of developing high blood pressure and having a stroke, according to CNN.

And then there are those who can’t nap.

Just as there appears to be a genetic disposition toward napping, there also appear to be people for whom napping is physiologically difficult, if not impossible. Jeremy Derbyshire, writing in the Financial Times, is one of those. His attempts at napping usually end in frustration, he says, “after 10 minutes or so lying down rigidly and willing myself, unsuccessfully, into unconsciousness.”

Maybe we need to expand the definition of “nap.” Let’s consider a nap everything from closing your eyes for 10 minutes to just letting your mind wander for a while.

No pressure here!

Even one of the authors of the UCL study is not a big fan of napping. “Honestly,” she told the BBC, “I would rather spend 30 minutes exercising than napping.”

So, nap if you can. But if you’re not cut out for napping, don’t lose sleep over it. A brisk walk might be just as beneficial.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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MEETING from page 1

closet or whatever we want to call it. They’re about 10 years old. We’re looking to replace those,” Domina said. “We submitted a Community Impact IT Grant—I believe it was last month—for the amount of \$148,000 to replace those switches and to install new wireless access points throughout the building. Some of those have been taken out by the district,” Domina said.

Domina hopes to hear about the grant before Annual Town Meeting next month.

“If not—or if that grant doesn’t come through—I guess we’d have to assess the viability of those switches. Obviously, they’re 10 years old, they’re getting to the point where they’re going to need to be replaced.”

Dan Blanchard, director of Parks & Rec, asked Domina this.

“Does upgrading those give you reliability and speed? What does upgrading the switches do?” Blanchard said. Domina replied that he thought “it’s more about reliability.”

“For whatever past historical reasons, when MBI built the middle mile and connected community anchor institutions, TWB was not one of those anchor institutions that was connected,” Domina said.

He added he reached out to Local Links—the new Axia provider who manages the Middle Mile MBI—and gave him a cost.

“They could—quote unquote—extend the plant from, I believe, the closest is on Allen Street up Wilbraham Road to TWB,” Domina said. “But, at this point, Charter currently has a fiber connection into the building, so we’d likely go

with Charter.”

Logistics, such as state computers and state systems the town clerk uses, are still being determined.

“From what we can tell, that they can use any Internet connection but they need a 90-day notice to be able to transfer everything they need to over to the new location,” Domina said.

When asked if Charter was consulted on putting the wireless routers in for the town, Domina said he’d look into that and see.

On other technology, Domina noted the library uses CWMARS as their library network “but that can also be provided through Charter” and every classroom and room at TWB also has two, three or four data ports “depending on the room” that are all connected and would need to be reviewed with a low-voltage tester.

“But in terms of wiring, it’s pretty much wired through with, I believe, it was Cat5 cable,” Domina said. “So, hopefully that grant comes through and we can make those improvements.”

For library moving costs, Domina said Director Ellen Moriarty met with National Library Relocation Services and received a quote of \$21,000 to move the books and shelving for the library.

“Their estimate’s \$21,000. Moving company for everything else, really, we’d like to budget \$50,000, moving supplies \$3,500 and then for our IT company to disconnect, transport and reset up servers, the computers, the workstations—everything like that—they gave us a quote of \$6,500,” Domina said. “So, that’s a whole total of just over \$80,000 to move everything.”

Domina would also look into whether National Library Relocation Services could move everything and will reach out to them.

On repairs, Domina is still

putting together a list of the priorities before occupancy of the building.

“Right now, I have flooring repairs. There’s two classrooms where the tiles are coming up due to a moisture problem. They’re in the front portion of the building. If you went in the main entrance to the right, the first two classrooms there in a portion of the hallway,” Domina said. “Just to tear them up.”

Masonry repairs, he added, include a utility anchor in the brick veneer.

“It’s pulling out the whole chunk of the brick veneer that’s going to need to be addressed,” Domina said. “And then there’s also one other masonry issue around one of the windows underneath that really needs to be addressed.”

Other items include miscellaneous plumbing items and access control and cameras, with Domina sharing he’s waiting for a quote from Valley Communications.

After a discussion of the cameras and the access controls and a note on HVAC systems, Domina said quotes for the lighting upgrades and HVAC are still in process and a water filtration system were still on the list.

“And then we’d have to manage it like any other building where we’d have to put together a capital plan together and we would have to address items as they come up,” Domina said.

When Chair Don Davenport asked what amount would be asked at Town Meeting, Domina replied the moving costs and would depend on the access control amount.

“We still have \$99,400 left of the previously appropriated funds. The only thing that was spent was for the analysis of the septic system,” Domina said. “So, I don’t think it will be a huge amount but I want to wait to hear back from Valley as to what that is.”

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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.

Crafts with Kim

We are happy to introduce Kim Keeton, a member of the senior center who has years of crafting experience, first as a junior high school teacher and later as the floral manager at Michael's. Kim is offering the following classes in April. All materials are included in the price of the class. Samples of each project are displayed in our lobby.

Monday, April 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Easter Snow Globe (makes a great gift for a grandchild). Cost is \$10.00.

Tuesday, May 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Bow Making. Cost is \$10.00.

Ribbon will be provided for the class but if you want to make a bow with something specific for a project you are working on, bring it to class that day.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot for each class you are interested in. Space is limited.

Ever wanted to try Scrapbooking?

Kim will hold an informational session to discuss what supplies are needed and give suggestions on organizing your pictures. If there is enough interest, Kim will offer classes so you can personalize your scrapbook using her tools to make it unique.

Learn more about scrapbooking on Tuesday, April 22 at 1 p.m.

The Friends of Hampden Seniors are hosting a Hartsprings Truck Event Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At Bethlehem Church, 123 Allen Street, Hampden, MA

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're 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. By doing so, you're also helping the Senior Center earn a small percentage based on the total weight of items received from Hartsprings which helps their cause. *There is no charge to drop off these items. All proceeds from this event will benefit the needs of the Hampden Senior Center.*

D & R Farm

Winter Farm Share

PICK-UP is on Wednesday, April 16 at 9:30 a.m.

D & R Farm offers fresh produce *once a month*, from January through June.

FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$20 cash each month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

New applications are required. If interested, contact Wendy at 566-5588 to get your application in! Shares are limited.

Needle Felt Craft Class with Pop-Up Art School Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$12.

Learn how to needle-felt a bird with red accents, perched on a real branch. Pop Up Art School will show you the basics of how to needle-felt wool roving. Leave the class with the basic supplies and knowledge to needle felt on your own. Needle felting is surprisingly easy, relaxing, and fun!

Call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

COVID Vaccine Clinic By appointment only:

Monday, April 28, 2025 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Who should receive a shot? The CDC recommends that previously vaccinated individuals 65 and older receive a second dose separated by 6 months regardless of vaccination history. This means if you received your last shot here at the senior center (or somewhere else) back in October 2024, you are eligible.

Please call your health care provider if you have specific questions about your personal situation and vaccine history. By appointment only. Please call 566-5588 to schedule and appointment.

Do you have Parkinson's

Disease or know someone who does?

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes, A Parkinson-specific exercise class that "makes function exercise" to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility. Exercises are designed to improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms, and increase your daily activity. This whole-body function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

With enough interest, classes will be on Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m., and will be led by Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master | Holistic Therapist

Cost is \$10.00 per class. Please call 566-5588 to let us know if you are interested.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD All are welcome!

Mondays from 11 a.m. to Noon- Newcomers will meet at 12:30 pm.

We invite you to join us as we share many things such as: ♦ Loneliness vs Feeling Lonely ♦ Adapting to Life Changes ♦ Finding purpose for our life as Seniors ♦ Bereavement as well as Joyous Moments

There is no charge to join this group. Please call 566-

5588 to reserve your seat.

Making Music with Sue - New Students Welcome!

New 12-week session begins April 7 through June 30.

Mondays, Noon to 1 p.m. - Beginner Ukulele and Recorder

Mondays, 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. - Ensemble Class (Ukulele, Recorder, Percussion, & Vocals)

Cost is \$60 for the 12-week session if paid in full and receive two free classes, or \$6 per class for drop-ins. *New students must call ahead for placement.*

Please pay cash or make checks payable directly to: Susan McHand

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore - New Students Welcome!

New 12-week session begins April 8 through July 8. No classes 4/22 & 5/13.

Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Learn about balance and how it impacts overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

Cost is \$6 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"African Drumming" with Jason"

There will be a concert on March 28 so you can see what all the hype is about! All are welcome!

New 14-week session begins April 4 through July 25. (No class on 4/18, 5/2, and 7/4)

Fridays, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Cost is \$80 for the 14-week session if paid in full and receive two free classes, or \$7 per class.

Drop-ins welcome. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"Come What May" Boutique...

is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours,

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of The Senior Center.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Toothpaste!

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

Did you know we offer the following services....

Anyone is welcome to take advantage of these services.

Please call 566-5588 unless otherwise noted to schedule your appointments.

Manicures with Cat

Please call Cat directly at 413-335-7422, for an appointment and pricing.

Upcoming HSC Trips

HAMPDEN - The following trips are being arranged at the Hampden Sr Ctr, 104 Allen St, Hampden; prices include the driver's tip.

Tues, April 29 - The Aqua Turf Club, "The Ozark Jubilee" from Branson, MO - coffee on arrival, delicious family-style lunch, classic country show - \$127pp.

Wed, May 14 - The Log Cabin for "The Jersey Tenors" - delicious family-style

Italian lunch, Powerhouse Vocals - \$93pp (self-drive).

Mon, July 14 - The Newport Playhouse, "It's Your Funeral" a traditional comical farce. All you can eat buffet, Show and Cabaret - \$132pp.

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor Store - \$140pp.

Mon, Dec 8 - The Aqua

Turf Club "Rock This Town Orchestra" - Coffee on arrival, delicious family-style lunch, Swinging '50s and '60s tunes - \$127pp.

Flyers are available at the Senior Center or via email. Full Payment Deadlines are approximately two weeks before the event.

Questions/comments, please call Bobbi at 413-566-8271 or email bobbij2@charter.net.

Friends Quilt Raffle

WILBRAHAM - Help raise funds for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors who raise funds for the needs of Wilbraham's senior citizens.

Help us by purchasing tickets for the raffle of a queen-size quilt made by the Wilbraham Senior Center's Quilting Group. Drawing is May 2 at the senior center.

You do not have to be there to win.

You can buy tickets at the Wilbraham Public Library on the following Saturdays: April 5 and April 26. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

You can also contact friends@01095 to arrange to buy tickets.

Wilbraham Women's Club Fashion Show

WILBRAHAM - Step into spring with fashions from the Jill collection (Longmeadow Shops). The Fashion Show sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, will be held April 24 at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

A Social Hour begins at 11:30 followed by lunch at Noon. The meal choices are salmon with dill sauce or chicken fraise for \$35. There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift cards.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480, by April 17. This event helps to fund the club's scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.

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Rotary Club to hold another Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is holding another Calendar Raffle throughout the month of April with prizes given out every day in May. The raffle will raise money for local community projects and scholarships. Calendars are on sale now through the end of April for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is different from the one held last year in that, in addition to cash prizes, there will also be gift cards to many national chains with outlets in the Greater Springfield area, such as Home Depot and Dunkin. Thirty prizes will be awarded in the month of May. “There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win,” announced club raffle co-chairman Tim Tracy of LUSO Federal Credit Union in Wilbraham. To purchase a calendar contact Tracy at 413-682-4094 or co-chair



Rotary Calendar Raffle Co-Chairs Tim Tracey and Ann Marie Ottoson said there will be a raffle winner every day in May.

Ann Marie Ottoson at 413-530-5996. Proceeds will be given back to the community said Tracy.

For more information or to join the Rotary Club call Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

Photo by Charles Bennett



By Barb Turcotte

George Demers has accomplished many things in his life, one reaching the rank of Brigadier General while serving in the Air National Guard. George completed forty-six years serving in the military, twelve years in the Air Force and the remaining 34 in the Air National Guard, therefore having seen many places throughout the world. George was also a Navigator Pilot and a CTANG 103rd Fighter Pilot. He was instrumental in revamping procedures that were obsolete and upgrading safety policies. He said he was a tough boss, but fair. He told them, “Don’t tell me I can’t”, instead, “Tell me how I can.” He respected his men and would regularly treat his crew to pizza in appreciation of their hard work. He finally retired in 2001, though he still stays very up to date on military happenings.

You may recognize these people who also served in the Air National Guard, Barry Goldwater, Lindsay Graham, George W. Bush, Tom Selleck, Morgan Freeman and Chuck Norris.

George married his life’s partner Ann when she was just eighteen and he was twenty-two. They enjoyed sixty-five beautiful years of marriage but unfortunately, this past January he lost Ann. Being in the military they had to move many times over the course of George’s service, in fact they bought and sold 17 houses! Though his military life took him away from some important family events, he was confident in the marvelous job Ann was doing with their sons. They lived in FL for many years before deciding to make Western MA their home to be closer to their sons and their families. They have three sons and six grandchildren. Ann wanted her sons to have a feeling of stability while moving

so often and because of her love for hockey, she was influential in getting them into that sport. One of their sons even officiated an Olympic hockey game which was such a tribute to his mother. Well, that love has carried over to their four grandsons who also love the sport and actively play.

When George was just twenty-four he became the Executor for his father when he passed which taught him a quick lesson regarding finances. After his mom had spent her married years as a stay-at-home mom, she now had to get a job to support the family. He vowed then that he would never leave Ann in a situation like that. Though he said there were some lean times and it wasn’t always easy to do with a family, he made the commitment to pay themselves first so they would be prepared for the unexpected. He has passed that wisdom down and hopes his sons and grandchildren have listened to his advice.

Ann loved politics so volunteered for the Republican Town Committee as well as the Constable for their town. Giving back has always been a part of their lives and when they were in a financial position to do so, they did. They donated to the Food Bank at the beginning of each month in order to help military families wherever they were stationed.

Patriotism has been very important to both George and Ann and while living at Patrick Air Force base in FL, one of their favorite times was the retreat which began at 4pm each day. This began the happy hour at the end of their driveway, then at 5pm they would lower the flag and salute it as the National Anthem was played. It became a very special time and a type of Random Act of Kindness as they provided

refreshments, etc. for those in attendance. Today George is still offering wine as he gathers with new friends at Keystone Commons, an Independent/Assisted Living facility he now calls home. He’s also been known to quietly pay for co-residents at an outing. He still remains active by working out each morning and has even called Bingo!

As I mentioned, when they were able to financially give back they did and actually became very large sponsors for their town’s newly built church where George was even a regular caller of Bingo so again giving back. Meeting George, he presents himself as a very kind but humble man and you’d never think he once held such an important position in the military.

Some people have wealth, no matter how they acquire it, but the most impressive thing is when they are willing to share it through their generosity. George has created his own financial success and has given generously throughout his life because of the lesson learned at that very young age.

There’s no monetary value necessary with Random Acts of Kindness, it can simply be a kind gesture to another. It’s those simple kindnesses that truly make a difference in creating positivity.

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

Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold Book Sale May 7 - 10

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), are delighted to announce their annual book sale will be held May 7-10, 2025! 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.

While the sale is a little way off still, this is a great time to collect your old books. How would we have a sale without donated books?

We know many folks in our community are avid readers and have been accumulating books throughout the year. We are happy to once again offer

the ideal opportunity to recycle these books, stock up on new ones and fund library programs.

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 encyclopedias, magazines or Readers Digest condensed novels.

As a thank you for their support, donors will receive a coupon good for two 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, May 2 through Monday, May 5 during regular library hours. On Tuesday, May 6, from 4 to 7 p.m., we’ll show our appreciation to those who support us throughout the year, with a preview sale and reception for WFOL members ONLY. Come enjoy some refreshments with fellow WFOL members and get a chance to shop the book sale ahead of the general public. 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.



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Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold Spring Plant Sale

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a plant sale featuring three varieties of annuals. The sale will be pre-order only through May 14 with plant

pick up on Saturday, May 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham.

The WFOL is excited to once again offer summer blooming annuals to beautify your garden and benefit the Wilbraham Public Library.

We are offering annuals - Begonias (pink or white), Petunias (blue) and Texas Red Salvia. These are large plants in 5-inch pots that are ready to plant and show off. Plants are \$6 each and available by pre-order only. Deadline for orders is May 14 and orders will be available for pick up Saturday, May 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Road,

Wilbraham. Pick up an order form at the library or download from the library’s website - www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. You can also request an order form by emailing WFOL.info@gmail.com. Return your order with payment to the library during regular business hours.

The sale is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. 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 WFOL at WFOL.info@gmail.com.

Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick’s Place April 26

WILBRAHAM - The Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick’s Place, a 51.5M/5K event, will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, April 26 at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham.

The race will begin at 9 am. Please register by April 11 to receive a t-shirt. \$30 for adults and \$15 ages 17 and under: Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick’s Place

ested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to us at 413-279-2010 or send an email to: info@ricksplacema.org

Established in memory of Rick Thorpe, who died in Tower Two of the World Trade Center on 9/11, Rick’s Place opened in 2007 and provides free grief support to youth (ages 5-18) and their families throughout the Pioneer Valley and Northern CT.

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Falcons grab shutout win over Belchertown

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — A botched rundown play, a wild pickoff throw, and a wild pitch.

The Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball team scored a run with the help of those three things leading to a 3-0 home victory over the Belchertown Orioles, last Friday afternoon.

"I don't recall ever winning a baseball game without having an RBI. It's something that doesn't happen very often," said Minnechaug head coach Mike Netkovich. "We're very fortunate to win today's game. We struggled offensively against the Belchertown starting pitcher."

The Falcons (2-0) opened the regular season with a 9-1 home win versus Chicopee Comp two days earlier.

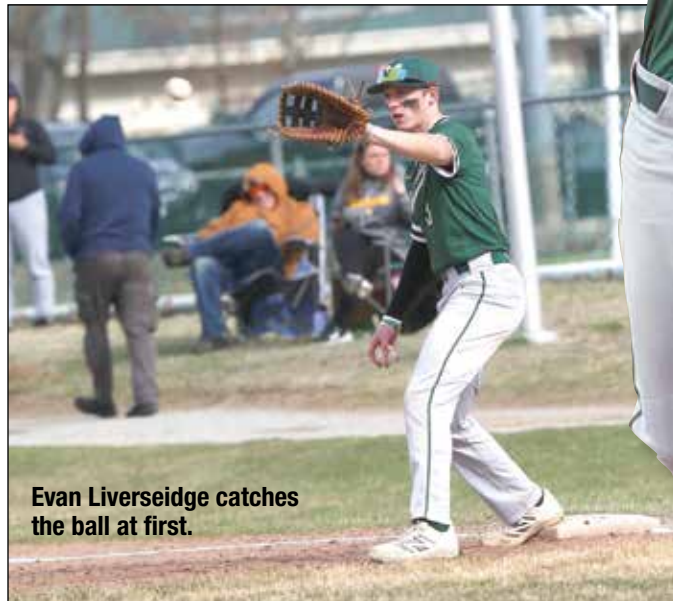
Last Friday's non-league game was originally scheduled to take place at Belchertown High School. It was moved to Wilbraham because of wet field conditions. The Falcons varsity diamond was also unplayable, so the game was played on the junior varsity field.

The Orioles, who played their first game of the regular season, were still the home team.

Belchertown senior righthander Josh Misiaszek held the Falcons without a base hit over the first 3 2/3 in-



Ben Daniels spins and makes the throw to first.



Evan Liverseidge catches the ball at first.



Bryce Barlow fires a throw to first.

the following frame.

After Liverseidge had struck out five batters in a row, senior shortstop Ian Mc-

Donald hit a ground ball double down the left field line with two outs in the inning. He then stole third base. The threat ended quickly, as the next batter struck out.

Misiaszek walked Liverseidge to begin the fourth inning before striking out the next two batters.

That's when Berneche decided to change pitchers. Waller also walked both Diehl and Gasteyer, which loaded the bases. He ended the threat by getting the next batter to hit a fly ball to right.

Please see **FALCONS**, page 12

game at the home of the Hartford Yard Goats, who are the Double A minor league affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

Waller allowed two runs in 1/3 innings before junior righty Ryan Gould finished the game. Gould escaped a bases loaded jam without allowing any runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Minnechaug junior righthander Evan Liverseidge, who went the distance, was the winning pitcher. He allowed four hits with no walks and nine strikeouts.

"Evan threw the ball really well in today's game," Netkovich said. "He won a couple of games for us last years as a sophomore."

The Falcons took advantage of a Belchertown mistake to take a 1-0 lead in the

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

nings. Misiaszek was relieved by senior righty Jake Waller with two outs in the top of the fourth after throwing 65 pitches.

Misiaszek, who had an arm injury a year ago, allowed an unearned run and recorded eight strikeouts. He also issued two walks and hit three batters.

"This was our first game of

the season," said Belchertown head coach Evan Berneche, who's a Special Education teacher at Minnechaug Regional. "We didn't want Josh to throw more than 70 pitches in today's game. We're also planning to start him against Longmeadow at Dunkin' Park on Tuesday night."

The Orioles were scheduled to play their first ever

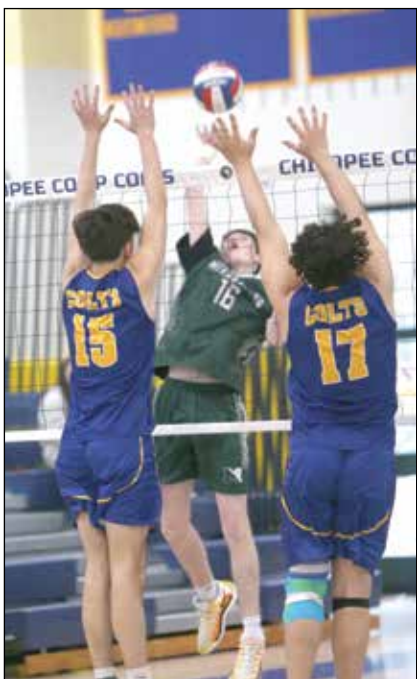
Colts score sweep of Falcons



Andon Cardova fights of a hit off to his side.

CHICOPEE — Last Wednesday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive boys volleyball scored a sweep over visiting Minnechaug 3-0. The Colts won the sets 25-18, 25-14, and 25-12. Alexander Rivera led the Colts with 16 kills. The Falcons are just 1-2 to start the season while Comp is 4-0 to start out 2025.

Mike Sullivan goes for a spike with a pair of blockers ready.



Jonathan Correa sends a bump away.



Brennan Rost pops up a set.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kevin Cardova tries to lift the ball over the net.

Falcons defeat Pope Francis

WILBRAHAM — It was a fast start for Minnechaug as the scored six goals in the first quarter. But it was the defense that was even better, limiting Pope Francis to a single goal in a 13-1 win, Minnechaug's second of the year.

Jake Hisgen and Matt Beaduin had three goals

and one assist each for the Falcons. Colin Meunier had a goal and three assists four points as well.

In goal, Zach Kozub had a great game, only allowing one goal. He also made two saves. Minnechaug is now 2-0 on the season and will next face Westfield on Friday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m.

OT goal lifts T-Birds over Lehigh Valley

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-28-2-4) received a perfect night from their netminder and outlasted the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (33-27-6-2) in a 1-0 overtime win on Saturday night at the PPL Center. Coupled with Hartford's overtime loss in Hershey, the T-Birds' magic number to clinch a playoff berth has fallen to just 1.

After being pressured for 16 first-period shots on Friday in Utica, Springfield was far stingier defensively in the opening frame against their division foes, keeping Lehigh Valley to just seven shots in the first period and making things easy for Vadim Zherenko to keep the opponents off the board.

Parker Gahagen had a similarly strong start for the Phantoms, turning away the eight Springfield offerings that came his way in the first 20 minutes. Furthermore, neither team could connect on one power-play chance each in the opening stanza.

Springfield had its best chance to break the scoreless deadlock in a mad scramble near the net in the second,

but Gahagen managed to turn away both Dalibor Dvorsky and Nikita Alexandrov despite being on his belly while trying to keep the puck out.

Lehigh Valley's closest call came off the stick of veteran Anthony Richard, who scooted to the right side of the slot to punch a quick attack on the net after the puck caromed in front off the end boards. Zherenko, though, had the answer, pushing his left leg across for the pad save, one of his 21 stops through 40 minutes. Gahagen took a 20-save shutout into the third for Lehigh Valley.

A tentative third period saw the teams protect the defensive zone. Lehigh Valley's door of opportunity opened when the Phantoms earned their second power play, but Zherenko and the Springfield penalty kill stiffened. With the game just two seconds away from overtime, the Phantoms nearly won it in the final seconds, but Zherenko flashed out the left leg for a phenomenal in-tight save on Zayde Wisdom to force the game into overtime.

Overtime only further showcased Zherenko's storybook night, as Lehigh Valley

relentlessly fired chances at the Springfield net, but none of their eight tries found their way past the Springfield goaltender.

With just a half-minute to play in the extra period, Dvorsky moved back into the Phantoms zone and awaited a trailer. Calen Addison flew in off the Springfield bench, took a drop pass, and snapped a wrist shot through Gahagen to finally break the ice and give the T-Birds the overtime win on the veteran blueliner's first goal and point as a T-Bird.

Springfield gets a break from game action before taking the ice on Friday inside the Thunderdome at 7:05 p.m. against Belleville. The Hartford Wolf Pack and Hershey Bears square off again on Sunday, and any Hershey victory would punch the Thunderbirds' ticket to the Calder Cup Playoffs.

Fans can get their Thunderbirds tickets for the Calder Cup playoff push today by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or by visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Railers take 3-2 win over Adirondack

WORCESTER — It can be really hard to project the outcome of a game between a team that has nothing to lose and one that has everything to lose.

Such was the case Saturday night in the match here between the Railers and the Adirondack Thunder. Worcester won by a goal, of course, 3-2. Each of the Railers' last seven victories have been by one goal including a shootout triumph.

Adirondack is out of the playoff race and using many new faces. The Railers' battle for the final playoff spot in the North Division leaves them no margin for error.

The math is simple even if the task is not. The Railers have three games left, one with Adirondack Sunday and two at Reading next weekend. If they win them all, they make the playoffs with 80 points.

Saturday, the Worcester scorers were Justin Gill, Tanner Schachle and Tyler Kobryn. Ian Pierce and Kaleb Ergang had the Adirondack goals. It was Pierce's first professional goal.

Gill scored in the first period, Schachle in the second and Kobryn in the third. At one point the Railers had a 2-0 lead, then backslid in the

second half of the second period. Ergang scored with 10 seconds to go in the period and it was 2-2 heading into the third.

Kobryn broke the tie with a shot from between the circles at 14:37.

It was his ninth goal in 23 games with Worcester. Kobryn had two in 18 games with Florida this year before being traded to the Railers and 16 in 145 career ECHL games prior to his arrival here.

"Any time you get that kind of production out of a player who was kind of a 'nothing' trade," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "that definitely helps, but everybody has to fit a role and he fits his role with that line."

"And when he gets chances he doesn't miss."

Gill, in contrast, has been a difference maker on offense. He is 7-13-20 in 20 games with Worcester this season and plus-11. The Railers are 12-6-2 when Gill is in the lineup.

Schachle's goal was his first in a Worcester uniform to go along with three assists.

The Railers were in control of things until they went on a power play halfway through the second peri-

od. The power play was, in a word, inept. Momentum turned in Adirondack's direction and the Thunder dominated the rest of the period.

"It's not anything they did, it's something we did," Tuzzolino said of the power play. "It's self-inflicted. The biggest problem with our power play right now is that it's killing momentum. It's not just that we're not scoring, it's killing momentum."

Michael Bullion continued to be a momentum creator in net, though. He stopped 22 of 24 shots and is 7-1 in his last eight starts.

Worcester's playoff push is largely a result of a recent great record at the DCU Center. The Railers did not play well at home during the early part of the season but are 14-3-2 in its last 19 games here. That is good for a .789 winning percentage.

Overall, Worcester is 24-13-3 in its last 40 games.

The victory was the Railers' 34th of the season and brought them to 74 points. They will finish above .500 for the first time 2018-19, their second season in the ECHL. Worcester was 32-29-11 for 75 points that year.

This Week in Rec

Andrea Rust

Administrative Clerk

WILBRAHAM - Spring is officially here and spring sports are underway. Softball, baseball, and lacrosse teams have hit the fields for practices developing skills and good sportsmanship. Track and field and tennis will be starting in the next few weeks and the outdoor pickleball courts are open for the season. Additionally, the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department offers several events in the spring months including the Spec Pond Egg Hunt, the Falcon Trail Race, and the Fishing Derby.

We are proud to host our 21st Annual Spec-Tacular Easter Egg Hunt at the Spec Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. It's going to be

a morning filled with fun and surprises! Bring your camera and have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, win prizes, and play games. Bring a decorated basket for our Easter basket contest. The event starts at 10 AM sharp so plan to arrive early to check in and participate in games. Registration is now open online through April 14th.

In partnership with Friends of Recreation, the 10th Annual Falcon Trail Race will be on Sunday, April 13 at McDonald Nature Preserve. The race starts at 10 a.m. and you can pre-register online at Active.com or register the day of at the race. All proceeds from the race will be used for improvements at the Wilbraham Recreation Facilities. We are thankful for LUSO Federal Bank for

sponsoring this event.

The Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby presented by the Friends of Recreation, Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department, and MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife will be on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to Noon. This is a great event for all ages. No fishing license is required, instructors will be onsite to help, and bait is provided. There is a \$2 donation per person with a \$10 maximum per family.

Whether you are out enjoying a sport, a game, or an event we hope you enjoy the outdoors and the wonderful facilities here in Wilbraham.

NOTE: For more information on all of our programs and to register, please visit Wilbrahamrec.com.

Valley Wheel tryouts begin this weekend

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 13. The first weekend of tryouts was rained out. Tryouts will take place at 2 p.m. at Blunt Park in Springfield.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The

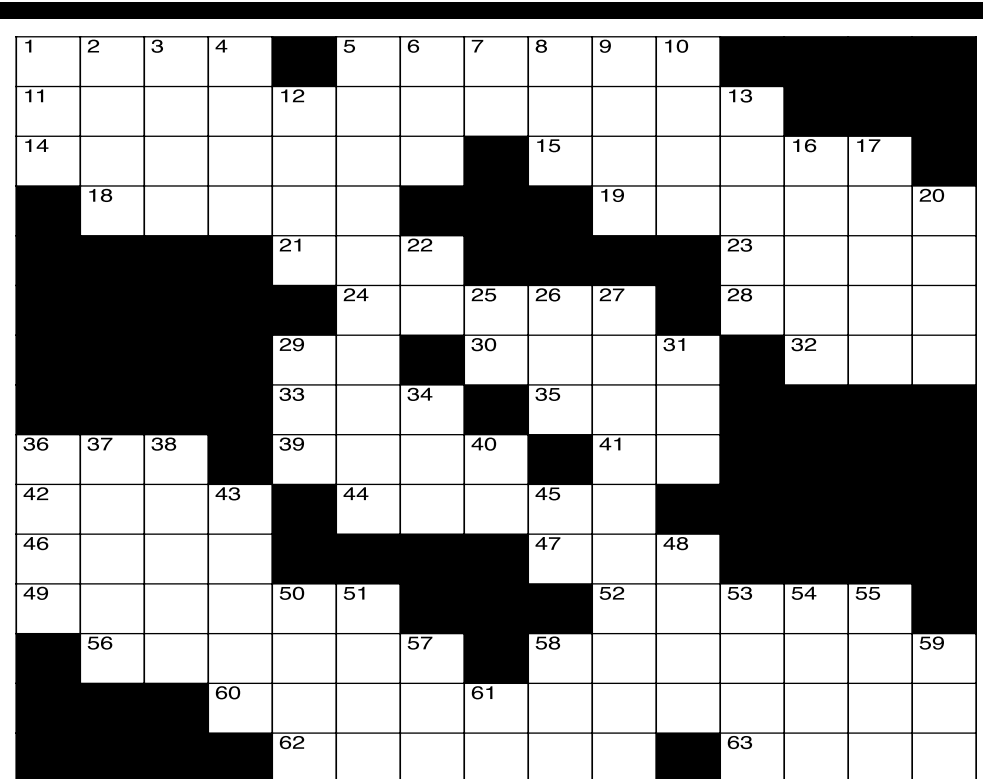
league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much

as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Garden tool
- 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Domestic sheep
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liquid
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Ocular protection index
- 23. Phil ____, former CIA
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- 30. Actor Rudd
- 32. A pituitary hormone
- 33. Focus on an object
- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option
- 2. Oil cartel
- 3. Agile
- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor
- 42. Furniture
- 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew
- 47. A way to communicate
- 49. Almost last
- 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses
- 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality
- 62. Fully shaded inner regions
- 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES ACROSS

- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety
- 6. Indicates badly
- 7. Popular Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. A passport is one
- 25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. Deferral
- 29. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Portable computer screen material

CLUES ACROSS

- 34. A crying noise of a bird
- 36. Sticky, amorphous substance
- 37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
- 38. Type of acid
- 40. Partner to "Ma"
- 43. 16 ounces
- 45. The Bay State
- 48. A well-defined track or path
- 50. Substitution
- 51. Defined period
- 53. Group of toughs
- 54. Region
- 55. Famed Scottish Loch
- 57. Blood relation
- 58. Not around
- 59. Recipe measurement
- 61. Father to Junior

FALCONS from page 11

With two outs in the bottom of the fourth, senior DH Thatcher Rudnik singled to right field before stealing second base. Once again, the Orioles left the tying run in scoring position, as Liversedge struck out his seventh batter of the game.

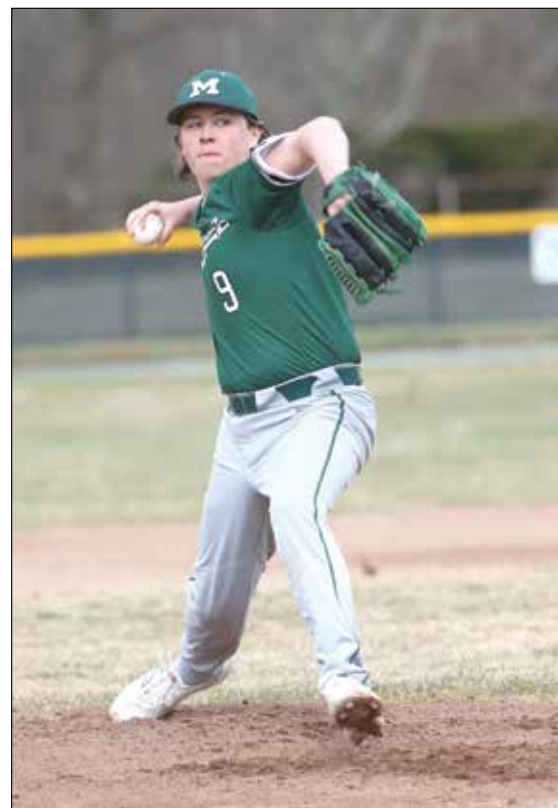
Minnechaug senior shortstop Bryce Barlow led off the fifth inning with a walk. He went to second on a single into left field by junior catcher Alex Savlick (2-for-4). Barlow scored the Falcons second run on a wild pickoff throw. Savlick, who wound up at third base on the play, scored on a wild pitch, which gave the Falcons a 3-0 advantage.

With two outs in the sixth, Misiaszek was safe at first base following a fielding error by the shortstop. Then Waller singled into center field which brought the tying run to the plate.

Once again, Liversedge got himself out of the jam with a groundball out.

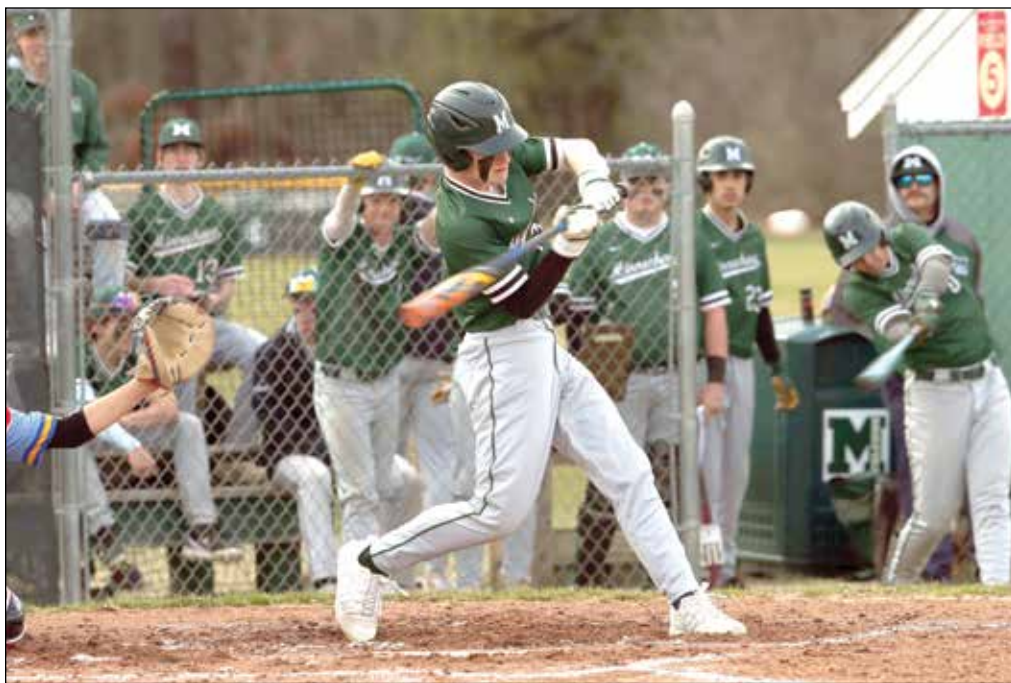
After the Falcons left the bases loaded in the top of the seventh inning, the Orioles had one more opportunity to make a comeback.

Senior right fielder Joe Jordan reached first base following a throwing error leading off the inning. The next batter hit into a 1-6-3 double play, which ended Belchertown's comeback hopes.



Ethan Purcell fires home for the Falcons.

Liversedge, who threw 77 pitches, capped off his outstanding performance on the mound with a strikeout.



Paul Diehl swings and looks for contact.

Events & announcements schedule

Wilbraham Earth Day 2025 seeking sponsors

WILBRAHAM - Dear Wilbraham! The Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee (KWBC) is thrilled to announce the 3rd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up, set for Saturday, April 12, 2025.

After the incredible success of last year's event—where over 300 volunteers worked together to clean up our town—we are aiming for an even larger turnout this year, with 500+ volunteers joining us in this community-wide effort. The KWBC, in partnership with the town Select Board, DPW, local Police and Conservation Commission, is organizing this event to make our town a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live.

On April 12, volunteers will gather at Fountain Park between 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., where they will receive supplies, instructions, and a designated area to clean up. Volunteers will enjoy a complimentary donut at registration and complimentary lunch upon return to Fountain Park with the collected trash.

We are trying to keep things light, fun and create a positive vibe where participants can celebrate the positive impact they've made. To ensure the success of this volunteer-driven initiative, we need your support.

We are seeking both financial contributions and volunteers to help make this event a reality. Your support will directly contribute to the logistics of the event and the materials needed for the cleanup, ensuring that we have all the necessary tools and supplies.

How You Can Help:

- Promote the Event: Display our event flyer or banner at your business to help spread the word and encourage more people to participate.

- Sponsor Volunteer Meals: Help fund the Thank-You Lunch for all the volunteers. This is a great opportunity to show your support and appreciation for their hard work.

- Sponsor Supplies: Your donation will help cover the cost of essential cleanup supplies, including trash bags, grabbers, buckets, and safety vests.

- Encourage Volunteers: Share our event on social media and encourage your customers, teams, employees, and community members to sign up on our Facebook page/Website.

Our goal is to showcase Wilbraham Pride through the collective effort of businesses and residents working together to care for our environment. Your involvement will make a lasting impact on the community and help foster a sense of unity.

If you are interested in supporting this year's Earth Day Clean-Up, please contact Megan Harrigan, Event Chairman, at keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com or 413-427-3670. Together, we can make Wilbraham a cleaner, more beautiful place for all.

Thank you for your consideration and for being a part of this important event.

Hampden Parks & Recreation Department Announces Exciting Spring Programs and Registration Deadlines

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Recreation Department is proud to announce an exciting lineup of current and upcoming programs for children and adults. From life-saving CPR training to fun-filled athletic activities, there's something for

everyone this season. With multiple registration deadlines approaching, now is the time to sign up for programs designed to engage, educate, and inspire.

Current Programs:

• Wildlife Programming at Laughing Brook

Registration: Ongoing
Connect with nature through engaging wildlife programs at Laughing Brook. Learn about local wildlife species, their habitats, and the environment. Programs are designed for all ages and offer opportunities for outdoor learning in a fun, interactive way.

• Healthy Kids Running

Registration: Ongoing
Encourage kids to get moving with the Healthy Kids Running program! This initiative promotes physical activity and healthy habits while helping young runners build confidence and improve their fitness. Registration is open for participants of all skill levels.

Upcoming Programs:

• Little Laxers Lacrosse

Registration: April 1 - April 30
Get ready for a fun and fast-paced introduction to the sport of lacrosse! This program is designed for younger children who are interested in learning the basics of lacrosse through skill-building drills and friendly games. Don't miss out—registration opens soon!

• Hampden Memorial Park Summer Program Activity 2025

Registration Opens: Mar 10
Make your summer memorable with activities and events at Hampden Memorial Park. The summer program will offer a variety of fun outdoor experiences, and registration details will be available soon!

Closing Soon:

• Recreation Baseball Grades K-8 - 2025

Still seeking players for grades

(3-4) and (5-6)

Time is running out to sign up for the 2025 Recreation Baseball season! If you have a child in grades 3-4 or 5-6, there are still spots available. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of a fun, competitive baseball league!

Don't miss out! Register today to secure your place in these incredible programs and enjoy a spring full of learning, fun, and physical activity.

For more information and to register visit: <https://hampdenma.myrec.com>.

Watercolor Painting Class at the Federated Community Church of Hampden

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church will host a watercolor painting class from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on six Saturdays: April 12 at the church, 590 Main St, Hampden, MA.

The instruction will attempt to take the mystery out of the watercolor process. Dave Spencer, a retired architect and accomplished watercolorist, will lead the way.

Enrollees will have a small fee of \$10 per session to cover any expenses incurred by the church.

It's always fun to paint and share new ideas and techniques. Make your interest and commitment known early. You may contact the Church Office at 413-566-3711 directly or contact Pastor Kwan Kim via email at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.

Reading with Tucker at HPL

HAMPDEN – Children can visit the Hampden Free Public Library to read to Tucker, a dog from Bright

Spot Therapy Dogs.

People can sign up by emailing me at krumplik@cwmares.org.

The upcoming dates are April 29.

There are four slots every day, 15 minutes each starting at 3:30 p.m.

To learn more, contact Kate Rumpalik at krumplik@cwmares.org or call 413-566-2151 ext. 112.

Open Burning Season has started

HAMPDEN - The Open Burning Season started on January 15, 2025 and runs through May 1, 2025. Homeowners may burn brush, branches and forest debris between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily through the season.

Other restrictions apply and burning may not be allowed on certain days due to recent lack of precipitation and strong winds. A permit from our department is required which you can obtain online from the following link.

To obtain burn permit visit <http://www.hcburnpermits.com>.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to Begin Rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter until two concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to "carry a tune" attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.

Minnechaug Car Wash

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug American Cancer Society Club will be hosting a Car Wash on Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Parking Lot. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Please stop by to support this cause and our amazing students!



Theatre Guild of Hampden to present 'Jerry's Girls'

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden is pleased to present "Jerry's Girls," directed by Mark Giza, Parker Eastman as music director and Gail Weber as stage manager.

The cast features Becca Greene-Van Horn, Katie Johnson, Kathy Renaud, Dr. Andrea Stolar, Robyn Scott, Dina Del Buono, Margie Secora, Jessica Glasser and Amanda Emet.

"Jerry's Girls" is a musical review of songs from classic Jerry Herman musicals, including "Hello Dolly!",

"Mack & Mabel," "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine," "Mame" and more.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors and students.

The performances will take place at the Hampden Senior Center on 104 Allen St. in Hampden on April 25, April 26, April 27, May 2, May 3 and May 4.

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

To purchase your tickets, visit theatreguildofhampden.org.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club presenting three concerts

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club will present three concerts in April and May, 2025.

The Glee Club is conducted by Ray Drury and accompanied by pianists Marcia Jackson and Todd Rovelli. The first concert will be held on Sunday, April 27 at St. Cecilia's Church, Wilbraham at 4 p.m., the second on Sunday, May 4 at First Church of Christ, Longmeadow at

4 p.m., and the final concert will be held on Sunday, May 18 at The Providence Mother House Chapel, Holyoke at 2 p.m.

Drury has chosen a varied and intriguing program comprised of classical pieces, folk songs, pop tunes and patriotic numbers. A surprise or two would not be out of the question. While admission is free to each concert, a free-will offering will be taken.

WPD provides distracted driving update

WILBRAHAM - During the first week of April, Wilbraham police officers assigned to High Visibility Traffic Enforcement details funded by Office of Grants and Research & NHTSA targeting Distracted Driving contacted 60 operators.

38 were specifically cited for violation of the Hands Free Electronic Device law.

The update surrounds the state's hands-free law where drivers are prohibited from using electronic devices like

cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Motorists stopped at a stop sign or traffic light are still not allowed to be on cell phones.

The first offense is \$105, the second offense is \$255 and completion of a driving program and the third offense is \$505, an insurance surcharge and completion of a driving program.

The police department shared this update as April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

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HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time Chief of Police. \$75,000 - \$90,000 yearly salary based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Deadline to apply is 4/28/2025. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM Library Director

The Town of Wilbraham is looking for a Library Director to join our team. For application and more info, visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 4/25/2025

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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.

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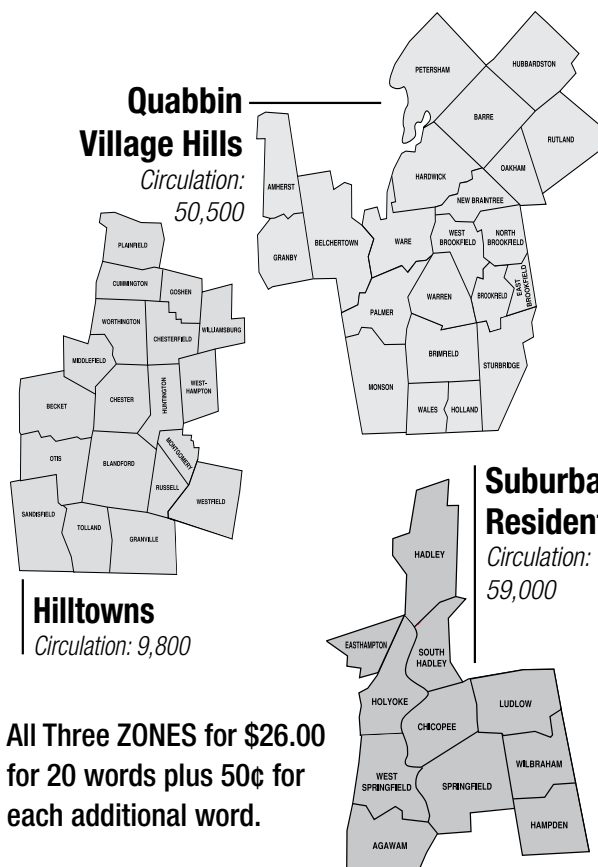
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13	14	15	16
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25	26	27	28
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A... Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA...

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM CEMETERIES MOWING INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Town of Wilbraham Cemetery Commission invites qualified individuals or companies to submit sealed bids to provide mowing and landscape maintenance services at three town cemeteries for a 36-month period...

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, or to issue a new procurement process, as deemed in the best interest of the Town.

Bid documents available at: https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov 04/10, 04/17/2024

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: LIQUOR LICENSE

MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 12, on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:10pm, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham...

Local Licensing Authority 04/10/2025

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. HD23P2068EA Estate of: Sonia Lally Date of Death: 05/13/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Susan A. McCoy of Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/02/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 31, 2025 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2025

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. HD25C0107CA In the matter of: Kyle James Dittes McNamara CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Kyle James Dittes McNamara of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Kyle James Dittes McNamara

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 04/30/2025.

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: April 02, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0650EA Estate of: G. Robert Meyer Also Known As: Gordon Robert Meyer Date of Death: October 5, 2024 NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on 3/14/2025

Christine M. Meyer of Wilbraham, MA

intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will

Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 04/10/2025

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. HD25P0669EA Estate of: Andrew John Milne Also known as: Andrew J Milne Date of Death: 12/19/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by John M. Milne of Monson, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: John M. Milne of Monson, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/29/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: April 01, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2025

INVITATION TO BID TOWN OF WILBRAHAM Road Resurfacing and Related Work 2025

The Select Board will receive sealed bids for the contract entitled "ROAD RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK 2025" until 3:00 PM on Tuesday April 29, 2025 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 2025". Bid will be available for pick up on Thursday April 10, 2025, 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 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 2025 is \$ 1,200,000.

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 04/10/2025

Town of Wilbraham Tree Warden NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL),

Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Wilbraham Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application for National Grid to remove public shade trees on April 17th, 2025 at 6:30pm at Wilbraham Town Hall conference room. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

The program included a tree-by-tree hazard assessment of public and private trees, along three-phase lines which serve the community. The work is recommended to remove hazard trees for additional clearance in order to reduce tree outage problems affecting large numbers of customers served by these main lines. National Grid's arborists have identified fifty-five (55) town trees for removal along town roads, and twelve (12) town trees for pruning. Town trees located within the public way that are designated for removal have been marked with a small red ribbon and posted with a notice of public hearing in the field. Trees designated for pruning have been marked with a small blue ribbon.

The roads with town trees affected by the program are Hunting Ln, Springfield St and Stony Hill Rd. A complete list of town trees designated for removal or pruning including information about the location, size and species of the affected trees and the reason for work proposed, is available weekdays from the Wilbraham Town Hall and public library during normal business hours.

David Graziano, Tree Warden 04/03, 04/10/2025

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

Teen Grief Support Night

WILBRAHAM - Rick's Place is offering a Teen-Only Grief Support Night for high school students who have experienced the death of a caregiver, sibling, or other significant person.

We understand how lonely grief can be as a teen.

The program will offer pizza, memory activities, and an opportunity to connect with other teens who understand in a safe, laid-back setting. Come to share

your experience or just be around others who get it.

There is no cost to attend. Registration is required.

Last day to register is Friday, April 11. Call Rick's Place at (413) 279-2010 or email info@ricksplacema.org.

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Location: Pope Francis Preparatory School, 99 Wendover Rd, Springfield, MA 01118

Register to vote

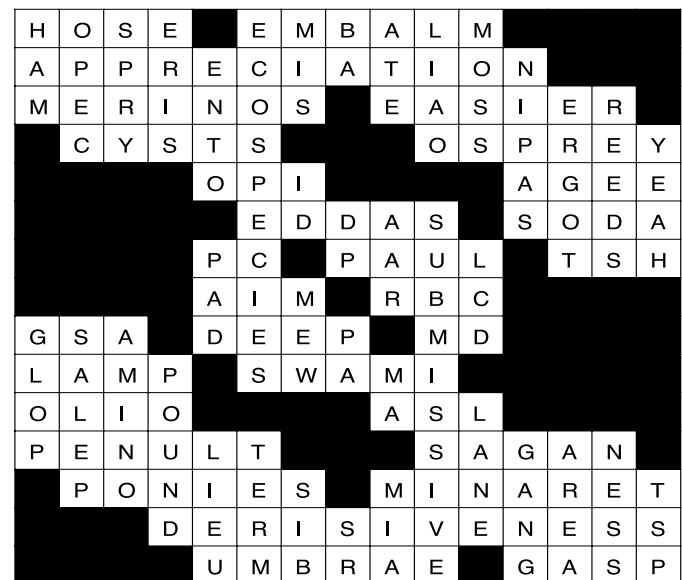
WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham residents who are not registered voters, who wish to vote in the upcoming Town Meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025 and Town Election on Saturday, May 17, 2025 must register to vote by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Registration hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2025,

the last day to register, we will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voter registrations can also be dropped in our drop box located behind Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., or can be done online at register-tovotema.com.

Vote by mail applications are available. Please contact the Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext 200.



When does the Spring Real Estate Market Start?

1 Begins February

2 Increased Inventory

3 Higher Demand in Market

4 Warmer Weather Brings Out Buyers

5 Homes Sell More Quickly in Spring



maureen.gogallagher.com

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DL&G TREE

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Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



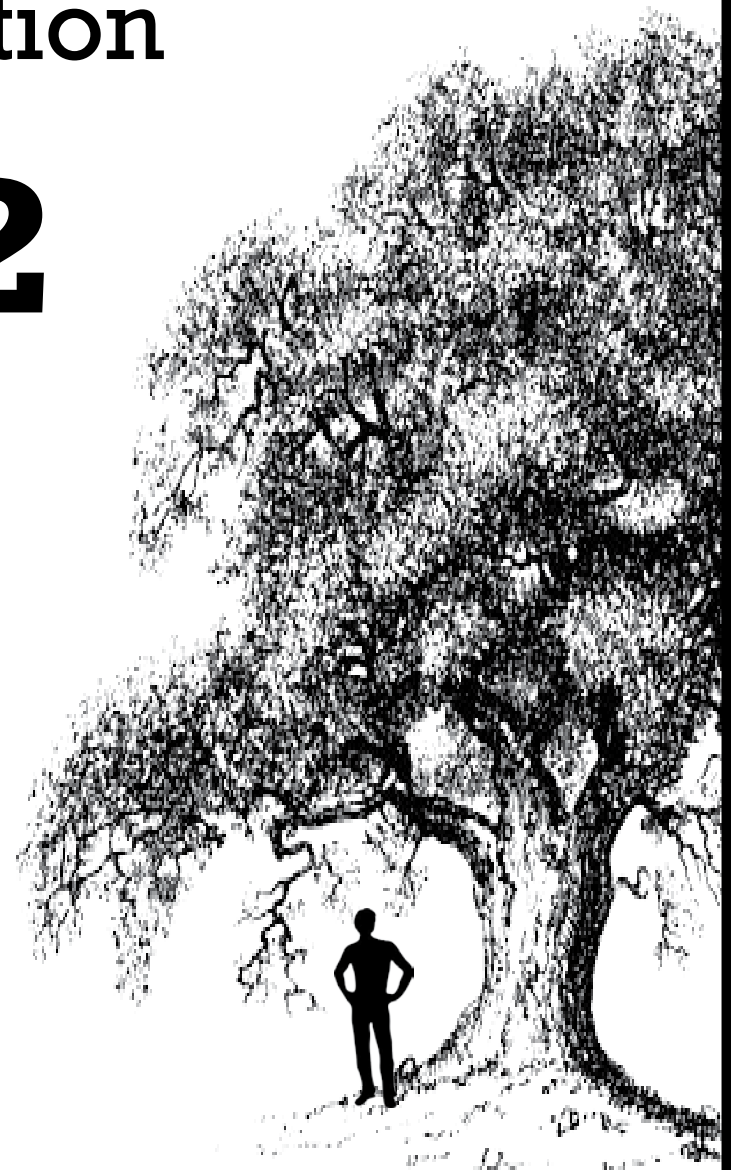
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED