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Towns receive \$200,000 for Cottage Ave. Bridge

By Kristin Rivers

Editor

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WILBRAHAM/LUDLOW - The towns of Wilbraham and Ludlow received \$200,000 in state funding for structural repairs to the Cottage Avenue Bridge on May 16.

On the Wilbraham side, residents know the bridge as the Cottage Avenue bridge, while on the Ludlow side, the roadway is known as Miller Street.

The funding came through the efforts of State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) and State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield).

The Cottage Avenue Bridge, which connects both towns, is currently undergoing a \$2.68 million reconstruction and repair project that began in December 2021, with work including beam and deck repairs, sidewalk and bridge rail replacement, concrete repairs for piers and abutments and painting of the superstructure.

The structure deficiencies were identified by MassHigh-

Please see **BRIDGE**, page 8



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Wilbraham Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell, Ludlow Select Board Vice Chairperson William Rosenblum and Cheryl Sprinks, legislative aide to State Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield), in a group photo.

Hampden special town election notice

By Kristin Rivers

Editor

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HAMPDEN - There will be a special town election taking place on Monday, June 23.

There will be two ballot questions for residents to vote on.

First, to fill a seat on the Selectboard after the resignation of Craig Rivest. *The Times* will have more on the candidates ahead of the special election very soon.

Second, to approve a Proposition 2 1/2 override for the renovation and expansion of the fire station. This item was approved at the May 12 Annual Town Meeting and this vote is the next step in moving forward in that process.

Stay tuned for our upcoming Special Election coverage.

Residents approve ADU zoning bylaw amendment

By Kristin Rivers

Editor

krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Residents approved by majority vote a zoning bylaw amendment for accessory dwelling units during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.



Planning Board Chair James Rooney explains the proposed zoning bylaw for ADUs, listed as Article 33 on the town meeting warrant.

Noted as Article 33, the approval will amend the zoning bylaw by revising multiple sections, including deleting existing regulations related to accessory apartments and replacing them with new regulations consistent with recent changes by Massachusetts law in February. The proposed bylaw, also, defines and regulates ADUs consistent with the new law and allows attached and detached ADUs up to 900 square feet in gross floor area with site plan review approval from the Planning Board.

Other changes include allowing detached structures, owner occupancy is no longer required, ADUs would be non-restrictive, meaning no longer limited to family members of the

Please see **BYLAW**, page 10

Fire station expansion passes at Hampden ATM

Residents will now vote to pass the item on June 23

By Dalton Zbierski

Correspondent

HAMPDEN – Hampden residents showed overwhelming support for the fire department during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting when a two-thirds majority voted in favor of renovating and expanding the fire station on North Road.

The cost of the proposed project is \$8.3 million, according to Fire Chief Ed Poulin. The vote was for a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion override by borrowing.

Now that the item, which was Article 19 on the town meeting warrant, has passed through the town meeting, the community will have an opportunity to vote it into effect during a special election on

June 23.

Fire Lt. Mark Barba, chair of the Building Committee, presented to the audience during the meeting at the former Thornton W. Burgess School last Monday.

Barba pointed out that the project will enable modern day fire trucks to safely enter and exit the station, as the size of the average fire apparatus has nearly doubled in size since the building opened in 1964. This will eliminate the need for custom trucks.

Renovations will also create space for the proper decontamination of equipment and gear, eliminate multiple code and health violations, add adequate space for the next two decades of operational needs and bring about improved training space for firefighters.

If it is approved next month, the work will also install a 20,000-gallon, underground cistern storage tank for truck filling and firefight-



Hampden Fire Chief Ed Poulin speaks about Article.

ing. Reduced building maintenance and repair costs will additionally make the station more energy efficient.

Perhaps, most importantly, the project could result in greater volunteer retention and increase the number of new member applications.

The fire department currently relies on several dozen volunteers and on-call firefighters to serve the town when the full-time firefighters aren't working – the station's reg-

Please see **EXPANSION**, page 10

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

The spring of 1967 capped off a busy social season

58 years ago, the first draft of history seems quaint to us NOW

By Charles F. Bennett

Times Editor Emeritus

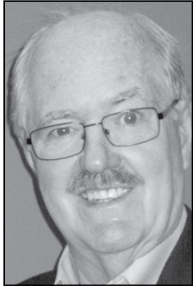
The busy social season in the spring of 1967 was ushered in by lots of activities in town including a music concert at Minnechaug Regional High School conducted by its popular music educator Dwight Killiam.

The Wilbraham pages in the Springfield Morning Union were full of news

about a plant sale in Crane Park, a communion breakfast at St. Cecilia's and a rummage sale at Glendale Methodist Church.

The Women's Guild at the Church of the Epiphany was going to welcome summer with "A Swing Into Summer" fashion show. And a town police sergeant was organizing a trip to the Nation's Capitol.

Wilbraham Police Department Safety Officer Sgt. John Chrzanowski headed a delegation from Wilbraham who attended the 30th Annu-



Charlie Bennett

al School Safety Parade and Assembly in Washington, D.C. One of his delegation members,

now retired Minnechaug teacher Mike Kober, is still alive and kicking today. I saw him and his wife Ann at the Old Meeting House Open House talk by historian Rich Howell on May 4.

Taking Reading Seriously

It is interesting to see how things have changed in town when you look back to 1967 and see what parents were doing to make sure the

children of Wilbraham were getting a good education, especially in reading.

A May 1967 article by my mother Ethel Bennett, the Wilbraham correspondent of the Morning Union, talked about a visit to Wilbraham by Dr. Olive S. Niles, director of reading in the Springfield public schools.

She was coming to town to speak at the annual meeting of the Wilbraham Community Cooperative Kindergarten in the auditorium of Mile Tree School at 8 p.m. Dr. Niles' topic was "Teaching Reading to Young Children." Niles was also a lecturer in reading at A.I.C. This meeting illustrates how

seriously parents were about making sure their young kids would learn to read 58 years ago.

After the business meeting conducted by Mrs. Glenn R. Engel, Jr., plans were discussed about the remaining school year. The group welcomed new mothers and then elected officers for the next year. Then, the group discussed plans for a field trip to Friendly Ice Cream Corp.

Meanwhile out in the "real world" 700,000 marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City in support of U.S. soldiers fighting in Vietnam.

Please see **HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM**, page 8

58 Years Ago

School Lunch Head to Retire

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a May 1967 edition. "*On June 20 (1967) Mrs. May C. Jenkins of 4 Springfield St., will retire as director of school lunch programs for Wilbraham and the Minnechaug Regional High School district.*

Mrs. Jenkins has planned meals, ordered food, handled the finances and successfully operated the school lunch program since August 1950."

■

COMMUNITY

Editor Rivers will explain why newspapers are the ‘first draft of history’

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

The saying “Newspapers are the first draft of history” is often attributed to Philip L. Graham, the former president and publisher of the Washington Post. However, the phrase itself has often been quoted by Wilbraham-Hampden Times editors in the years after the newspaper’s founding at the beginning of this century.

In fact, former editors of the Times have all believed that hometown news delivered each week in Wilbraham were layers of local history and recorded forever. Those editors were, in order of time-frames: Myself, Tyler Witkop, Dalton Zbierski and now current Times Editor Kristin Rivers. Rivers also follows in the footsteps of those editors who have often been guest speakers of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society’s Open Houses at the Old Meeting House Museum. Rivers will be the guest speaker on Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m. The open house is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and the Gift Shop will be open.

Graham may have not been the only person to refer to newspapers as the first draft. According to a 2010 issue of Slate Magazine others have also ratified it. Former Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee, of Watergate fame, gave credit to Graham in an interview with “American Heritage” in 1982. The Newseum, referring to the Washington Post in 1997 and 2005, the “Encyclopedia of American Journalism”, Jon Meacham in “Newsweek” (2009 and 2010), David Halberstam in “The Powers That Be”, and Kit Rachlis in “Los

Angeles” magazine — to give just a few examples — all attribute it to Graham.

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, a publication started at the Peach Festival by the Turley Family in 2003, publishers of the Ludlow Register, Palmer Journal and Belcher-town Sentinel and others, is the paper of record of our busy town. Ever issue since its birth, it is on electronic file at the Wilbraham Library according to local history expert Mary Bell, Assistant Wilbraham Library Director.



(Times file photo)
Times Editor Kristin Rivers will speak on Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m. in the Old Meeting House Museum.

Wordsmith

Rivers wears two hats for Turley Publications, one as editor of the Times and the other as editor of the Chicopee Register concentrating on that city’s political and local news.

Rivers is an accomplished wordsmith in her own right. A graduate of Smith College, she is proficient in many different aspects of writing. From content creation, blogging and book reviewing to social media. She has a track record on Facebook of increasing viewership by 71 percent in one month (September to October of 2022).

Highlights from her resume show that she has been a contributing writer for several digital publications including “Medium” “HEAL(er) magazine”, “Yayword” and “Dear English Major”. Her blogging experience includes over 2,000 views.

News writing and editing aren’t her only talents. She has been a content marketer for nearly 100 inspirational and women’s fiction books



The Old Meeting House Museum. (Times file photo)

published by Hallmark Publishing, Harpeth Press, Tyn-dale and Waterbrook companies. As a social media manager, Rivers has covered topics such as interior design, the business world, publishing and nonprofits.

Digital Editor

Before she became editor of the Times and Chicopee Register in 2023, she was a contributing writer on varying topics of digital publishing for the website “Medium”. As a freelance correspondent, she was praised for her quick article turnarounds, writing skills and photography.

I can vouch that those skills are in much demand these days in Wilbraham while reporting on topics of local news like the Select

Board, School Committee, town meetings and feature stories about the volunteers and organizations in Wilbraham and Hampden, following in the footsteps of Witkop and Zbierski.

I can speak from experience that Rivers quickly became popular with Wilbraham and Hampden residents, educators, elected officials and community characters showing up at various meetings and social get-togethers around the towns. I would run into her at events like the Knights of Columbus St. Patrick’s Dinner, the Friends of Seniors Bushel Fair or the Holiday Fair at the Senior Center. She has the kind of personality that makes her recognizable and easy to talk to.

Museum Schedule

For the past several seasons the Museum, owned by the town and managed by the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham, has held guest talks nearby at the Wilbraham & Monson Chapel or in the Brooks Room at the Wilbraham Library. But Atheneum president Dave Bourcier said he was glad the open houses have come back home to Sundays at the Old Meeting House, built in 1794 as the first Methodist meeting house in New England. “We look forward to welcoming audiences and sharing another exciting season together,” commented Bourcier.

The first event of the season May 4 featured historical re-enactor Rich Howell, dressed in period costume, talking to a standing room only audience. He gave an eye-witness account of the reenactment of the Battles of Concord and Lexington with a cast of thousands, which made you feel like you were there.

The following is a schedule of open houses after the June 8 Rivers talk:

July 13 – Ice Cream Social provides sundae cups of individual ice cream sundaes in the garden of the museum. Arts and crafts exhibitions will be taking place.

August 10 – A talk by a Paranormal group based in Agawam.

September 7 – “Treasures from the Attic – Museum-style”. Curator Lucy Peltier, aided by Trustee Marty Lyman will search through donated historical items in boxes, closets, and chests in the storage room and attic of the Old Meeting House to find items of various areas of historical interest.

October 26 – “Early gravestone carvers of Wilbraham” by Derek Strahan. Have you ever wondered where families got their ideas as to

what to put on a gravestone? November 9 – Popular storyteller Dennis Picard will talk about the Hessians, mercenary soldiers for the British in the Revolutionary War.

December 7 – The popular Christmas Tree Festival where Wilbraham organizations decorate a Christmas Tree in their own unique style. An ice carver, holiday treats and kids activities.

One Peppercorn

The museum has a colorful history. In 1792 the Methodist Society began constructing the meeting house and in 1793 the ground under the structure was leased to the Methodists for one peppercorn annually. The building has a ridge pole hand-hewn from a single tree that extends the full length of the building. The ridge pole is still visible from the attic.

The building became a private home for 142 years until the last owner died in 1977 and the building was purchased by the town. The Wilbraham Historical Commission was given jurisdiction of the premises and now leases the space to the Atheneum Society for one peppercorn per annum.

The Atheneum Society was incorporated in 1963 as a non-profit organization by a group of concerned townspeople that include people like Charles and Llewlyn Merrick, Jesse Rice and Peter Ablondi. Their purpose was to form a permanent local group to preserve artifacts and memorabilia relating to the people and history of Wilbraham. For more information search “Old Meeting House Museum” on Facebook.

Times Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Wilbraham Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society.

Hampden Transfer Station

Sticker Sales increases

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Selectmen voted on April 28,2025 to increase the price of the Transfer Station permits.

The increase will start May 23, 2025.

For Seniors over 65 the price will be \$40 for the first permit and \$20 for any additional permits for those residents meeting those criteria

and car registered to that person or person.

For those residents that are under 65 the cost is \$70 for the first permit and \$35 for any additional permits for those residents meeting the criteria.

The Transfer Station is located at Cross Road.

Hampden Board of Health and Selectmen

Tegan Haluch working on civics action project

WILBRAHAM – Tegan Haluch, an eighth grader at Wilbraham Middle School, is working on a civics action project called “Dangers to Be Aware of on Your Property.”

Do you know what kind of hazards might be on your property? Your backyard could cause injuries such

as sprains, breaks and even death!

You could trip in a broken sidewalk or even have a dead tree fall on your house during a storm.

Here are some ways that you could help prevent injury:

Regularly check your trees for decay. Check for

dead limbs or branches, browning, dust or powder. If you see signs of decay, call a licensed professional to take a look.

Check your sidewalks and walkways for cracks that someone could trip on. Get cracks fixed and repaired.

Look for holes in your lawn that you could fall in. If

you find any holes, fill them in!

Put all chemicals in proper holding containers and store in a safe place that little children and pets can’t get to.

Created by Tegan Haluch
You can contact me at thaluch2011@gmail.com.

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Hampden looks to move town hall



A shot of residents raising their cards to vote during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting in Hampden. Screen capture Town of Hampden

The future of the current town hall building is uncertain

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – Hampden’s town offices may soon operate out of a new building. During the Annual Town Meeting on May 12 at the former Thornton W. Burgess School on Wilbraham Road, residents passed several items that will facilitate the transition of town hall, the library

and the Parks and Rec. Department into the old school building. Articles 13 through 15 on the town meeting warrant focused on the former TWB. First, residents voted to change the TWB property’s eminent domain. Back in 1966, the town-owned land was declared to be the site of a school. However, the school closed its regular functions almost a decade ago. “We need to change that to general municipal purposes so we can use the building for something other than a school,” Hampden Select-

board Chair Don Davenport said. “As you know, the school was closed in 2017, and the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District advised us at that point that it wouldn’t be used as a school any longer. That was confirmed in 2024, and we’ve negotiated an end to the lease here, so now, we own the building, and – if this is passed – we can use it for municipal purposes.” The idea to move the town offices to TWB was sparked by the lack of space in the old Town House on Main Street, where government functions have operated for genera-

tions. Currently, however, the building is outdated and presents several code violations in addition to being borderline inaccessible to those who are mobility challenged. Furthermore, it would require approximately \$8 million to make repairs to the Town House that would make it ADA-accessible. While an old building does not need to be enhanced as it stands, once any renovation begins, state laws mandate that the entire building is made ADA com-

Please see **TOWN HALL**, page 4

Wilbraham Town Election 2025 Results

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The 2025 town election in Wilbraham has been decided after voters headed to the polls on May 17. In a very close race for the Planning Board, Tracey Plantier, who currently serves as a clerk on the board, beat out contenders Joe Cantalini and John McGrath to secure another term. Plantier and Cantalini only had a difference of six votes between them, with Plantier receiving 264 votes while Cantalini received 258 votes. McGrath, meanwhile, received 155 votes. For some of the uncontested races, Sue Bunnell, current chair of the Select Board, received 610 votes and Sean Kennedy, current vice chair of the School Committee, received 560 votes, securing another term for their respective boards, while Roger Roberge II was reelected to the Board of Assessors with 552 votes and Peter Manolakis was reelected to the Wilbraham Housing Authority with 567 votes. Also, Rik Alvarez was

reelected as Water Commissioner for the three-year term with 590 votes and John Caltabiano is now a Water Commissioner for a one-year term after receiving 529 votes. For Library Trustees, there are now three new members. Margaret Bagge and Amelia Holstrom will both serve three-year terms and Ron Haislip Hansberry will serve one term. Bagge received 506 votes, Holstrom received 511 votes and Haislip-Hansberry received 584 votes. For Cemetery Commissioner, Natasha Ayres will now serve a one-year term in this role after receiving 587 votes. As our readers may recall, there was no candidate for the three-year term for Cemetery Commissioner. However, according to Town Clerk Deborah Brennan, there was a write-in win after Patrick Roach received six votes, beating another write-in candidate, Mandell Greene, by one vote. Roach, however, Brennan explained, declined the position. There were 730 total votes cast on election day, with total voter turnout at 6.20%.

Hampden Town Election 2025 Results

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Voters made their voices heard when they went to the polls to cast their ballots on May 19. All of this year’s races ran uncontested. Richard Green was reelected as town moderator with 153 votes, Don Davenport, chair of the Selectboard, was reelected after receiving 148 votes, Richard Patullo was reelected as treasurer after receiving 152 votes, Philip Schneider Jr. was reelected to a three-year term on the Board of Assessors after receiving 157 votes and Kathleen Hutchinson was reelected to a three-year term with the Library Trustees after receiving 156 votes. Also, Eva Wiseman has secured new terms after being reelected as town clerk and as tax collector. Wiseman received 163 votes for town clerk and 162 votes for tax collector. For constables, Dennis Hackett Sr., Andrew Netherwood and Adam Poulin were all reelected, with Hackett receiving 151 votes, Netherwood receiving 139 votes and Poulin receiving 137 votes. For Cemetery Commissioner, Duane Mosier was reelected to a three-year term after receiving 153 votes. For Park Commissioner and Planning Board, there will be new faces here. Mi-

chael Salemi is now the Park Commissioner for a three-year term after receiving 147 votes and David Berson now joins the Planning Board after receiving 138 votes. Also for the Planning Board, Christina Brodeur was reelected to a new five-year term after receiving 151 votes. Lastly, the Hampden Housing Authority had no candidate listed originally. However, Amy Bilodeau received 20 votes, so now she will serve on the Housing Authority for five years.

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State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. honors Jered Sasen at Inaugural Statewide Military Appreciation Day.

Sasen honored at Military Appreciation Day

BOSTON — State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield) proudly honored Jered Sasen of Wilbraham today at the first-ever Military Appreciation Day ceremony held in the Massachusetts State House’s historic House Chamber.

Military Appreciation Day was created to establish a lasting annual tradition that brings together local, state, and community leaders to honor those whose service might otherwise go unrecognized. Each legislator was invited to nominate a member of their local military community—whether a veteran, active-duty service member, National Guard, Reservist, or military spouse—to be honored during the ceremony. More than 125 individuals who exemplify commitment to service and community were recognized from districts across Massachusetts.

“I’m proud to recognize Jered in this inaugural celebration for his military service, and also for his service to the community as a Veterans Service Officer,” said Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

“Jered’s and all Veterans and Service Members contributions reflect the strength, resilience, and dedication of our local military community, and I’m honored to celebrate Jered and his remarkable service at this statewide event,” Added Puppolo.

Massachusetts is home to the best military benefits in the country. As we approach Memorial Day, and during a month dedicated to honoring our military, this event reflects what makes Massachusetts special: a deep respect for service, and a commitment to those who wear the uniform and those who stand beside them. Further added Puppolo.

For additional information, please contact Representative Puppolo at (413-596-4333) directly.

Wilbraham Lions Club hosting food drive on May 31

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Lions Club, in conjunction with Big Y, is collecting non-perishable foods at the Wilbraham Big Y on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations will benefit the

Community Survival Center. Donation suggestions are grain and multigrain cereal, canned vegetables, 100% fruit juice, canned proteins, canned fruit, peanut butter and soups. Thank you for your support.

Wilbraham United Church holding Handbell Concert

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Church will be the hosts of a Handbell Concert on Saturday May 31 at 7 p.m. featuring the Merrimack Valley Ringers, a nationally-known handbell group.

Currently celebrating their 23rd season, the Merrimack Valley Ringers are an auditioned community handbell ensemble devoted to sharing the art of handbells and handchimes with everyone. MVR’s members delight audiences with their infectious joy, and make it their goal to capture their audience from the first note with their gusto and warmth.

Considered partners in each performance, audiences are drawn in by the ensemble’s personality, spontaneity, and unflappable spirit. This spring, the Merrimack Valley Ringers Celestial Light program will take listeners “Up and Away” on a musical trip through time and space.

They will “Fly [You] to the Moon” so you can



“Moondance” and then be “Walking on Sunshine”, on the “Fairy Hills”, all before the “Morning Light.”

The concert featuring five octaves of handbells and chimes and 17 ringers, led by founding Artistic Director Karen Leonard begins at 7 p.m. in the church’s Sanctuary. The church is located at 500 Main Street in Wilbraham.

Parking is available in the rear parking lot and the church building is accessible. There is no charge for admission, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Prior to the concert during

the afternoon, the Ringers will be offering a workshop to local handbell ringers. Ringers interested in attending the workshop can register at <https://area1.handbellmusicians.org/state-and-local-events/western-maringing-skills-workshop/>

TOWN HALL from page 3

pliant. This would result in the multi-million-dollar project Davenport described.

“Even then, the consultant has said it still wouldn’t serve the purposes we need,” Davenport said.

Several residents questioned what would become of the beloved Town House, which is a fixture of Hampden. Davenport said the answer is that town officials don’t know, but he speculated on its possible future use.

“So, I thought we could convene a Blue Ribbon Committee of people in town to look at it. We have very talented people in town that I think would serve well. We’ve had all kinds of ideas; anything from a historical or children’s museum to there’s been some talk about a business incubator,” Davenport said.

Former Selectwoman Mary Ellen Glover was not thrilled at the idea of leaving the Town House. She explained her sentiment, as she hoped to one day see TWB used as a school again.

“I’m concerned that...

“WORKING THERE IS ALMOST UNSAFE; IT’S REALLY TERRIBLE THERE. WE’VE OUTGROWN THAT MANY YEARS AGO. WE NEED THIS SPACE.”

- Dan Blanchard
Parks & Recreation Director

this is really an example of the town not being true to its word. We gave its word when we went for imminent domain to take care of that property. Now, we’re going to change it,” Glover said.

She added that these words should be taken more seriously and said that the town’s primary responsibility should be to give kids an outstanding education.

“I don’t feel they’re getting it now, and I feel coming back to Hampden would give them that,” Glover said. “This is a long-term solution, but if you use this building for something else, we can never do that.”

Town Treasurer Richard Patullo said he appreciates

people who want to keep TWB a school, but noted that the ship has sailed. He said it would cost up to \$15 million to bring it back to a school because the town has lost certification, and the building would have to be brought up to code.

“To keep the town offices in the town hall, we’re talking \$7 million in renovations. To build a new town hall, we’re talking \$25-30 million. To move over the town hall functions here, we’re talking \$155,000 or something like that. It’s the only thing that makes financial sense and not sentimental sense,” Patullo said.

Parks & Recreation Director Dan Blanchard took a

different approach, as he outright said that he dislikes the Town House.

“Working there is almost unsafe; it’s really terrible there,” Blanchard said. “We’ve outgrown that many years ago. We need this space.”

Blanchard said that the move will allow the department to increase programming, as the access to classrooms would be significant.

He said the department is currently limited in its offerings at the Town House.

“The ADA-compliance issue over at the [Town House] can’t be understated,” Blanchard said. “This building [TWB] is much more ADA compliant. From a Parks & Rec standpoint, it’s a fantastic opportunity for us. It would be a hub for Parks & Rec. We’re constantly going back and forth between facilities right now because this is where our programs run.”

Ultimately, residents approved of \$155,000 to move furniture and equipment from the town offices and library to TWB and to complete minor repairs on the building.

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David Bourcier holds presentation on his new book

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - It was a full house and then some at the senior center on May 15 as the community supported Retired Firefighter and Historian David Bourcier on his new book release.

Bourcier recently released the book, "Historic Tales of Wilbraham," a collection of stories tracing the town's history including the poem "The Parson's Rose" about Rev. Noah's Merrick's love for his wife, Abigail, the tragic drowning of six young people in Nine Mile Pond in 1799, the heroic citizens who helped save the Federal Armory in 1787 and many more.

Bourcier is also the man behind the website, "Wilbraham Historical Tidbits," which explores the fascinating stories of Wilbraham's history he uncovered through his research.

The proceeds from the book sales at the May 15 talk went towards the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.

Bourcier was excited to talk about his new book with residents.

"I had such a wonderful time presenting at the Wilbraham Senior Center! Sharing our local history is something I truly enjoy, and it was a pleasure to talk about the stories found in my two newly published books: 'Historic Tales of Wilbraham' and 'The George M. Kingdon Fire Company.' I love connecting with others who appreciate our town's past and the lessons it continues to teach us," Bourcier said.

One of the big highlights for him was the question and answer portion of his presentation, where audience members asked about his book and local history in Wilbraham.

"I especially loved how it gave everyone a chance to dive deeper into the history of our town and surrounding area. The audience's engagement was truly heartwarming—it was wonderful to see such genuine interest and curiosity about our local past," Bourcier said.



Ret. Firefighter and Historian David Bourcier looks on as Matt Villamaino, president of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, welcomes attendees.

Bourcier expressed gratitude for the community support, saying he was "pleasantly surprised by the wonderful turnout."

"It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces—and to meet new ones as well. Moments like these truly confirm that there's a deep love and interest in our local history, and I'm so grateful to be able to share in that with others," Bourcier said.

On collaborating with the Friends to host the event, Bourcier said this.

"My collaborations with the Wilbraham Senior Center are meaningful in two ways. First, they offer a way to give back to the town and support its programs and initiatives. I also extend this same spirit of collaboration to local businesses in both Wilbraham and Hampden—through book sales, with the majority of proceeds helping them grow and thrive in their own efforts," Bourcier said.

"Second, these partnerships allow my books to reach a wider audience, giving more people the chance to discover and appreciate the fascinating history that surrounds us every day."

Bourcier is also excited to

announce that a new book is currently in the works, with an expected release in Fall or Winter 2026.

"Much like 'Historic Tales of Wilbraham,' this upcoming book will feature a collection of short stories that explore our town's rich history—from colonial times through the twentieth century. Some of the stories will include 'Wilbraham and Its Four Historic Railroad Stations,' 'Wilbraham's Lost Burying Grounds,' 'An Unexpected Brush with the Supernatural,' 'Beneath the Ledge: A 1946 Discovery in Wilbraham,' and many more. I can't wait to bring more of Wilbraham's hidden and fascinating past to light," Bourcier said.

On what he hoped attendees took away from the talk, Bourcier stressed an appreciation for local history and its stories.

"I hope those who attended left with a renewed sense of pride in the rich history of our town and surrounding area. It truly feels like a calling to bring these stories to life, so that future generations can know, appreciate, and carry forward the legacy of our local past," Bourcier said.

Bourcier encourages resi-

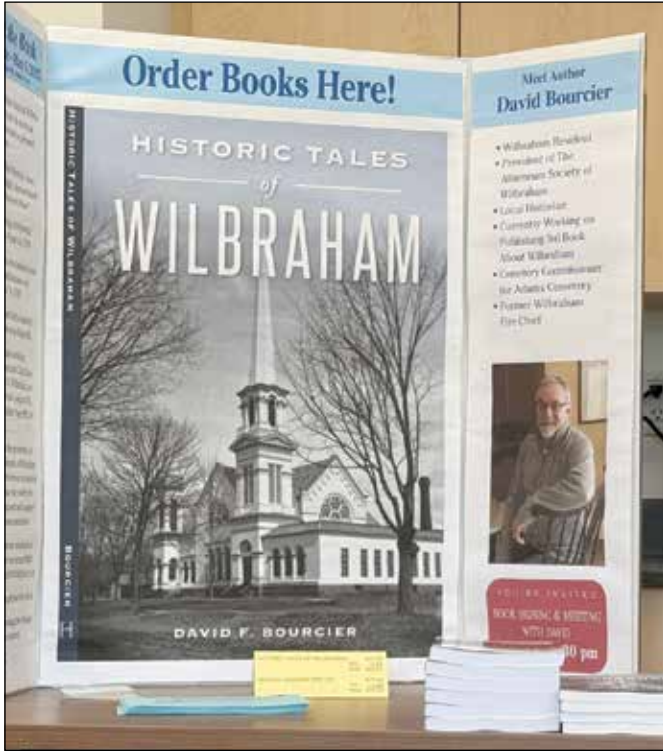
dents to check out the books.

"I'd love for the local community to know that the two books I've published are an easy and enjoyable way to learn about our local history. 'Historic Tales of Wilbraham' is made up of short, informative stories that are engaging and accessible—without feeling like you're reading a textbook. My hope is that these books will inspire future generations and aspiring local history enthusiasts to keep our shared heritage alive," Bourcier said.

Also, to support local.

"While the books are available through large retailers like Barnes & Noble and online, I would be especially grateful if folks chose to purchase them locally. Supporting our local shops not only helps small businesses thrive but also keeps our community connected to its roots. I'll also have copies available for purchase personally," Bourcier said.

Readers can find Bourcier's book at the Scented Gar-



The display were attendees could purchase David Bourcier's new book "Historic Tales of Wilbraham" and learn more about the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Bourcier also has another book out called "The George M. Kingdon Fire Company" about the history of the Wilbraham Fire Department.



David Bourcier showcases a photo of where Captain Shepherd is believed to have docked his boat.

den Gift Shop, Wilbraham, Fern Valley Market, Wilbraham, the Old Meeting House Museum, Wilbraham, the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Association, Rice Fruit Farm, Wilbraham and Bil-

ton's Mountain Side Orchard, Hampden.

"Supporting these local businesses helps preserve both our history and our hometown spirit," Bourcier said.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.
Signed: Seeking Assistance

Dear Seeking:
It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that if you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test.

The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe.

So, you can apply for your Social Security benefits, as indicated above, ei-

ther online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty.

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don't need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it's easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1-888-750-2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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.

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

A couple of things Kim Clemons learned well from her late dad was, never depend on anyone else to support you and always give back.

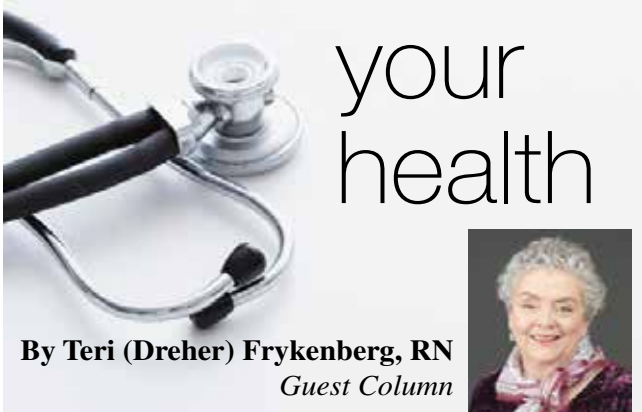
Her dad and stepmom were great examples of giving back by hosting an annual pig roast with proceeds going to the 'Make-A-Wish Foundation'. They raised thousands of dollars, one year raising over \$20,000 which helped many children's dreams become realities. After her dad passed, Kim continued the tradition of annual pig roasts in her backyard including bands as entertainment and though not for a charity, she hosted it for neighbors, friends and co-workers while footing the majority of the costs. Just the beginning of Kim giving back.

Kim is a divorced mother of two adult children who have blessed her with four

grandchildren. Kim is a survivor of breast cancer and endured a tough time with treatments and then on the exact day of her first anniversary of being cancer free, she found another lump. Luckily it was benign and she has remained cancer free since 2012.

Even while going through her treatments, Kim didn't stop or doing for others. She volunteered from 2013 to 2017 as the secretary on the Board of Celebration of Hope, a charity that annually gave money to local cancer charities. She was also featured in 2014 as the face for Celebration of Hope, appearing on the Chalice of Salvation to focus on cancer awareness. While holding the position of secretary she became an incredible fundraiser orchestrating an event called 'Big People Little Wheels.' It consisted of adults racing anything with little

Boost your mental well-being



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Take a vacation!

I recently learned about an organization called Wheel the World, which makes vacationing – adventures, really – accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

If they can do it, so you can you!

If you haven't had a vacation lately, you're not alone. A 2023 Pew Research Center study found that more than 40 percent of people who receive paid time off from their employers don't use up all of their vacation in a given year. Based on data from 2018, a statistical analysis revealed that Americans wasted some 768 million vacation days.

Admittedly, it's hard for some folks to get time off. If a gig worker or rideshare driver isn't putting in the hours, they aren't getting paid. Many people have jobs that don't provide paid time off.

Still, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that 79 percent of people employed in the private sector get paid vacation. And a growing number of companies are offering the benefit of unlimited paid time off, in part to stay competitive in a tight hiring market.

"We can't overlook the importance of recreation," says Mary Anne Ehlert, president of Protected Tomorrows, which helps special needs families plan for their financial future. "We sometimes focus on everyday issues and lose sight of the need to have fun." Even those who are handicapped are able to enjoy a vacation. Nowadays, most cruises are wheel chair accessible even if people want to travel alone.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month (and with Memorial Day and summer being right around the corner), it's a good time to talk about the mental health benefits of travel.

your health

First, though, a note of caution: For all of its benefits, travel is not a substitute for therapy. If you are feeling anxious or depressed, talk to a mental health professional. Online services such as BetterHelp.com are readily available, or you can call or text 988 to reach a listening ear at the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Now, why take a vacation? Let me count the whys.

1. Traveling can lift your mood.

Feeling like one day is just like the one before, and the one before that? That monotony is not helpful to mental well-being. Travel breaks up the routine, lets you see new places, meet new people and experience new things. Just anticipating a vacation can help you feel lighter and happier.

2. Traveling refills your emotional and mental reservoir.

Sometimes you're just running on empty. A vacation – whether it involves a relaxing cruise or a strenuous hike (I'll take the former!) – can send you back to work feeling like you're up to every challenge.

3. Traveling can lower the risk of depression.

Mental health experts say there's research to support the link between travel and happiness. One study found that women who vacation at least twice a year are less likely to suffer from depression and chronic stress than women who vacation less than once every two years.

4. Traveling lets your brain reset.

What do you do when your computer goes all wonky on you? You reboot! The same goes for your brain, which

is just a really sophisticated computing device. If you have chronic stress, your memory and goal-setting abilities are negatively impacted. Taking time to go somewhere and get away from work can help you feel more productive and focused when you get back.

5. Traveling might let you sleep better.

One-third of us don't get enough sleep, which is linked to heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression. Getting away from your routine at home, even for a weekend, can help reset your sleep pattern by disrupting any habits that negatively affect sleep quality, like bring your phone to bed with you.

6. Traveling with family improves feelings of belonging.

Isolation is another factor that isn't helpful to mental well-being. Traveling with loved ones and sharing experiences with them enhances connections with them and helps meet the need for love and belonging.

To be beneficial, travel doesn't have to be extensive or all that expensive. Even a short getaway to Wisconsin or a weekend downtown might be enough to recharge your batteries. For ideas on local and regional outings, see www.visitMA.com.

Can travel be stressful itself? You bet. But there are also things you can do to minimize travel stress: Plan ahead for whatever life throws at you, bring all of your medications, pack healthy snacks, stay hydrated and practice mindfulness so you can be "in the moment."

Those memories are the best souvenirs.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

wheels from roller skates, skate board, tricycles or big wheels. She solicited friends to help with various aspects of the event and in three years raised over \$8,500. Because of her own battle with breast cancer she split the proceeds between two charities, Celebration of Hope and the local breast cancer charity, Rays of Hope.

Kim is an energetic petite woman who isn't afraid of hard work whether it's benefiting others or fulfilling one of her own dreams in life. Her main career has been in an office environment while also working over twenty years as a part-time bartender, helping her kids with their college and maintaining a good quality of life for herself. One of her bartending coworkers whose only job was bartending, was diagnosed with cancer but unfortunately during treatments was unable to work. Kim organized a fundraiser which saved her from losing her home and allowing her to concentrate on her recovery rather than the bills that would have accumulated.

Kim doesn't do things for just people she knows as you can see, her donations to charities help people she'll never meet. Here's another example of her kindness. She

saw a woman on the side of the road getting out of a car and trying to position herself in her wheelchair. As Kim was ready to go by her realized the woman had fallen on the ground instead of into the wheelchair. She immediately stopped as horns were blaring, jumped out of her vehicle and helped the woman. Now there is a true Random Act of Kindness!

As I said, Kim works hard to fulfil her own dreams as well. She always wanted a motorcycle and worked hard to get one, which she sold when her daughter asked her to do that when she was making Kim a grandmother. But Kim still wanted to play so she replaced the motorcycle with a boat and now enjoys the summer months cruising around the lake in Otis with family and friends. She no longer works as a bartender but instead will now be working part-time as a licensed massage therapist having just completed her schooling in April while still working full time. Because she did such an incredible job during her classes they solicited her to be an instructor, so she'll be doing that as well as establishing her own business. When she's established she plans on offering other cancer

survivors a massage free of charge occasionally.

Kim's dream is to sell her present home then buy a home and retire on the lake in Otis, I have no doubt that she'll accomplish just that! But one thing will never change, Kim will always be willing to help others and find her own ways to do Random Acts of Kindness.

As you can see, Random Acts of Kindness don't always require giving monetarily, instead Random Acts of Kindness can be lending your expertise for a cause or just sharing niceties with another. I hope Kim has inspired you to do your own kindnesses. I know she's volunteering her talents to another fundraiser happening later this year and hopefully I'll bring you details of that in a future article.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bat514@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

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Correction Policy

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

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

Middle School String Ensemble
at Reid's Landing Concert

COMMUNITY
BULLETIN BOARD



The Middle School Strings and Friends Ensemble performed for the residents of Reid's Landing in Springfield, MA on Friday May 15, 2025 at 4 p.m.. The performance was dedicated to the memory of Helen Kiddess, who played with the students in the ensemble until she was 92. She recently passed away at the age of 97.

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Happy Birthdays,
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Submitted photos Joan Shea

Shred event for a cause

Residents supported the Hampden Senior Center on May 16 during a Shred Event put together by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens. ProShred, located in Wilbraham, was brought in to help residents shred their paper products throughout the afternoon.



Proud Uncle celebrates niece receiving scholarship

Submitted photo Peter Camyre
Peter Camyre was excited to share his niece, Layla King, received The Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Polom scholarship for outstanding academic achievement and promise for future success. Presenting the scholarship is Fran Polom, with Minnechaug Principal Stephen Hale applauding in the background. King was one of many scholarship recipients during "The Evening of Recognition" at Minnechaug Regional High School on May 14 where students received various awards and scholarships.

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Via Appia

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Shred Event Thank You

HAMPDEN - On Friday, May 16, ProShred came to The Hampden Senior Center from Noon to 2 p.m. and assisted patrons with their paper products.

ProShred is located in Post Office Park in Wilbraham and provides services to those in need of destroying documents or information in a safe and secure manner. They have a website online which allows you to view and take advantage of their services.

The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens sponsored this event to give this service, free of charge to you. Donations were accepted and we would like to thank all of you for being so generous to us.

The event was quite busy, and at times double lines of vehicles lined up waiting their turn to dispose of their documents. Thank you for your patience and for coming to support us.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers for their help, most board members, and also volunteers who are always at the center to help out. Any funds that we collect do support the programs at the Senior Center on an ongoing basis.

Please watch The Scribe, the Hampden Senior Center Newsletter, for all events, lunches and trips. Again, Thank you.

Joan Shea, VP The Hampden Senior Citizens

Wilbraham eyes new human resources coordinator

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – It appears as though the town of Wilbraham has found its next human resources coordinator.

Sophia Bletsos, of Westfield, will be hired for the role pending successful contract negotiations and her passing a criminal background check. She interviewed with the Select Board during Monday evening’s meeting before a motion was made to hire her.

Bletsos is currently the HR director for the town of Great Barrington. During her

interview in Wilbraham, she described what led her to that point.

“I started working in the public sector for HR. I worked for the small town of Suffield, Conn.,” Bletsos said. “Then, I worked my way through the private sector and found my way back into the public sector. That was also after I got a graduate degree in industrial organizational psychology, which geared me up pretty well for a career in HR.”

According to her LinkedIn page, Bletsos has a strong background in people operations, recruitment and em-

ployee engagement. She has helped organizations streamline HR processes, put in place fair and adequate hiring practices and create positive workplace cultures.

Bletsos said she enjoys her work in Great Barrington, but she is looking to relocate for several purposes.

“They’re great there. There’s a couple of different reasons I’m looking, one being that this is substantially closer,” Bletsos said. “I did also look at the job description, and it is what I’m currently doing, presently in my role. And, I also have expe-

rience actually from working with some of the smaller towns in the Berkshires, working with the [town administrator] function rather than the [town manager] function, which is how Great Barrington is at the moment.”

When asked about an accomplishment she was proud of, Bletsos said that she recently finished revamping Great Barrington’s handbook.

“I actually had to update quite a few of our policies,” she said.

Bletsos took great pride in having made the handbook more functional, especially

when it comes to making employee changes. She said the town previously had no standardized way of doing that.

“I created a really great form to use,” Bletsos said. “It was very user friendly for folks that aren’t used to having a standardized way of initiating change or to payroll and HR. So far, it’s been working really well. So, I’d say I’m proud of that.”

According to Bletsos, her belief on policy-making is to be user friendly, so that if an employee is struggling, they

Please see **HIRE**, page 13

BRIDGE from page 1

way and addressing the issues will improve the bridge’s safety and function.

Joined by Wilbraham Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell, Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo, Ludlow Select Board Vice Chairperson William Rosenblum, Wilbraham Town Administrator Nick Breault and Wilbraham DPW Superintendent Tonya Capparello, Oliveira presented the check on behalf of himself, Saunders and Puppolo. Cheryl Spinks, Puppolo’s legislative aide, represented him on his behalf.

Oliveira explained how he, Saunders and Puppolo worked together to secure funding for this in the FY24 budget and for identifying projects “that our communities need in order to make repairs,” the town administrators are consulted, with Breault and Ludlow Town

Administrator Marc Strange having been consulted on this one.

“They both had identified the Cottage Ave/Miller Street Bridge behind us as something where they could use a little extra funding in order to help with some of the upkeep for a bridge that’s nearly 80 years old,” Oliveira said. “This bridge was built in the late 1930s, so it’s a little over 80 years old right now. Like many of the bridges that span the Connecticut River, the Chicopee River, the Quaboag River, many of these bridges were built nearly 100 years ago and continue to be bridges that need tender loving care.”

Oliveira noted bridges throughout the state—including small bridges--have had some deemed below “what they should be in order to operate.”

“That’s why we are constantly looking at ways in

order to uplift Chapter 90 Funding, which goes back to our cities and towns in order to help with the maintenance of these bridges as well,” Oliveira said.

Oliveira added the Cottage Avenue Bridge, in particular, is “extraordinarily important because this bridge connects Wilbraham and the town of Ludlow on this side with access to Route 20” and he utilizes the bridge himself along with his sister who lives on Chapin Street.

“But, it’s also a public safety issue. I’m glad to see members of the fire and safety, police department, in Wilbraham that are here because if you have an emergency in the town of Ludlow and you’re trying to get to Wing Memorial, you need to utilize this bridge and it can be a matter of minutes that can save someone’s life,” Oliveira said. “So, ensuring that this bridge continues to remain

open for commerce between both communities, but also for public safety is essential. Ludlow, Wilbraham, work closely together--their first responders support Ludlow, our first responders in Ludlow support Wilbraham--we need this bridge to remain open and in repair.”

After Bunnell thanked Oliveira, Breault also expressed his thanks on behalf of Wilbraham.

“Just thank you because every bit helps. It is not a small amount to the towns when you look at our budgets trying to make sure we can fund this important bridge and other infrastructures,” Breault said. “So, we’re very happy, very grateful and thank you very much.”

Rosenblum also expressed his gratitude on behalf of Ludlow and noted the increases in Chapter 90 Funding.

“Which is much needed, especially for both projects

and, also, we actually have a smaller bridge by the fire department that needs taking care of,” Rosenblum said. “So we’re happy on behalf of Ludlow, very happy and thankful for this and also for the boost in Chapter 90 Funding.”

Oliveira ended his remarks reflecting on the legislators advocating for adding more buckets to help Western Mass communities along with additional money for Chapter 90 to address miles of roadways in need of help.

“So, that additional Chapter 90 Funding, as well as new pockets of funding for things like culvert repairs and those smaller bridge projects, are essential for our small towns in Western Massachusetts,” Oliveira said. “So, your legislators have heard each one of you loud and clear when you come knocking on our doors asking for changes in Chapter 90 Funding.”

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

from page 1

Plant Sale

Things haven’t change much in some ways. I read in a recent Sunday Republican that the Wilbraham Garden Club was planning a recent plant sale. Just as their predecessors did when the Garden Club joined with the Stony Hill PTA to hold a plant and food sale on Saturday May 13, 1967 in Crane Park. Mrs. Richard Trepp and Mrs. Homer Henley were co-chairs of the plant sale; Mrs. Richard Bloom was in charge of the food sale.

There was good news for youth sports boosters back then. Three hundred boys, age 9 to 14, signed up to play baseball that summer, thus far, in the Wilbraham Summer Baseball League. If they missed it, another sign-up was scheduled for that Tuesday in the St. Cecilia Social Hall.

And families at St. Cecilia’s were planning a big family picnic from noon to 6 p.m. at Spec Pond. The year before the picnic garnered 600 attendees. They were hoping to break that record and had planned a program of sports and games for children and some surprise entertainment to interest all ages. John Cauley was chairman assisted by my old friend Larry Mad-

den, Jr., Joe Allen, Robert Clark, Paul Cambo and Stephen Joyce.

St. Cecilia’s Catholic Women’s Club installed their new slate of officers in May at the Hampden House in Hampden. President, Mrs. Joseph Mell; Vice President Mrs. Thomas Garrow; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Howard Laduke, Treasurer, Mrs. John LeBlanc and Corresponding Secretary Mrs. John Connor.

Memorial Day activities were also being planned. The Polish-American Veterans were planning to march in the PAV State Convention Parade in Southbridge on June 4. Buses transported the group and their families from the PAV Hall to the parade site. Participants were told to wear their summer uniforms.

The Wilbraham Board of Selectmen put out a call to townspeople to display the American flag on Memorial Day. Their statement read, “In this way we may honor all veterans both living and dead and fighting men in Vietnam and stationed at other bases throughout the world and our veterans of all wars who have sacrificed their lives to make our country safe from all forms of tyranny. We as Americans should pray that we have the strength and men who have been willing to sacrifice their lives so that we

may live in peace.”

War and Remembrances

Members of American Legion Posts 286 and 418 decorated graves of veterans and placed wreaths at monuments in preparation of Memorial Day Services in Glendale Methodist Cemetery conducted by Rev. Robert Morgan, pastor.

All this was taking place by World War II and Koren War veterans while their sons and the next generation were fighting in Vietnam. Meanwhile Hanoi in North Vietnam was being bombed by American warplanes.

And, does this sound familiar in the Middle East? The Six-Day War between Israel and Arab nations began. Israeli forces moved into the Sinai Desert and Jordan, captured the old city of Jerusalem, gained control of the Sinai Peninsula approaches to the Suez Canal and penetrated into Syria.

Back home there was some excitement on Boston Road. A good part of North Wilbraham knew about it when truck driver James F. Faulkner, 26, of Indianapolis, Ind. stopped in for a coffee that Thursday afternoon. Faulkner’s big truck rig struck (overhead) wires leading to the Sunset Restaurant on Boston Road, as he pulled in, pulling other utility wires down across the heavily trav-



(Charles F. Bennett photo)

Wilbraham news clippings from a May 1967 issue of the Springfield Morning Union.

eled Route 20. Electricity and phone service were knocked out until emergency crews arrived to repair the damage in the heavy rain. Sgt. John Chrzanowski investigated.

Community Theater

Not everything was solemn, patriotic and respectful around Memorial Day. The fifth anniversary party and election of the Wilbraham Community Theater was held Thursday night May 25 at the Polish American Veterans Hall. Plans were announced for a summer theater project. Mrs. Flora Cowels was elected president; Bill Poleri was elected vice president. Warren Newhouse, the outgoing president, was honored. Plans were made and a casting call was made to hold two one-act plays that summer. “A Phoenix to Frequent” by Christopher Fry and “A Tiny Closet” by William Inge.

A sneak preview of the one-act play that the community theatre would present in competition at the New England Theater Conference at Brandeis University in June (1967) was given, directed by Mrs. Claire Peltier.

The theater world on Broadway was busy that Spring. Thornton Wilder’s “The Eighth Day” was produced on Broadway. Along

with “The Homecoming” by Harold Pinter. Arthur Miller’s “The Price” earned raves. In the world of literature William Styron wrote “The Confessions of Nat Turner”. Langston Hughes, famous African-American poet, died.

Equality of the sexes were evident in Wilbraham back in the 60s. While the Men’s Club of United Church were to hold a chicken barbecue on the last Saturday of May, The Women’s Guild of the church would be conducting a food sale from noon until 7:30 p.m. on the green at the church. Co-chairs Mrs. John Getchell and Mrs. Douglas Dickie said a large variety of food items would be sold.

In world news The People’s Republic of China exploded its first hydrogen bomb. In sports, Micky Mantle of the Yankees hit his 500th career homerun.

Historic Tales

History buffs and those who like learning about the “old days” should get a copy of historian Dave Bourcier’s new glossy book, “Historic Tales of Wilbraham”. Dave is the retired fire chief and president of the Athenium Society of Wilbraham who operates The Old Meeting House Museum in the center of town. Dave, with a passion of local history, is the person who publishes the “Wilbraham Historical Tidbits” website. I’ve had a look at his book and it lives up to its name, “Historical Tales” with entertaining stories about our town. You can purchase the book in the Old Meeting House Gift Shop and the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are also taking orders for it.

Sources: Excerpts from the Springfield Morning Union by Ethel Bennett. “The Timetables of History” by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Athenium Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cben-net4765@charter.net.

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BYLAW from page 1

owner and no zoning bylaw restrictions on bedrooms or number of occupants, with the only thing applied being building codes. Short-term rentals, however, would be restricted and ADUs are limited to one per lot.

This proposal had gone through three public hearings with the Planning Board earlier this year before being recommended by the members.

Planning Board Presentation

Planning Board Chair James Rooney explained an ADU is “a smaller, self-contained housing unit located on the same lot as another home” and is “a separate resident dwelling, sometimes called an accessory apartment, granny flat or in-law suite” and can be “internal, attached or detached from the main house.”

“ADUs are called accessory apartments under Wilbraham’s current zoning bylaw,” Rooney said.

Rooney said the bylaw was first adopted in 1994 and had allowed attached accessory units up to 700 square feet by special permit from the Planning Board.

“The current bylaw requires that accessory apartments be occupied by family of the property owner and the owner has to reside on the premises,” Rooney said. “Since 1994, the Planning Board has approved construction of 33 accessory apartments through the special permit process.”

The August 2024 passage of the Affordable Homes Act required all communities “to allow attached and detached ADUs by-right up to 900 square feet.”

“Cities and towns have no choice but to allow ADUs as defined in the law,” Rooney said.

After reviewing the board’s public hearings, Rooney added the proposed bylaw “is intended to address the new state law and pro-



Planning Board Clerk Tracey Plantier talks about how neighbors talk about concerns and come to resolutions at Planning Board meetings.

vide general guidelines for ADUs.”

The site plan approval, meanwhile, would be the process “where the Planning Board reviews a project through a hearing process and notification of abutters.”

“For ADUs, the review criteria is limited to checking for conformance with the ADU bylaw standards,” Rooney said.

Those standards include 900 square feet or less, complete, separate housekeeping unit from principal dwelling, meeting dimensional requirements applicable to single-family dwellings, adequate water and sewer/septic, compliance with stormwater requirements, no more than one ADU per lot and no short-term rentals.

On the difference between site plan approval and the special permit process, Rooney said a special permit “required a supermajority of the Planning Board” through four out of five members voting for it, while site plan approval is a majority vote.

“Special permits were discretionary and the board had brought authority to deny. A site plan review is non-discretionary if the application meets bylaw requirements. It must be approved,” Rooney said.

A site plan review, he added, would also create a



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Karen Romano shares her thoughts on ADUs.

public review process “for a use that affects single-family neighborhoods” and allow the town to “carefully review ADU proposals to make sure they meet required minimum standards.”

Resident Comments

The comments and questions from residents varied on a wide range of topics from loss of local control, concerns that ADUs might not do what the states purport of them and raise rents and lock up starter homes, impact on the town’s character and taxes to wanting more time to review and site plan review concerns.

Karen Romano said there’s “a valid use for ADUs,” referring to her elderly father and her son with complex special needs that could benefit from properties like this.

Her biggest concern was on the site plan review, wondering why abutters needed notice if there was a checklist of requirements.

“Do they know whether or not I’m going to have sufficient septic system? I just don’t know what my neighbors are going to speak to with regards to the ADU if I’m following what the state says and I’m following those check-off lists that you said that we would be discussing at the site plan review,” Romano said.

Rooney replied the board understood that and how this is “a first step in the process” and agreed on this having ma-



Eleanor Gaynor, who served as a Planning Board member in Chicopee in the past, shares her perspective.

jor impacts as another resident spoke about.

“What we’re trying to do is gradually bring the town to this system. We could have gone into a system where there was no site plan review and we don’t think that that’s what this town needs. This is a first step,” Rooney said. “This ADU bylaw will probably change very soon. Again, the attorney general hasn’t finished all of the wording that they want. They don’t even know what they’re trying to do, but for a community that has traditionally been single-family, this is a huge impact and it gives the town the ability to understand what’s going on.”

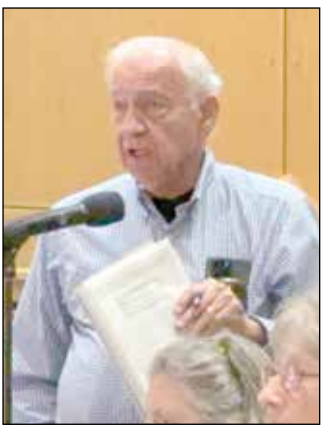
After Rooney added how an ADU was never denied in town and abutters learned more about their neighbors with no problems coming up over these, Romano responded with this.

“If there’s a good chance that this bylaw is going to change in the near future as you just said, then perhaps passing it tonight doesn’t make a whole lot of sense,” Romano said.

“Right now, we have no bylaw,” Rooney said.

After receiving clarification on why the family member restriction was removed, Patrick Kiernan expressed concern about the state “weighing in on local matters,” calling it unfortunate.

“The reality is if we don’t



Matt Villamaino asks questions about the bylaw’s impact on condominiums in Wilbraham.

do something though, we’re worse off because what this allows us to do is to have some protection in place as opposed to no protection in place. If we table this--or if we vote no tonight--that means between now and whenever we revisit this, you could come in as a real estate investor and do whatever the heck you want as long as you’re complying with Massachusetts laws,” Kiernan said. “So I would encourage everyone not to table it, not to vote no, but to have some protections in place to allow some local control over the unfortunate position the Commonwealth of Massachusetts placed us in.”

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo--speaking as a resident--said he was torn, having attended the board’s public hearings and shared his concerns about the site plan review as well.

“But, I do think there are valid parts of this bylaw having attended your meetings such as limiting to one ADU per site so it doesn’t become a small town on each property,” Squindo said.

On Squindo’s question about the attorney general’s cautions offered relative to site plan review, Rooney shared the attorney general had approved several communities with site plan review.

“I don’t know, specifically, if there’s going to be--we’re probably hedging our bets--but there will be,” Rooney

said. “Even if the Attorney General was to strike a word or two or a phrase, it wouldn’t lessen the site plan review or the bylaw.”

Planning Board Member Bradley Gregory--also speaking as a resident--had voted against the bylaw but had things about it he supported. He focused on the bylaw’s outcomes through framing in the context of the housing crisis.

“What that means is in Wilbraham, roughly 50% of people who rent in town are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing, and of all of you homeowners--I know that one in four of you are cost-burdened with your housing payments--that means you’re spending more than 30% of income on housing,” Gregory said. “My goal is to try to make it easier for you to have options to have affordable housing here in town and ADUs seem like a good, gentle option for a community like ours. Because as a senior, you can downsize into your backyard or you may have a student coming back home from college that needs a starting house that’s cheap.”

Frank Ludwig, who lives in a condo, provided these thoughts after Matt Villamaino asked about the bylaw’s impact on condominiums earlier.

“That may come under different federal or state regulations than under separate dwellings. Number one, we’re not allowed to have any attachments, we have bylaws, we have a template that was set up by the state of Massachusetts and in that, we can do certain things,” Ludwig said. “But, to have an ADU or something like that would probably never be allowed within our condo, so maybe condos have to be looked separately than normal dwellings.”

After final comments, Article 33 passed by majority vote.

EXPANSION from page 1

ular operational hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“I think it’s a really important point; volunteer retention and enhancing new member applications,” Barba said. “Right now, you go into the station, and you’ll find gear on the ground. There are no spots. We utilize every inch of that station. We have people who have to climb over other people’s gear to get to their gear. This will enable us to actually attract people, have people wanting to come in.”

When the station opened more than 60 years ago, it sat on 3,200 square feet. Additions in 1980 and 2011 brought the square footage up to around 5,000 square feet.

Barba said on May 12 that the new project would increase the square footage by about another 5,000 square feet.

He expressed that the addition is necessary because between 1964 and 2022, the number of homes in town increased by 160% while the number of calls for service rose by 702%.

At the station, the emergency egress through the apparatus bay is extremely

narrow and does not have the minimum width required by code.

Barba noted that the process began in 2018 when the fire department proposed a small expansion on the back of the station because a new tanker was needed.

At that point, the Selectboard asked for a study to be completed on the station, which was done by Mitchell Associates.

“The study was extensive,” Barba said. “It was 200-some odd pages. We brought all that information back to the town. At that point, the numbers they came back with in 2020 were around \$6-13 million, and \$13 million was a completely brand-new station on land to be determined.”

A couple years went by, and the town decided to get a second opinion, and Tecton Architects were hired. The firm provided three different proposals in 2023, ranging from \$6-10 million. Then, in 2024, the Building Committee was created and charged with figuring out how to best approach a rebuild.

Over the past year, the town has worked with a new firm – Saccoccio & Associates, which led to the May 12 presentation.

“We now have a project in front of everybody here tonight for your consideration that addresses safety and space. You’ll hear those phrases come up a lot tonight, but it’s safety and space,” Barba said.

Ed Madison, the retired Longmeadow fire chief, lives in Hampden and spoke at the May 12 meeting in support of the project. He spoke about his familiarity with the station.

“With what we ask these people to do, the facilities that we give them are absolutely atrocious,” Madison said. “I’ve gone to the station to train with them, and we can’t even train the whole department at one given time. There’s not enough room in the station. They can’t fit the apparatus in appropriately.”

Madison continued to note that there is “absolutely no place for contamination.”

“Our folks are going home contaminated, bringing cancer-causing agents to their families,” Madison said. “We need to provide them the proper facilities. These folks are willing to put it on the line for us each and every day on a volunteer basis. The least we can do is give them the facilities to do it.”



A screen capture showing the current size of the Hampden Fire Station and what the proposed size would look like.



Town Moderator Richard Green looks on as Hampden Fire Department Lt. Mark Barba explains the proposed project for the fire station.



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Falcons softball falls to South Hadley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Back on April 22, South Hadley senior righthander Isabella Schaeffer struck out 16 Minnechaug batters, but the Lady Falcons came away with a 5-1 non-league road win.

When the two varsity softball teams battled each other in another non-league game on May 16, Schaeffer and her teammates spoiled Minnechaug's senior day celebration with a 7-5 victory.

"Minnechaug beat us on our homefield earlier in the regular season," Schaeffer said. "It feels very good to beat them in today's game."

Schaeffer, who's one of the best high school softball pitchers in Western Massachusetts, allowed five runs (four earned) on four base hits in her second start of the regular season against the Lady Falcons. She also had 13 strikeouts and issued two walks.

Three days earlier, Schaeffer recorded her 1,000th career strikeout in a 4-0 shut-out victory at Pittsfield High School.

"Reaching 1,000 strikeouts was something that I thought about doing when I first joined the varsity softball team, but I didn't think I would be able to achieve it," Schaeffer said. "It was a very memorable day for me."

Schaeffer, who has more than 200 K's this season, will be a member of the Westfield State University softball team next year.

"I'm very excited about playing softball at Westfield State," she said. "I'm looking forward to continuing my softball career at the college level."

Before moving to the next level, Schaeffer is hoping to help South Hadley (11-5) win a Western Mass. Class B tournament game for the first time. The Lady Tigers have lost in the Western Mass. quarterfinals the past three seasons.

South Hadley was also ranked eighth in the latest MIAA Division 4 state power rankings.

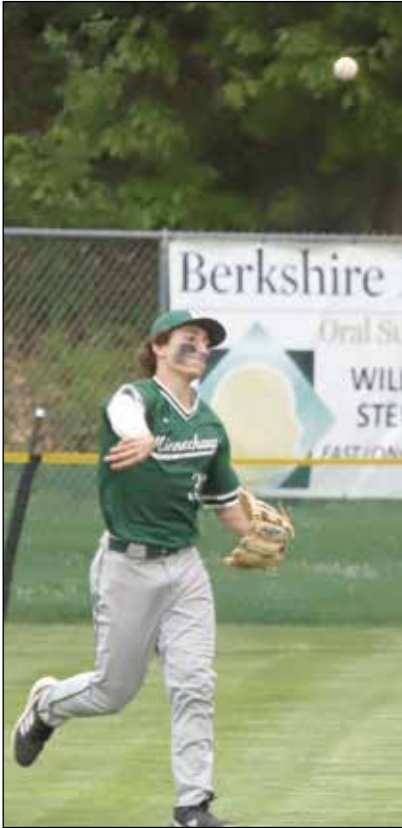
A year ago, the Lady Tigers began the state tournament with back-to-back shutouts against Cohasset and Amesbury before losing at Tyngsborough in the Elite 8.

The Lady Tigers haven't missed a beat this spring since Ariana Williams replaced Junior Perez as the varsity softball coach at the end of April.

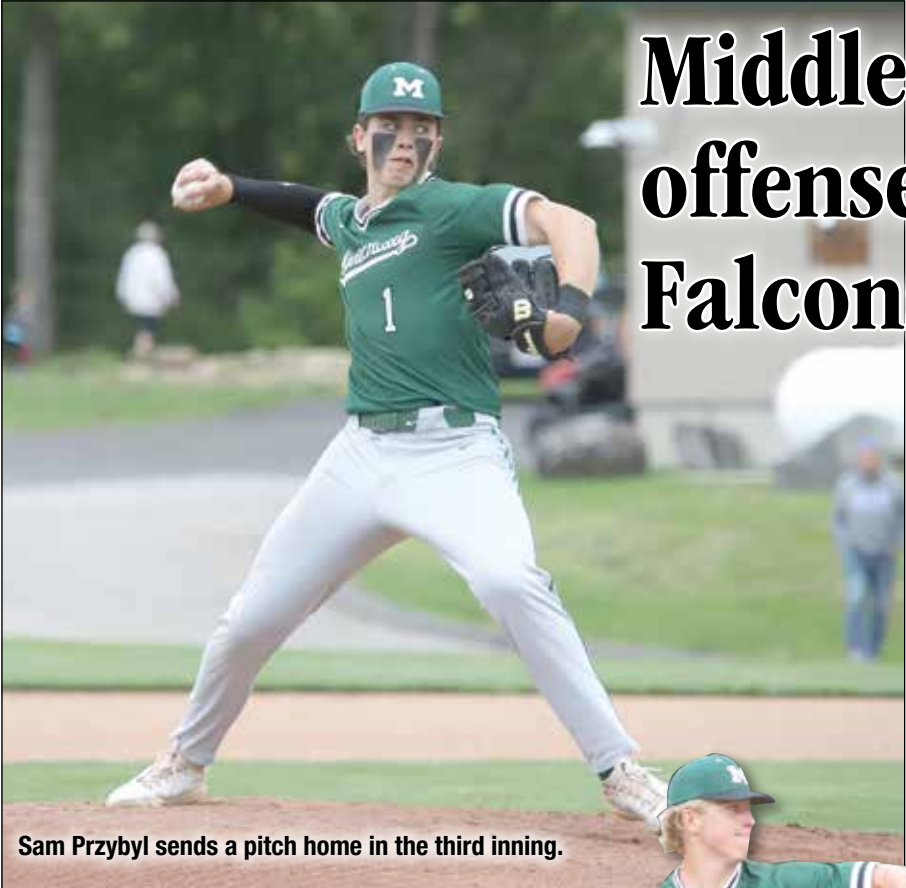
"This is the first time that I've been a varsity coach, and I really thought it would be a lot harder than it has been," said Williams, who graduated from South Hadley High School in 2016. "The team is now 6-1 since I took over. All the players are very good, and we also have outstanding pitcher."

The Lady Falcons (5-12) won't be one of the teams competing in the Division 2 state tournament, but they were ranked sixth in the Western Mass. Class A. power rankings.

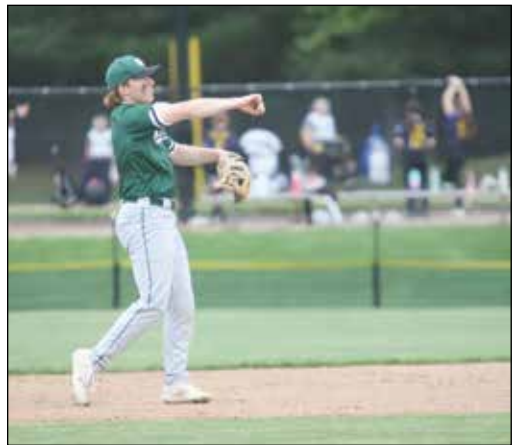
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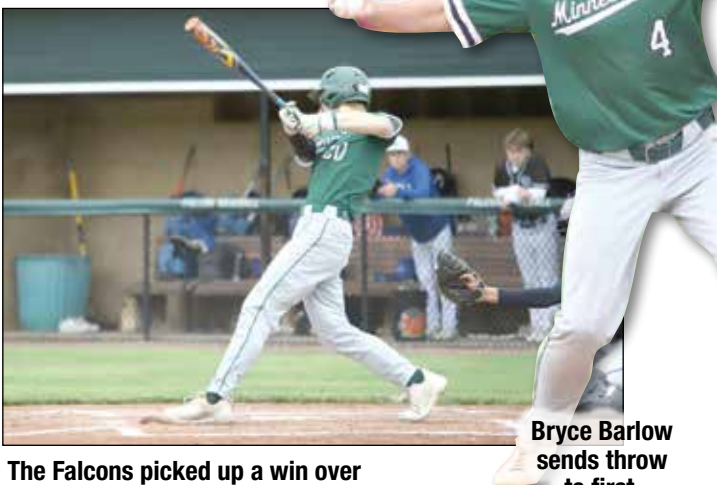
Aiden Rodrigues sends a throw back to the infield after making a catch.



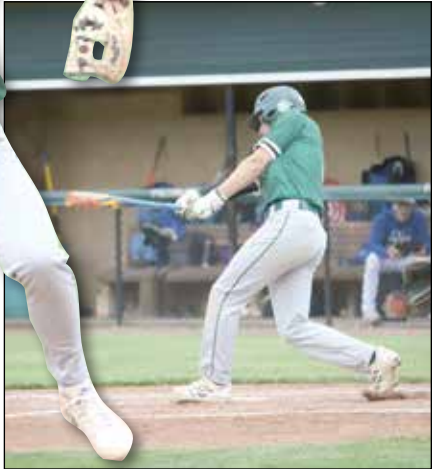
Sam Przybyl sends a pitch home in the third inning.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ben Daniels goes for an out at first base.



The Falcons picked up a win over Wahconah last Tuesday evening.



Evan Liversedge fouls off a pitch.

Middle innings offense leads Falcons to win

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School baseball team celebrated its Senior Night Game last Tuesday evening at Spec Pond. Under the lights, Minnechaug scored two in the fourth and three in the fifth to overcome single runs scored by the Warriors in four different innings for a 5-4 win. The Falcons are 10-8 and will qualify for the state tournament this season. Alexander Savlick had a hit and an RBI for the Falcons and Sam Przybyl pitched 5 1-3 innings and go the win.

Falcons complete regular season with three straight wins

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday night, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls lacrosse team had its final home match of the regu-

lar season, defeating Leominster of Central Mass. 14-11 and capping off a three-game winning streak and improve to 7-11 on the season.

Minnechaug was still on the outside of the playoff picture, though the power rankings did not reflect Minnechaug's seven win of the season.

The Falcons were No. 35 in the power rankings as of May 23.



Chloe Sullivan grabs the faceoff.



Ciara Reilly goes after a loose ball.



Aubrey Stachowicz circles around after recovering the ball.



Peyton Lee hustles up the field after a defensive recovery.



Ella Sarno surveys the offensive end.

SPORTS

Mutiny opens up regular season with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just like they did a year ago, the New England Mutiny didn’t have very much trouble dispatching the Maine Footy in the season opener.

Led by Avery Klingensmith, who scored a pair of second half goals, the Mutiny began the 2025 campaign with a 4-1 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Saturday, May 17. The match came to an end during the 73rd minute due to a severe thunderstorm.

“We had a very successful season last year and we’re looking forward to picking up right where we left off,” said Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2022. “We do have a lot of returners and several new players this season. We always play very well in front of our home fans.”

The Mutiny, who finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, began last season with a 3-1 win versus the Footy. Their only loss came last July against the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, 3-2, in a penalty shootout in the U.W.S. National Finals in Buffalo, New York.

Klingensmith, who was an All-American soccer player in high school, will be wrapping up her collegiate soccer career at American University, which is in Washington D.C., in the fall. She was selected to the Patriot League Women’s Soccer Academic All-League Team in 2024.

“Being a member of a quality soccer team like this one helps me prepare for my college season,” Klingensmith said. “My college soccer team finished with a .500 record last season and we’re hoping to make the NCAA Division 1 Tournament this year. American University is also a very good school academically.”

Klingensmith was one of the Mutiny starting midfielders in the season opener

There are four other players from Western Massachusetts listed on this year’s Mutiny roster.

“It’s always great to have a Western Mass. presence on the team,” said Klingensmith, who’s beginning her fourth season with the Mutiny. “It’s a lot of fun being teammates with them on this team.”

Aida Name, who was one of Klingensmith’s high school teammates, is another returning player listed on the Mutiny roster. Name, who lives in Chicopee, was a starting defender against Maine.

Another starter was Kendall Bodak, who graduated from Monson High School. She was also selected as an All-American player by the United Soccer Coaches in high school. She’ll be a soph-



Abbey Jones guides a pass by an opponent.

omore member of the women’s soccer team at Clemson University in the fall.

Bodak, who’s a forward, was listed on the Mutiny roster a year ago, but she didn’t play in any matches.

“It’s an honor to be a member of this soccer team,” Bodak said. “It’s also fun being teammates with the other players from Western Mass.”

One of Bodak’s teammates at Monson High School was Tennessee Murphy, who currently attends The Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut. Murphy was also selected as an All-American soccer player last fall. She entered the season opening match for the first time as a defender at the start of the second half.

Another local player on the Mutiny roster is Olivia Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. She’ll be entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce University.

For the first time since the Mutiny started playing home games in Ludlow, Hope Santaniello wasn’t listed on the opening day roster.

Santaniello, who was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School, is currently playing for a professional women’s soccer team in Iceland.

Alexis Legowski, who was another member of last year’s Mutiny squad from South Hadley, is playing for a professional soccer team in Poland.

The Mutiny head coach is Federico Molinari, who also coaches the Western Mass. Pioneers.

“It’s always nice to start the season with a win,” Molinari said. “I thought we played much better in the second half than we did in the first half.”

The Mutiny pretty much dominated the first half, but the match remained scoreless until the 43rd minute.

That’s when Laci Lewis



Laci Lewis makes her way up the field



Kendall Bodak keeps play moving forward.

sent a crossing pass from the right side into the middle of the box where the ball was headed into the back of the net by Taylor Jenkins giving the Mutiny a 1-0 lead.

Lewis and Jenkins were teammates on the UConn women’s soccer team last year.

There are a total of six UConn women’s soccer players listed on this year’s Mutiny roster.

UConn head coach Margaret Rodriguez is a former Mutiny player.

Klingensmith netted her first goal of the season during the 56th minute.

It was assisted by Kate Howarth, who played in her first match for the Mutiny since 2019.

Howarth began playing for the Mutiny in 2012. After playing for the Boston Breakers in 2013, Howarth returned to the Mutiny side as the team captain in 2014.

Following the 2019 season, Howarth, who’s the Mutiny’s all-time leading goal scorer and points leader, signed with the Orlando Pride, who’s a member of the National Women’s Soccer League.

Howarth has been sidelined with a leg injury during the past couple of years, but is healthy again this year.

“It felt very nice to put this jersey on again,” Howarth said. “The environment here is outstanding and I love playing for this team. It’s a lot of fun.”

Joe Ferrara, who’s the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, was glad to see Howarth back on the field again.

“It’s very special having Kate play for us again,” Ferrara said. “She’s one of the best players in the history of this club.”

The duo of Howarth and Klingensmith hooked up again eight minutes later.

The Footy got on the scoreboard following a goal from Ava Feeley during the 70th minute.

Just before the referee stopped the match, Bodak netted her first goal in a Mutiny uniform.

Abbey Jones was credited with the assist.

The Mutiny will have a week off before hosting Ole’ Eagles, who are a new U.W.S. squad at 7 p.m. on May 31.

This week in recreation

Bryan Litz
Parks & Recreation
Director

Memorial School, the 50,000 square foot Town of Wilbraham building, brings up more questions than answers over recent years. Some residents recall fond memories of going to school at Memorial, others are aware of the building and spend time there with some of the recreational offerings that still occupy various space in the building, others are not familiar with the building at all.

Memorial School was built in 1950, run as a school for the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District from 1950 to 2010. Memorial served as home for Cathedral High School (which is now Pope Francis High School) until the end of the school year in 2016. From 2016 to the present, the building has served as the home of many of our recreational offerings, from pickleball to basketball to wrestling to classes/clinics.

Recently, I have had the pleasure of giving tours of Memorial School and the grounds to various groups. It was fascinating to listen to the members of these groups discuss the building, its current state, and the potential for what the building could become.

Currently the town has tasked the Building Utilization Subcommittee with the following mission:

The Wilbraham Build-

ing Utilization Committee is dedicated to optimize the use of the Town-owned properties to meet the current and future needs of our community. Our mission is to assess facilities, identify opportunities for improvement, and recommend cost effective solutions to increase functionality and efficiency through collaboration with town officials, stakeholders, and residents. The committee will strive to ensure that Wilbraham’s properties effectively serve the community of Wilbraham.

Since the school has closed its doors in 2010, the Town has discussed/debated the future of the school. Some are in favor of selling the 40 or so acres including the building and moving on from the school, others would like to see it kept as a town building and renovated. The discussion has occurred for over 15 years, and continues on to this day. By February 2026 the Building Utilization Subcommittee will present their recommendations to the Select Board.

What the future holds for Memorial School, that is the great unknown, but it certainly has folks within the Parks & Recreation community on the edge of our seats.

NOTE: For more information on all of the programs we currently offer at Memorial School and other facilities, please visit Wilbrahamrec.com.



HoopHall announces college series

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced the field for the 2025 Hall of Fame Series Baltimore at the CFG Bank Arena on Monday, Nov. 3. This marks the Hall of Fame’s return to Charm City following last year’s successful debut event.

The Baltimore double-header will feature compelling local matchups that celebrate the region’s rich basketball heritage. Headlining the night, Maryland will face Coppin State—located 30 and 3 miles from CFG Bank Arena, respectively—while Towson takes on Loyola Maryland, situated just 10 and 6 miles away. These regional matchups promise an electric atmosphere and a can’t-miss night of college basketball.

“Returning to Baltimore for a second year demonstrates the growing

excitement around the Hall of Fame Series and the region’s passion for college basketball,” said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. “With Maryland headlining alongside respected local programs like Coppin State, Towson, and Loyola, this event highlights the incredible basketball tradition in and around Baltimore. It’s an honor to partner with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to bring these matchups back to the world-class CFG Bank Arena.”

Fans can sign up for presale information now at HOFSeries.com. Further details regarding ticketing, game time, broadcast coverage, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated

Please see **HOOPHALL**, page 13

Pioneers up regular season with pair of wins

LUDLOW – Ahead of their home opener on Friday, May 23, the Western Mass. Pioneers played their first two regular season games in the

USL-2 League. On Thursday, May 15, the Pioneers defeated Boston City 9-0, then defeated Albany Rush on Monday, May 19 6-0. There was no shortage

of offense for the Pioneers as they geared up for their home opener against Seacoast United Phantoms. Following that matchup, the Pioneers are

headed for Boston to play the Bolts on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. Their next home game is Friday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Luistano Stadium.

FALCONS from page 11

tournament started today, we would be playing Agawam in the quarterfinals,” said Minnechaug head coach Molly Cole. “We lost a close game at Agawam last week. I’m hoping we can beat them if we do face them again.”

The three Minnechaug seniors, who were honored in a ceremony held before the start of the game, are catcher Angelina Cross, right fielder Ava Peabody, and Abby Peyman, who’s sidelined with an injury.

“I wish the outcome would’ve been a little bit different in today’s game,” said Cole said. “The three seniors

are very special and we’re going to miss them dearly. We’re hoping Abby can return for the playoffs.”

Schaeffer struck out five of the first nine batters that she faced.

Minnechaug sophomore righty Abigail Camire also pitched well during the first three frames.

She didn’t record any strikeouts during that stretch, but the defense did make a couple of outstanding plays. Overall, Camire gave up seven runs (two earned) nine base hits.

One of those plays were made by sophomore shortstop Veronica Ouimet, who made a diving stop on a ground ball

headed towards center field for the final out of the first inning.

The Lady Tigers first base runner was sophomore third baseman Grace Matyszewski, who reached first base following a fielding error leading off the top of the third inning.

The visiting team put three runs on the center field scoreboard in their next at-bats.

Eighth grade second baseman Samantha LaFlesh drove home the first run with a groundball single into centerfield with two outs. Then Matyszewski hit another ground ball to the third baseman, which should’ve been the third out, but two more runs crossed the plate follow-

ing a throwing error.

Minnechaug battled back in the bottom half of the fourth inning.

Freshman first baseman Kaelyn Dionne put down a bunt and she was safe at first base following an overthrow. After Cross drew a walk, Williams decided to intentionally walk Ouimet, which loaded the bases. Then Peabody hit a pop-up single to shallow right field scoring two runs.

The Lady Falcons took a 4-3 lead when junior centerfielder Aezlin Rost doubled to center scoring two more runs.

“I’m proud that we were able to battle back in today’s game,” Cole said. “Giving up the lead right away is one of

our problems that we’ve been having this season.”

It didn’t take the Lady Tigers very long to retake the lead.

Junior centerfielder Karli Carmody, who began the top of the fifth with an infield hit, scored the tying run on a wild pitch.

After loading the bases, Samantha LaFlesh reached on a fielder’s choice which scored the go-ahead run.

A fielding error brought home the Lady Tigers sixth run.

Ouimet did close the gap to 6-5 by hitting a laser shot over the left field fence leading off the bottom of the sixth. It was her third home

run of the season, but the first one she hit at home.

Peabody followed with a single down the left field line before advancing to second base on a wild pitch.

Schaeffer retired the next batter on a foul pop-up caught by sophomore catcher Ryley McMahon before ending the threat with a pair of strikeouts.

McMahon, who singled to center leading off the top of the seventh inning, scored an insurance run on an RBI single by eighth grade right fielder Sienna LaFlesh.

Schaeffer didn’t allow the Lady Falcons to make another comeback, as she struck out the side in the seventh inning.

SENIORS

Monthly Highlights at the Hampden Senior Center:

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

Do you have Parkinson’s Disease or know someone who does?

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes with Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master| Holistic Therapist

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!

New 8-week session beginning May 5 through June 30. (No class 5/26)

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.

Cost is \$65 pre-paid for the 8-week session or a drop-in rate of \$10.00 per class.

Please call 566-5588 to register.

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.

Ukulele with Amy – New Students Welcome!

New 8-week session beginning June 2 through July 28. (No class on 6/23.)

Mondays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Beginner Ukulele

Mondays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Intermediate Ukulele

Cost is \$50 pre-paid for the 8-week session or a drop-in rate of \$7 per class.

Please pay cash or make checks payable to: Town of Hampden

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot now.

Choral Group

Are you interested in singing in a choral group? Please let us know by calling 566-5588.

Scrapbooking Class

New 6-week session beginning May 6 through June 10
Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to

Noon

Cost is \$60 pre-paid for the 6-week session or a drop-in rate of \$12 per class.

Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you wish to use. Paper will be provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot for each class you are interested in. Space is limited.

If you have any seashells you would like to donate for the June craft class, please drop them off at the senior center.

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

12-week session through July 8. (No class 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 for drop-ins.. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

“African Drumming” with Jason” – New Students Welcome!

14-week session through July 25. (No classes on 5/2 and 7/4.)

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

Cost is \$7 per class for drop-ins. 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 Sunscreen!

Thank you to those who donated toothpaste 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.

Foot Care with Deborah

1st Thursday of the month.
NO FOOTCARE IN MAY, will return June 5

\$40 for a 30-minute appointment

Manicures with Cat

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

Hampden Senior Center Older Americans Month Programming

HAMPDEN – The senior center will be offering programming throughout May in celebration of Older Americans Month.

The 2025 Older Americans Month theme is Flip the Script on Aging, which focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. This year, join us in honoring older adults’ contributions, exploring the many opportunities for staying active and engaged as we age, and highlighting the opportunities for purpose, exploration, and connection that come with aging.

Please call 413.566.5588 to register for any of the events listed below.



Fri., May 30 at 12:30 p.m. Drumming Concert Lunch/Concert

The Hampden Senior Center Drumming group invites you to come and American Chop Suey hear what they’ve learned in their Friday afternoon classes.

Refreshments sponsored by MercyLIFE.

All events are FREE unless otherwise noted.

Lunch is a \$3 suggested donation to Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. (GSSSI)

Please call 413.566.5588 to pre-register for all programs. Space is limited.

Attend any of the above programs, and your name will be entered into a raffle prize drawing.

The winner will be chosen at the end of May.

The more events you attend, the more chances you have to win!

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.

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 Winipisaukee) 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 bobbijg2@charter.net.

Events & announcements schedule

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m.

This month’s selection is “Half Baked Harvest” by Teighan Gerard.

Please let the library know what you’re bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Run for Rice’s 5K Road Race set for June 7

WILBRAHAM - The 13th annual “Run for Rice’s 5K Road Race” will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9 a.m.

This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walk-

ers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25.

Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration.

The first 150 registered runners by May 13, 2023 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the “Running Apple” logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Minnechaug Land Trust.

Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. Online registration is available at RunSignUp.com.

Hampden Parks & Rec. Dept. announces programs

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.

non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoe-

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:

- Hampden Memorial Park Summer Program Activities 2025

Registration Opens:

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>.

nix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit HOFSeries.com or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

visit us at
wilbrahamhampden
times.turley.com

HIRE from page 8

can “feel empowered looking at the policy to kind of discern what they need to do next, even if I am not there to guide them.”

Currently, in Great Barrington, Bletsos said she is working with a very tight budget, which means she has to be extra innovative when it comes to new ini-

tatives.

“There are plenty of ways where you can shell out for your staff and make something special and take a little extra time without picking the most costly way possible,” Bletsos said.

When asked about her experience with unions, Bletsos said she first observed negotiations while working in Suffield. Now,

she works with unions for Great Barrington’s Department of Public Works, police department and library.

“I am the point person for their stewards and their reps, so I do work heavily with the contract and interpretation as well, and I’m at the table for negotiations also,” Bletsos said.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bring up

7. Child

10. Formal written defense

12. Bangladeshi currency

13. Burial site

14. In the lead

15. Large recesses in a church

16. Count on

17. Defunct phone company

18. Golf scores

19. Afflicts

21. Defensive nuclear weapon

22. Prominence

27. “The Great Lakes State”

28. SoCal ballplayer

33. Location of White

House

34. Magnificence

36. Hip hop songstress

37. Capital of Yemen

38. ___ Blyton, children’s author

39. Bomb

40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour

41. Pinkish-violet color

44. A way to make right

45. Monument to one buried elsewhere

48. Region south of Dead Sea

49. Acts out against

50. Harsh cry of a crow

51. Formal title for a woman

CLUES DOWN

1. Kitchen devices

2. Wings

3. Mythological birds

4. Everyone has one

5. Matchstick game

6. Bar bill

7. Weights

8. Satisfactorily

9. Small amount

10. Tree types

11. Small protuberances

12. Equivalent of 100K BTU

14. Type of horse

17. More (Spanish)

18. Argentinian province

20. A bad act

23. Moving in a circular way

24. Battery type

25. Atomic #58

26. Popular breakfast food

29. An alternative

30. Tooth caregiver

31. A way to conform

32. Disfigured men

35. Cool!

36. Genus of mosses

38. Body part

40. Kashmiri people

41. Round water pot

42. Something to purchase

43. Emit coherent radiation

44. Indicates 10

45. Advertising metric

46. Pitching stat

47. Head movement

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SCHOOLS

The Horace Smith Fund Awards \$310,000 to area students

REGION - On Thursday, June 19, at 6 p.m., The Horace Smith Fund will hold its 126th Annual Corporators' Meeting and scholarship awards ceremony at the Carriage House of Storowton Tavern for recipients, their parents, school counselors, and Corporators. This year's Keynote Speaker will be Congressman Richard Neal.

Wayne Webster, Chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that this year 20 Walter S. Barr Scholarship awards will be given to 18 graduating high school seniors and two students currently attending college. One additional student currently attending college will receive the Sidney S. Letter Award, which is named after a recent benefactor. The William R. Rooney Award will be granted to a high school senior who has received special education services, and three Walter S. Barr Fellowships will be given to students pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Providing that students maintain at least a B average, each scholarship provides a total of up to \$12,000 over four years and each fellowship provides up to \$15,000 over two years. Therefore, The Horace Smith Fund is happy to be able to grant a total award of \$310,000 to area students this year.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by

the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith. He and Daniel Wesson were the founders of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. Mr. Smith's will provided that the residual of his estate, after several bequests to relatives and institutions, was to be used for public purposes at the discretion of his executors. They decided that it should be used to help deserving students finance their education.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships are named for a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. The William R. Rooney Award is named for a past Executive Director with a desire to assist special needs students. All recipients must be residents of Hampden County.

This year's scholarship recipients who are graduating seniors are from the following high schools:

Agawam High School: Isabella M. Oliveira, Hannah M. Parker

Chicopee Comprehensive High School: Carter R. Janik

Chicopee High School: Jenna P. Madru

East Longmeadow High School: Oluwafunmilayo Y. Coates

Please see **AWARDS**, page 16

Traumatic accident inspired Cailyn Doyle to study clinical neuroscience at URI



(Photos courtesy of Cailyn Doyle)

Cailyn Doyle will graduate from URI with a bachelor's degree in clinical neuroscience this month. Her goal after going to medical school is to become a pediatric neurologist.

KINGSTON, R.I. – When Cailyn Doyle was only two years old, the trajectory of her life, and those of her family members, changed forever. Doyle's father, a police officer in their hometown of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, was struck by a drunk driver while on the job and suffered a severe traumatic brain injury.

"I had a difficult time understanding an injury that I couldn't see," said Doyle. "The injury severely affected his cognition, including impairments to his memory, attention, problem-solving ability, judgment, logic and reasoning, and self-control. I wanted to know exactly what caused my dad to behave the way he did."

Doyle enrolled in the University of Rhode Island's clinical neuroscience program to gain a better understanding of her father's brain injury. She'll cross the commencement stage in URI's Ryan Center this week.

"This program has given me a greater understanding and appreciation for my dad and all that he has been through," said Doyle. "It takes an incredible amount of strength to rebuild your life after such a life-altering accident. I couldn't be prouder of him."

Cailyn's father, Christopher, is proud of his daughter for finding a positive path forward from a difficult experience.

"I wish she didn't have the first-hand experiences she had that led her to where

she is now," said Christopher Doyle. "I am happy, however, that she found a way to change a negative life experience into such a positive. She never ceases to amaze me. I am super proud of her."

For the last year and a half, Doyle has conducted research in associate professor Katharina Quinlan's laboratory, which is dedicated to investigating how spinal neurons change and deteriorate in neurodegenerative diseases or after injuries where movement is critically impaired or lost.

"Cailyn possesses a rare combination of dependability, curiosity, and the ability to work hard to achieve great results. She is one of the best students I've had," said Quinlan.

The most common motor disorder in children is cerebral palsy, marked by increased muscle tone and exaggerated reflexes. Cerebral palsy is most often caused by brain injuries that occur at or around the time of birth. This injury weakens the developing corticospinal tract, which is the major pathway for voluntary control of movement.

"My research is focused on whether damage to these pathways is associated with anatomical changes that could lead to exaggerated reflexes," said Doyle. "I use a research method known as immunohistochemistry, which labels specific proteins in cells to help visualize them under a microscope. This allows us to determine if there are anatomical changes in the spinal cord after an injury that could lead to the exaggerated reflexes in cerebral palsy. Our preliminary data suggests these changes do exist and contribute to these exaggerated reflexes."

Lisa Weyandt, a professor of psychology and director of URI's Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, had Doyle as a student in her clinical neuroscience course and met with her several times during office hours.

"Cailyn has high standards for herself and others," said Weyandt. "She also has a tender heart for those impacted by misfortune, particularly those suffering from traumatic brain injury and other neurological conditions. Given her intellect, high standards,

and kindness, I'm certain she will make a fine physician."

Outside the classroom and lab, Doyle has been active in URI's Neuroscience Club and the URI chapter of the National Marrow Donor Program. She also volunteers for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, an organization that helped her family after her father's accident.

"I volunteer to offer a different perspective, as traumatic brain injuries don't just impact the individual, but the entire family," said Doyle. "I aspire to show those struggling with traumatic brain injuries that they are worthy of our forgiveness, while also helping family members feel less alone in the struggles they face."

With three younger siblings and years of teaching gymnastics to children ranging in age from 18 months old to 12 years old, Doyle would like to become a pediatric neurologist.

"A pediatric neurologist treats children with conditions that affect the brain, nerves, and spinal cord," said Doyle. "Since many of these conditions are chronic, pediatric neurologists often follow patients over time, rather than just seeing them once, allowing them to build relationships with the child and their family."

Doyle will spend the next year gaining clinical research experience before enrolling in medical school.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Aja Miller for a special permit (ZBA25-03) under section 3.9.2.13 of the Wilbraham Zoning By to allow a dog grooming business as a Home Occupation in the existing detached garage on property owned by Aja Miller and Christopher Mish located at 15 Old Boston Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/266700965> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 266-700-965).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
05/29, 06/05/2025

Sale of Motor Vehicles

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **June 13, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

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05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025

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. HD25P1072EA

Estate of: Barbara J. Smith

Date of Death: 07/03/2024

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Diane E. Nagy of Indianapolis, IN** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Diane E. Nagy of Indianapolis, IN** 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 06/17/2025.** 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: May 20, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate

05/29/2025

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED INCREASE TO WATER RATES

The Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners, will hold an open public hearing on **July 18, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield St, Wilbraham, MA to hear public comment on the proposed increase to water rates, as recommended by the Water Commissioners, to be effective November 2025.

CURRENT WATER RATES

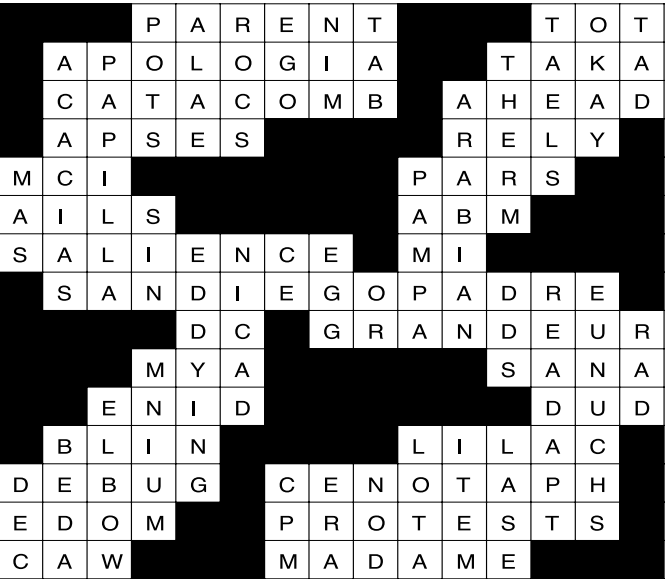
\$4.12 Commercial Rate
\$4.12 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$4.32 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$4.52 20,0001 Cubic Feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

PROPOSED WATER RATES

\$4.80 Commercial Rate
\$4.80 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$5.25 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$5.50 20,0001 Cubic feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

All those wishing to comment on the proposed updated water rates will be heard. This hearing will be conducted in person only.

Board of Water Commissioners
05/29, 06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2025



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Turley Publications, Inc.

HCC Foundation awards \$364,400 in scholarships

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$364,400 in scholarships to students for the 2025-2026 academic year. This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000. HCC celebrated this year's recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 15.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

An alphabetical list of all scholarship recipients and their awards can also be viewed on the HCC website.

Hampden: Kate O'Donnell, Sara Underwood.

Wilbraham: Mia Figueroa, Rebecca Leigh Guertin, Miranda Krauza, Alison Smythe.

AWARDS from page 15

Longmeadow High School: Rachel Kim, Kabeer Razzaq

Ludlow High School: Jack E. Favata, Calleigh J. Foley, Caitlyn R. Day

Minnechaug Regional High School: Victoria E. Gonzalez, Bryan A. Beckel

Pope Francis Preparatory High School: Elizabeth Z. Hanechak

Putnam Vocational Technical High School: Andy Li

Springfield Central High School: Charlotte Kocsmier-sky

West Springfield High School: Lindsey R. Bergeron, Ainsley E. Kearney, Mary C. Desrosiers, Eibhlinn R. White

This year's scholarship recipients who are currently in college are:

Emerson College: Patrick A. Cowles (Minnechaug Regional High School)

UMass Amherst: Faraz Kabir (Longmeadow High School)

WNEU: Madeline G. Jarvinen (Longmeadow High School)

The three fellowship recipients are graduates from the following colleges and high schools:

Boston College School of Law: Devin Sheehan (Southwick-Tolland Regional High School)

Fordham University School of Law: Leighlani Sanchez (Northfield Mt. Herman School)

Yale University School of Nursing: Anna Gorfinkel (Minnechaug Regional High School)

Students were selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applications for next year's awards will be available September 15th online at www.HoraceSmith-Fund.org or by calling (413) 739-4222.



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