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Class of 2023



(Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski)

(L to R): Class President Patrick Cowles, Vice-President David Noel, Treasurer Norah Doyle, Secretary Cayleigh Wall and class speaker & Salutatorian Nikolas Supczak, pictured on stage at Symphony Hall.

graduates from Minnechaug at Symphony Hall

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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SPRINGFIELD – All three levels of Symphony Hall in downtown Springfield were filled on June 2, as the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2023 graduated and 228 students received diplomas.

“It’s an honor to stand before you this evening and welcome

you to Minnechaug Regional High School’s 2023 graduation exercises,” said Principal Steve Hale, before watching his son Joseph receive a diploma.

Class Marshall, and 2024 Class President, Edward Owens directed the graduates to their seats, as Class President Patrick Cowles, Vice President David Noel, Treasurer Norah Doyle, Secretary Cayleigh Wall, Valedictorian Molly Olsen and Sa-

lutatorian/Class Speaker Nikolas Supczak took their seats on stage, alongside district staff and School Committee members.

It was announced that Olsen earned a cumulative GPA of 4.78; she will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall. Supczak earned a cumulative GPA of 4.64 and will attend

Please see **GRADUATION**, page 10

Minnechaug’s internship program helps Wilbraham brothers land careers



(L to R) Tanner Alves, a automotive tech at Spartan Auto Care Center, next to his brother Tyler, a patrolman for the Wilbraham Police Department. Both earned employment where they interned in high school. (Photo courtesy of Tyler Alves)

Dozens of students participate in the program each spring and fall

By Dalton Zbierski
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WILBRAHAM – Each semester, dozens of seniors at Minnechaug Regional High School participate in an internship program, where they shadow mentors in different industries.

The program has been existent for more than 20 years, said

School to Career Coordinator and Counselor Renee Considine, who connects students with professionals. She credits the community’s backing of the program for its longstanding success.

“There’s a ton of options for students,” she said. “The community supports the program, and because of the community’s support behind it I am able to find mentors, and they give the students such a great experience.”

The success of the program is well-represented by the Alves brothers, Tyler and Tanner, of Wilbraham. As high school students, both young men interned

Please see **CAREERS**, page 8

Meteorologist Janna Brown visits Stony Hill School

By Dalton Zbierski
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WILBRAHAM – Last week, Western Mass News meteorologist Janna Brown made a special visit to Wilbraham, where she spoke to a large group of students in the Stony Hill School cafeteria.

Brown was contacted by science teacher Christine Goonan, who requested she visit the school after students finished studying a weather-related unit. Brown had spoken at the school previously and was thrilled to return.

“It’s funny because it’s the

only real interaction with people I get. I talk to the public every day but I don’t actually see them so it’s nice to be able to go out and actually get questions and be able to answer them. That’s definitely the most fun part of the job,” Brown said.

Brown is originally from southern New Jersey and attended Lyndon State in northern Vermont, where she became interested in television and broadcasting weather to the public. Her infatuation with weather dates back years earlier.

“Typically, weather people kind of know about what they want to do at a young age so I think I was early teens when I

started getting obsessed with weather and knew it was what I wanted to do before I even got to high school,” she said.

Now, Brown has been a professional meteorologist for 17 years. Her favorite part about the profession is listening to the public share their memories of different storms they experienced. She also enjoys hearing that the information she broadcasts is helpful.

“Work can always be difficult, but for me just the passion of whether is what keeps me going... Whenever I get that (positive feedback) from some viewers, it reminds me that what I do

Please see **JANNA**, page 4



Western Mass News meteorologist Janna Brown spoke at Stony Hill School late last month. (Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)

State Rep. Ashe lends support to Ollie's Law during May 17 rally

Proposed legislation would protect dogs at kennels and doggy daycares

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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HAMPDEN - State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) joined supporters on the State House steps for a May 17 rally supporting Ollie's Law.

The bill would require kennels and doggy daycares throughout the Commonwealth to be licensed, inspected and have regulations for supervision and reporting injuries.

Ashe was joined by State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Jeni Mather, owner of JM Pet Resort, Jeremy Cohen, pet law attorney for Boston Dog Lawyers; Kara Holmquist, director of advocacy for the MSPCA and Ally Blanck, director of advocacy for the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Additionally, the owners of dogs injured or killed at doggy daycares or kennels, including Amy Baxter, whose dog, Ollie, is the legislation's namesake.

Ashe, who represents the 2nd Hampden District, which includes the town of Hampden, explained his wife saw a Facebook post during the pandemic from Baxter about Ollie, who succumbed to injuries from a mauling by a pack of dogs at a doggy daycare.

"After talking to her, getting all the details of what happened to Ollie and then looking into it further about the doggy daycare industry, we realized it wasn't regulated," Ashe said.



(L to R) State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) speaks to the crowd gathered outside the State House during the May 17 rally supporting the passage of Ollie's Law. Ashe was joined by State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and members of the Ollie's Law Coalition.

Ashe said the industry grew during the pandemic, adding how "most people are doing it with the right intentions."

However, there's a lot of work involved that some may not realize.

"You have to understand dog behavior. How many dogs should you have for each employee," Ashe said. "You have to have emergency protocols, what do you do in a situation like that, and we realized none of those were in place at this establishment."

He stressed the importance of making sure "we had our bases covered" before presenting the legislation, including someone from the industry on the coalition.

Since its formation, more cases of dogs injured or killed at doggy daycares or kennels have come to light.

"Again, I wanted to make sure I wasn't missing anything. I didn't

want to try to harm businesses. I didn't want to try to harm people getting their dogs taken care of. What we wanted to do is make sure that it was done in a safe, professional manner that was good for everybody," Ashe said.

Ashe explained the public hearing for the bill, numbered H2019, is scheduled for September with a date in the works.

Residents can attend in person or virtually.

He is confident about the bill's passage.

"I have faith in my colleagues in the House as well as in the Senate that if they look at this bill based on the merit, based on what it does and the good that comes out of it, I believe it should pass," Ashe said.

Ashe added the legislation is personal as he's a dog owner himself.

"I absolutely love animals and



Supporters and members of Ollie's Law Coalition gather outside the State House in support of passing Ollie's Law. Supporters and members include (first row, L to R) Jeremy Cohen, pet law attorney at Boston Dog Lawyers, Ally Blanck, director of advocacy for Animal Rescue League of Boston, Robin Frechette, chief of staff to State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow), Amy Baxter, Ollie's owner who inspired the legislation, Audra Riding, general counsel for State Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), (second row, L to R) State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow), Liam Elliott, legislative aide to State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow), Kara Holmquist, director of advocacy for the MSPCA, Ryan McCollum, lead lobbyist and political consultant at RMC Strategies, and Jeni Mather, owner of JM Pet Resort. Photos courtesy Liam Elliot

it would mean the world to me to get it passed, not just for Amy and her daughter, but for dog owners in general," Ashe said.

Ashe wants his constituents to realize "people want to have a huge say in what we do and legislation that we craft."

"It's usually something that happens. A catalyst that makes it go and this is a perfect case for that," Ashe said.

He cautioned dog owners to be better aware.

"Not everyone does a great

job. Most do, but you got to be aware," Ashe said.

Ashe concluded the legislation is due to constituents speaking out.

"These are the things that impact people every day that can make a difference in people's lives, hopefully for the better," Ashe said.

To learn more about Ollie's Law and follow the legislation's progress, visit www.facebook.com/ollieslawma/.

Worldwide Knit in Public Day

WILBRAHAM – All people who craft in the fiber arts are invited to join others at Crane Park on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to recognize the grassroots worldwide event "Worldwide Knit in Public Day".

Anyone who knits, crochets, weaves, etc. is invited to attend this casual event for all or part of

the day. Participants should bring their project, something to sit on, water and snacks.

Free knitting lessons will be offered. Bring unused yarn for a yarn swap.

Worldwide Knit in Public Day began in 2005 as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Most

fiber arts projects are solitary pastimes which makes it hard to find and connect with others that knit, crochet or weave, etc.

Neighbors could spend their whole lives never knowing that the other works with yarn.

"This is a special day to get out of your house and go to an event (with your yarn in tow)

just for you and people like you. Who knows - you might even bump into your neighbor" said spokeswoman Jane Clark.

WWKIP Day is one of the largest knitter-run events in the world. Each local event is planned by volunteers and demonstrates that working in the fiber arts can be a community activity in a very

distinct way. Not only grannies knit or crochet or weave!

"It is a day for knitters, crocheters or fiber dabblers to come together in one place to share tips, give advice and make new friends" said Clark.

For more information, call KIP Headquarters at 413-883-6236.

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Wilbraham Board of Selectmen reviews plans for upcoming carnival event

Also, Cemetery Commission vacancy and food truck proposal update discussed

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Board of Selectmen met with Manuel Amusements LLC on June 5 to review plans for their upcoming carnival event.

Stacey Pride, manager of Manuel Amusements LLC, explained the carnival takes place in front of the Scantic River Valley YMCA from July 21-23 and benefits first responders.

When Chairman Theresa Goodrich asked where planning stood, Pride said "everybody has everything" as far as she knows.

Town Administrator Nick Breault provided additional information, explaining Manuel Amusements LLC "has worked hard to get all the documents in, but we don't have everything" including a letter of permission to use the property from the owner.

"We need to have that," Breault said. "The other thing is this is a great opportunity for this company to run this carnival and then make a subsequent donation, perhaps, to first responders in Wilbraham."

Breault added there will need to be some delineation as it is "not an event that is sponsored by or en-

dorsed by the departments."

"It's appreciated, but it cannot be conceived as something that is sponsored by or endorsed by the town," Breault said.

Sue Bunnell was concerned about no formal approval from the land owner and the event being called "The Wilbraham First Responders Carnival."

"I would be much more comfortable with it being Manuel Amusements Carnival with the potential donation to first responders," Bunnell said.

Goodrich and Michael Squindo agreed with Bunnell, with Pride agreeing to follow up with the name change and letter of approval on June 12.

Next, David Bourcier, clerk for the Cemetery Commission, presented a vacancy proposal for the Board of Cemetery Commissioners.

Bourcier explained his father, Chairman Donald Bourcier, and Treasurer Wilfred Renaud had split their terms. The town clerk contacted Bourcier to explain his father had one more term to complete, which means he would need to resign from the one-year post he was elected to recently.

"What we want to do is recommend Will to the board to fill that one-year open term that we have. The reason being it would just provide a smooth transition," Bourcier said.

He added after the one-year term ends, there would be an election for the three-year term.

Squindo asked if the board con-

sidered speaking with the other candidate who ran.

Bourcier responded no, but it was discussed.

The appointment passed 3-0, with Renaud's term beginning June 5, 2023, and ending May 18, 2024.

Lastly, Health Director Finn McCool shared a Food Truck Annual Licensing Proposal, explaining its regulation for providing yearly permits.

McCool received feedback from food trucks and local businesses.

"It seems that's become kind of a tedious process to the point where a food truck is invited to the town, they either can't get in in time or they don't feel like they want to have to pay that fee every time they come to town," McCool said. "This way it would give them an option to be able to get that yearly permit."

Shannon Fields, owner of Fieldcrest Brewing, has worked on this proposal for years, explaining the food trucks are vendors the food establishments also know and have had their food.

"It's not just any food truck coming up and stuff. I guess my question is, I don't understand why we've been waiting for years for this and it just can't just keep getting kicked down," Fields said.

Fields added she's willing to work with anyone to move things forward, including the Board, agreeing to reach out to them with her suggestions.

This item will, also, be followed up on in next week's meeting on June 12.

Adult Summer Reading Challenge at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - This summer, the Wilbraham Public Library will be offering its Adult Summer Reading Challenge entirely on-line. Readers can register to take part in this challenge by going to www.wilbraham.beanstack.org. It is recommended that readers also download the free Beanstack app onto their device.

All that readers need to do for the eight week program (June 17 to Aug. 12) is read one book per week. After each

book, readers can log into their Beanstack account and submit the title of the book, the book's author, and a brief review. A badge and raffle ticket will be earned for each entry (one per week). Drawings for prizes will be done on a weekly basis.

There will also be four "extra" challenges, one every two weeks. Readers can choose one of the four challenges or all four. Complete the challenge for a raffle ticket, allowing for another chance to win a prize! All raffle prizes were made possible by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library and LUSO Federal Credit Union.

Contact tsymlington@wilbraham-library.org for answers to any questions.

Armenian Church to hold Father's Day Picnic June 18

INDIAN ORCHARD - St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Father's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 18, 2023 from noon to 5 p.m. on the church grounds at 135 Goodwin St, Indian Orchard, MA.

Visitors are invited to enjoy many favorite Armenian dinners including shish kebab and rice pilaf. Baked goods will also be available for purchase. The picnic will also feature a raffle, Armenian music and dancing and outdoor activities.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call the Church office at 543-4763.



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Monson Savings Bank donates \$25,000 to Friends' Capital Campaign for new Wilbraham Senior Center

WILBRAHAM - Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

No truer words were ever spoken as demonstrated by the generosity when Monson Savings Bank recently donated \$25,000 towards the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Capital Campaign to raise funds for the new Wilbraham Senior Center.

"Monson Savings is always happy to lend our support to the communities that we serve," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO. "We are excited to see the brand-new Wilbraham Senior Center. At Monson Savings, we value bringing the community together. The new Wilbraham Senior Center will surely be a hub for members of the community to gather and enjoy one another's company."

The Friends have set an ambitious goal of \$750,000 to purchase essential fixtures, furnishings, equipment and accessories like tables, chairs, desks, furniture, bookcases, kitchen supplies, exercise equipment, benches, TV monitors, games, and more.

In addition, the Friends are raising funds for new and expanded programs at the Senior Center to help make their new home a truly meaningful and comfortable destination.

"We are grateful for the generosity of Monson Savings Bank," said Matthew Villamaino, President of



Standing in front of the new Wilbraham Senior Center under construction, Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank (right) proudly presents a ceremonial check to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. (L to R) Matthew Villamaino, President of the Friends, Paula Dubord, Director of Elder Affairs, Wilbraham Senior Center, Carolyn Balicki, Assistant Vice President Retail Onboarding Officer & Wilbraham Branch Manager MSB, Kandra Tranghese, Vice President and CFO MSB, and Moriarty. (Photo courtesy of MSB and Matt Villamaino)

the Friends. "It's partnerships like this that help us fulfill our mission to raise funds

that will enhance our new Senior Center and ultimately provide wonderful programs and services for Wilbraham seniors in their new home."

The new Senior Center broke ground on Feb. 10 and a grand opening is planned in Spring 2024. The two-story 15,554 sq. ft. Se-

nior Center will feature a large multi-purpose room for breakfasts, luncheons, seminars, and exercise programs. It will also have a café/lounge, library area with a two-sided fireplace, game room, fitness and wellness rooms, a commercial kitchen and an outdoor patio complete with tables, comfortable chairs and umbrellas.

The Friends may be reached at Friends01095@gmail.com.



Janna Brown, pictured in the crowd, spoke about meteorology at Stony Hill School last week. (Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)

JANNA from page 1

is important, and I keep going," Brown said.

One challenge that Brown faces in this day in age is the reality that people can receive information on the weather from a number of different sources, digitally. Still, she feels that the connection she has with viewers ultimately gives her the edge.

"I still feel pretty strongly that my personal connection to people in this area is important, and when we do get weather that starts turning dangerous, I think I can provide extra information to help keep them safe," she said, noting that she's seen it happen "where it goes right and where it goes wrong and people don't get the information they need."

This August will mark Brown's seventh year working in Western Massachusetts. She said the best part about working in this market is that everyone is friendly and receptive, which goes against the stereotypes assigned to the northeast.

Brown enjoys any opportunity to speak to an audience, children or adults. She said that when she talks to children about weather, their excitement is obvious.

"It's something everybody experiences, and every child has a story about a storm or a situation that a friend or family member has been in," she said. "So when we talk about weather, especially severe weather, they get very animated and very excited. That's actually the kind of passion I still feel so it kind of revs me up a little bit. It's awesome; we can geek out together and talk about the science."

Lastly, Brown said that the staff members at Stony Hill School were wonderful hosts. She said the children's great behavior is proof that the teachers are good at what they do.

"And it's the end of the school year, everyone's feeling a bit overly energetic, but they were a fantastic crew and a great school," she said.

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Friends of the Library to hold book sale June 7-10

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

We know many folks in our community are avid readers and have been accumulating books throughout the year. We are happy to once again offer the ideal opportunity to recycle these books, stock up on new ones and fund library programs.

The WFOL 2023 Book Sale will be held Wednesday, June 7 through 1pm Saturday, June 10 in the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library. It will include gently-used books, CDs, and DVDs for all ages and genres.

Please save your good used

books and materials for our sale. Children's and adult books, fiction or non-fiction, hobby books etc. are all welcomed. Due to space restrictions, we cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines or Readers Digest condensed novels.

As a thank you for their support, donors will receive a coupon good for 2 free books of their choice from the sale when donations are dropped off. Donations of books and materials will be accepted at the library from Friday, June 2 through Monday, June 5 during regular library hours.

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

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

Pastel painter Georgia O'Keefe's Calla Lily at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Pastel artist Greg Maichak will be returning to the library once again to guide experienced and potential artists through the use of pastels in the Brooks Room on Monday, June 12 at 6-8 p.m. The picture will be Georgia O'Keefe's Calla Lily. Greg will also provide insights about the lives of the old masters who painted flowers: Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, and of

course Georgia O'Keefe. All materials will be provided, including paper, pencils, and professional-grade pastels. This adults-only event is supported in part by funds from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Space is limited, so registration is required: www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Huskies wreak havoc

Hampden Board of Selectmen holds dog hearing following car accident

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen held a dog hearing with the Williams' family on June 5 in light of new incidents around their husky dogs.

Animal Control Officer Shelley Sears provided a recap to open the meeting, including how a hearing was held back in November 2022 and numerous calls and concerns have been placed to her about the dogs since.

Sears then shared two new incidents. "Then, a couple of weeks ago, they get out onto Ware Road and killed a couple chickens, and then on Tuesday, they get out and both were hit by cars and caused an accident," Sears said.

She added the dogs were at the home of the chickens a week earlier.

Mrs. Williams agreed "there is no excuse" for the incidents.

"We are doing what we can, my husband and I. We contact Shelley if we have a question," Williams said. "We try to do the best that we can."

Williams added one of the dogs now lives with her son in Enfield, while the other, owned by her daughter, will be addressed.

"We're just as frustrated and fed up as you are," Williams said.

Selectman Craig Rivest asked about shock collars and dog training, explaining the family needs to do the work to provide the proper training.

"You have to work with them and get them to repetitive behaviors. I think that may have gotten overlooked in some of the training processes to get the dog to listen, in a way. The obedience portion of it doesn't seem to be there, so I think that's what we're concerned about," Rivest said.

Williams later clarified, "These were not our dogs" and belong to her children.

"This is just something that we, unfortunately, inherited, and we're doing the best we can," Williams said.

Jim Gillum was one of the drivers in the recent car accident. He was uninjured, but his car was heavily damaged.

"I got the insurance estimate on my car today, which was heavily damaged, it's going to cost \$3,100 plus to get repaired, and that means I'm going to be out of pocket for \$300. This is a deductible on that. I don't feel like I should have to pay that, so I was looking for some sort of help with that night from you," Gillum said.

Gillum added after hearing what Sears shared and the Board discussed: "Clearly, not enough has been done to control these dogs, to contain these dogs."

"It's gone on for a long time, and I feel like the board has been remiss in not getting something done, definitively, to protect the public," Gillum said.

He also said the accident could have been a lot worse.

"I feel like a lot more should have been done, could have been done and hasn't been done. Whatever the reasons are for the dogs getting out, as far as I'm concerned it doesn't hold water," Gillum said.

Board Chair John Flynn acknowledged Williams and her husband were bearing the brunt of the scrutiny and "were feeling just as bad about it as we are."

However, he said, "it's a bit of a wake-up call" for all involved.

"I think we're at the point where we need to partner with you and do something that protects the town," Flynn said.

The family has agreed to reimburse Gillum, install an invisible fence by the end of the month and participate in handler training with proof of completion.

Flynn said it's the final warning.

"It has to be a cooperative thing here to take care of this problem," Flynn said.

The motion passed 3-0.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

SARAH MAILHOTT
VP, Marketing

To honor Sarah's passion and commitment to achieving excellence, **PNCU will be closing at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, June 14, 2023** to celebrate.



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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST OPINION

Planning for safe celebrations for your teen

By Abaigeal Duda

It's prom and graduation celebration season, which for teens can be both exciting and worrisome. For parents, this may also be true, but for different reasons.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens and that one out of three crashes involve alcohol or other substances. In rural areas like ours, when these tragedies occur, they are felt by the entire community. How can we support our young people so that they create positive memories of these milestones?

There are some practical steps that you can take as a parent, or caregiver:

The most important and effective is also typically the most overlooked: Have an honest conversation. How do you feel about underage drinking and other substance use? If you aren't aware of the negative effects on the development of young brains, it's worth understanding that there can be long-term consequences.

One Choice (saying no to all substances) has a good overview at tinyurl.com/5jzsyhtd. Studies show that encouraging young people to make choices that support their health, wellbeing and long-term success rather than trying to

scare them with horror stories to avoid – is the most effective approach.

People tend to overestimate how many other people use substances like alcohol and other drugs. In the Quaboag Hills region, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance conducts surveys in our school districts, and it is true of all schools and grade levels that most students are making choices not to use substances.

If you aren't sure how to start a conversation with a child or teen, get examples from "Talk. They Hear You" at samhsa.gov. Another way to have a conversation about driving expectations is to Take "The Pledge," an agreement between caregivers and teens available at the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance website at qhsua.org.

Know who is driving your teen. The night of prom or graduation, will another teen be driving? A parent? An older sibling? A hired vehicle and driver? In our area, we do not have the same transportation options that are available in more urban areas. If a teen suddenly realizes that his/her/their ride has been drinking, calling for a cab or rideshare is very unlikely to be a viable option.

No matter who is supposed to drive, make sure that your child knows that you are available to take a call if there is any question about

transportation safety or any other questionable situation that may arise. You might agree upon a text or emoji to send to you to let you know that you are needed so that he/she/they don't have to have an awkward conversation that might be overheard about unsafe behavior.

If you are hosting a graduation party at your home for your teen, make it a "dry" party. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Massachusetts' underage drinking laws known as the Social Host Law. If underage drinking does happen on your property, you could face criminal or civil liability charges. Make a list of fun activities with your teen and his/her/their friends that they would enjoy doing together to create positive memories that will last a long, healthy lifetime.

Healthy celebrations are celebrations worth remembering.

Abaigeal Duda is STOP Act Grant project director at the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. For more information, or if you or a loved one needs help for substance abuse, call the statewide helpline at 1-800-327-5050 (TTY: 1-800-439-2370); the phone line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also go to hub.helplinema.org/findhelp.



I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working: Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim vs. claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate. I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20

participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Last day of school quiz...(match the faces)

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Janitor
- d. Student
- e. Mom
- f. Bus driver



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Correction Policy

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

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SCHOOLS

23rd annual Letters About Literature Awards announced

Wilbraham student honored

NORTHAMPTON – Massachusetts Center for the Book has announced the 2023 Top Honor and Honors student writers in its flagship program for students, Letters About Literature. This Commonwealth-wide reading and writing initiative invites students from Grades 4 to 12 to write letters to authors about the books that have had special meaning to them.

The 15 honorees, representing the top 1.5% of this year's program submissions, were celebrated at a virtual awards celebration on May 17. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Massachusetts author Alexandra Marshall welcomed the students, families, teachers, librarians, judges, staff, and fellow MCB board members.

Marshall commended the students on their work and also told them, as a writer, how important it is for authors to hear from readers, because that's why authors write: "with the wish to be read."

State Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton) provided the legislative welcome to those in attendance and continued the theme of the communi-

cations loop that students have completed. She noted that since the time of the ancients, great thinkers have believed that great writing should teach, move, and delight us. She commended the students for showing in their letters how books taught them lessons and also prompted strong feelings and great pleasure.

"In turn, your letters have taught, moved, and delighted us with your articulate thoughts about the importance of books in your lives," she concluded with appreciation.

Caroline Euber of Wilbraham, a seventh grader at Wilbraham Middle School, earned Honors in Level 2 for her letter to John Green about "The Fault in Our Stars".

"Congratulations, Caroline, for being able to articulate so eloquently the solace you found in a good book," noted State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

State Rep. Angelo J. Puppulo (D-Springfield) commended Caroline with these words: "Caroline's letter shows the importance of books and reading and how a book like John Green's can impact young people's understanding and attitudes."

Matthew W. DeVine graduates from The Berkshire School

SHEFFILED – Matthew W. DeVine of Wilbraham was recently awarded The Berkshire Cup, the highest distinction The Berkshire School confers on one of its graduating seniors. The award is given to the student who is considered by faculty to have made the greatest contribution to the success of the school year. Along with his honor roll status, Matt also reached a milestone on the basketball court this past winter after he scored his 1,000th point for his high school career. Matt will be attending Williams College, Williamstown in the fall.

Students named to Spring 2023 Dean's List at AIC

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield, is pleased to announce that 495 students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester. Dean's List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these diligent and hard-working students. The following students are local.

Hampden: Kendal Bates and Mikayla Clark

Wilbraham: Joseph Albano, Grace Beaupre and Brendan Carmichael

Lasell University Spring Dean's List

NEWTON – The Spring 2023 Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. The list of students from Wilbraham includes: Zachary Mills, Sam Roberts and Justin Hanna.

O'Toole receives Finance Award

SPRINGFIELD – Michael B. O'Toole of Wilbraham, a recent graduate at WNEU, was selected the 2023 co-recipient of the Outstanding Student in Finance Award at Western New England University. The award was presented during the College of Business Senior Awards luncheon on May 2.

More school on page 19

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OBITUARIES

Byron 'Ray' Musselman

Byron 'Ray' Musselman of East Longmeadow and Ellenton, FL died at the age of 80-years-old after a long fight with oral cancer.

Ray Musselman was born June 3, 1942 and graduated from Technical High School. He went to University of Dayton, OH and held a Bachelor's of Arts and a Master's Degree in English. He taught at Minnechaug High School for 32 years and was the 'School's Match Wits' Coach. Ray was also very proud to be a member of the Baptist Church.

Ray leaves behind his sister Dana Whittle of Bluffton, SC.



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Strokes have many causes

Energy drinks among the latest

SPRINGFIELD – Eat this, not that. Drink this, not that. What's a person to think? One day coffee is good for you, then another study a year later says it is not.

Now caffeine, the popular stimulant in a person's daily "cup of joe," is under scrutiny again, but this time in relation to energy drinks and energy shots – and a risk for stroke. Energy shots are a concentrated form of energy drinks, which contain caffeine and other substances like energy drinks, but in smaller volumes.

May was National Stroke Awareness Month. A stroke, also known as transient ischemic attack or cerebrovascular accident, happens when blood flow to the brain is blocked, preventing the brain from getting oxygen and nutrients from the blood needed to keep brain cells alive.

"There is a paucity of research data on the topic of whether energy drinks can cause an ischemic stroke. While there is no definitive study offering proof to that effect, scientists have found possible links between the two," said Dr. Melissa Mercado of the Neurology Division at Baystate Health.

"What we as doctors are certain of is that drinking excessive amounts of caffeine increases your heart rate and blood pressure, and that high blood pressure is the leading risk for stroke," she added.

Caffeine is a stimulant which occurs naturally in the seeds, nuts and leaves of various plants, including coffee beans, tea leaves, cocoa beans, kola nuts and guarana seeds.

Energy drinks contain large amounts of caffeine, the biggest culprit, as well as added sugars and other stimulants such as guarana, taurine and L-carnitine. The National Institutes of Health notes that 70 to 240 milligrams of caffeine can be found in a 16-oz drink and 113 to 200 milligrams in an energy shot.

For healthy adults, the Food and Drug Administration cites 400 milligrams a day – equal to about 4-5 cups of coffee – as relatively safe from deleterious health effects. And the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that adolescents aged 12-18 should not exceed 100mg/day or an average cup of coffee. They also go as far as to say that "caffeine and other stimulants contained in energy drinks have no place in the diet of children and adolescents."

A sampling of published reports on the ill-effects of energy drinks include:

A story published by the Cleveland Clinic entitled "Warning: Are You Aware That Energy Drinks Can Trigger Strokes?" noted that energy drinks can cause anxiety, high blood pressure, heart palpitation, and caffeine intoxication and withdrawal in young people, and while adolescents may use energy drinks to study, long-term me-

ga-doses of caffeine are not good for the brain.

A small study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, the Open Access Journal of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, found that drinking 32 ounces of an energy drink in a short timespan may increase blood pressure and the risk of electrical disturbances in the heart, which affects heart rhythm.

An article in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine in 2012 entitled "Do energy drinks cause epileptic seizures and ischemic stroke?" – the authors report a case where a patient had ischemic stroke and epileptic seizure after intake of energy drinks with alcohol. At the time it was believed to be the first reported case.

A paper published by Rutgers University called "Hazards to Caffeine in Energy Drinks and Healthy Alternatives" noted the death of a healthy Irish teenager before a basketball game because of cardiac arrest after consuming four cans of a popular energy drink led to a ban on energy drinks in some European countries. The paper also noted that although studies cannot prove that energy drinks directly cause such hazards as diabetes, seizures, cardiovascular issues, and mood changes in consumers, they can correlate the energy drinks to each of those cases and to seizures and stroke.

According to the National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, energy drinks are the most popular dietary supplement consumed by American teens and young adults. Men between the ages of 18-34 consume the most energy drinks, and almost one-third of teens between the ages of 12-17 drink them regularly.

Consider the popular phrase – "Everything in moderation."

"Since many Americans today are often known for their overconsumption of food and beverages, including energy drinks, doctors often recommend that adults drink no more than one can a day, with many pediatricians agreeing that even a single can may be too much for children and younger adults," said Mercado.

The Baystate neurologist noted that chugging down too many energy drinks can lead to a condition called reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome which can result in the risk of stroke, noted Mercado.

"RCVS causes a narrowing of the blood vessels in the brain, which can restrict its blood supply. Its main symptom is a sudden, severe headache, often referred to as a 'thunder-clap headache,' unlike you've never experienced," said Mercado.

"While many Americans, especially college students and athletes, turn to energy drinks to improve their concentration and reduce fatigue, as well as to enhance their physical performance, regular coffee is likely a safer alternative with less additives and sugar that could lead to other health problems," she said.

The acute stroke team at Baystate Medical Center provides care for more than 1,600 stroke patients each year, more than any other hospital in western Massachusetts. Treatment and rehabilitation services include inpatient stroke services, stroke emergency services, telestroke services, rehabilitation services after stroke, and stroke support services.

For more information on Baystate Health and its stroke services, visit baystatehealth.org/stroke, and follow us on our social media channels:

CAREERS from page 1

in town where they eventually gained full-time employment.

Tyler Alves is currently a patrolman at the Wilbraham Police Department, where he worked as student intern during his senior year of high school in 2016. Inspired by School Resource Officer Dan Menard, Alves applied for the law enforcement internship, then known as the "student trooper program".

"It was when the old (police station) was on Main Street so I got to shadow every shift; day shift, evenings, midnights. I met a lot of people, some of which are retired and some of which are still here... The guys I met and I look up to I now call my coworkers, which is pretty cool," Tyler Alves said.

If not for the internship program, Tyler Alves is unsure of where he would be today. He envisioned a career in law enforcement previously, but the internship offered him connections that made pursuing the career more realistic.

"If we didn't have the internship program, it would have been a lot trickier," he said.

Tanner Alves, a 2020 Minnechaug graduate, interned at Spartan Automotive Center during his senior year. Today, he works there as an automotive tech.

Unsure of where the future would take him, Tanner Alves said his internship was a life altering experience.

"I'm so glad I did it because when I first went in, I had cold feet about being a tech. Basically, this really opened my eyes to what I really want to do, which is great," he said.

Tanner Alves said the program offers students an opportunity to pursue potential pathways and learn if they are career possibilities. Considine agreed that the program offers students a unique advantage.

"You don't get to really explore the career you're majoring in sometimes until your junior year of college so you actually get some experience and some boots on the ground in the major you're thinking of doing in college (is highly beneficial)," she said.

Considine said each internship offers students a "pre-glimpse" into what a career could look like before requiring them to make a full investment.

Minnechaug students have a chance to apply for an internship as an elective during their junior year before receiving placement ahead of their senior year.

Considine relies on her personal connections in the region to help students land opportunities and also works with River East School-to-Career, based in Palmer.

"When I look at the applications and see what the first choice is for students, I take a look at that and see where do I need to find a new contact," she said.

Considine also makes use of Facebook pages such as the Wilbraham Open Forum. She said the community is so responsive that someone typically responds to her posts within 24 hours.

Every connection made could help a future student turn a dream into a reality. The initial contact is important, and if a mentor has a good experience with a student, they will most likely take another.

"It's great because it just expands the network and gives other kids for years to come more opportunities," she said.

Each year, several students gain part-time employment with the mentors following an internship. Others, like the Alves brothers, go on to earn full-time employment.

Considine said that reality speaks volumes for the program, as students have been hired by a wide range of industries. She said the longest relationships involve students interning under teachers.

"In every single building across the district we have teachers who are wanting and willing to take our students as well," she said. "Those students go back and do their student teaching with those teachers, all through college, so the longevity of the relationship between the high school student and the mentor has been really incredible."

Considine also credits the school district and the high school administration team for its support of the program, noting that it could not operate without their encouragement.

"If you don't have leadership that believes in this type of program, you won't have a program so the fact our team, both district and building, is so passionate about work-based learning is also what drives the program," she said.

Tanner Alves credits Considine, noting that "she has been absolutely great with everything she does" and that "there's a lot of work she puts in."

He continued to explain how his internship experience recently became a full-circle one.

"This year, I had my first intern from 'Chaug so it was awesome. I was able to teach him some stuff, and it's basically full-circle because that was me like three years ago. It's great to be able to teach someone that was in my position. It was an honor to be able to do that," Tanner Alves said.

For Tyler Alves, he couldn't be more proud of his brother. Although the local police department no longer accepts interns, although Considine said the Springfield Police Department does, he encourages future high school seniors to apply to pursue their passions.

"What people should know is that it's a great opportunity, and it's one of those things where not a lot of people are necessarily sure if they should do it; 100% do it," he said. "It's really a great thing. It's an amazing opportunity and definitely an opportunity that should be taken advantage of."

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Congratulations Class of 2023



Symphony Hall in downtown Springfield was filled near capacity for Minnechaug's graduation ceremony.



Class Marshall, and 2024 Class President, Edward Owens directed the graduates to their seats at the beginning of last Friday's graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION from page 1

UConn in the coming months.

Cowles was the first student to reach the podium last Friday, as he shared his speech "Embrace the Moment" with the class and those in attendance.

Cowles began by thanking his mother, father, brother John and sister Emma for their unconditional support. He also thanked the district's faculty and administrators for teaching him beyond the textbooks.

"I will never forget the lessons and wisdom that's been instilled on me, all of which truly goes deeper than a classroom. Maybe most importantly, I want to thank the student body for four years of amazing memories and experiences that will remain a part of my identity forever," he said.

Reflecting on his high school journey, Cowles said he was unfulfilled when he first entered Minnechaug because he expected the school to be a "beast." It wasn't, and he settled into his freshman year before a life changing sequence of events occurred.

"Everything changed for all of us with a two-week vacation that turned into four that proceeded to turn into months and months of staying home alone with nothing but our grades, the endless loop of TikTok and Zoom classes conducted over school-issued Chrome books," Cowles said.

Ultimately, the Class of 2023 endured. Cowles said he found strength in the class and offered his classmates one last farewell.

"I look around at the 228 people I've called my peers, colleagues and most importantly friends and it dawns on me that this is the last time these 228 people are configured in the same room together ever," he said. "In just a few short months, we'll be situated all around the world with different friend groups and different paths and different lives. This chapter of our lives is closed."

Supczak spoke next, sharing his speech "Hurdles", as he discussed both participating in hurdles races as a member of the track and field team and overcoming hurdles such as the pandemic.

"Perhaps the biggest hurdle in our lives presented itself on March 13, 2020 when our lives were affected forever," he said. "Can we honestly say any of us knew what a pandemic was before March 2020? We learned so many new words that weren't in our vocabulary before, such as 'remote,' not like the thing we use for the television, or 'Zoom,' not like the sound effect little children use for going fast, or 'quarantine' or 'social distancing.'"

Supczak said it was difficult to make connections with teachers, as students adjusted to the hybrid environment. He added that family connections became more important making "our pets absolutely the biggest winners during this isolation period."

Supczak summarized his high school experience by noting that despite staring down many hurdles, the class was not intimidated by them. He said his classmates became creative problem solvers, which suits them well as they enter the real world.

"Remember, intentions are good, but they mean absolutely nothing unless you take action," Supczak said. "As you move forward to the next journey, capitalize on opportunities and turn unsolved intentions into actions. Expect adversity in your journey because it is inevitable but remember that the journey you have been on has set you up to be successful."

Congratulations Class of 2023!

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Especially GUISEPPE CIRILLO (left) graduating from Ludlow High School and CHRIS PAUL (right) graduating from Minnechaug High School. We are so proud of you!

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Congratulations Class of 2023



Class speaker & Salutatorian Nikolas Supczak in Symphony Hall on June 2.



Class President Patrick Cowles, speaking during the graduation ceremony.



Superintendent John Provost, speaking during the Minnechaug graduation ceremony on June 2.



Principal Steve Hale at Minnechaug's graduation on June 2. (Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski)



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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Pioneer Valley Financial Group's managing partners, Edward Sokolowski, Kelly Haber and Karen Nogueira presented Rick's Place, Inc. with a donation of \$5,000 following the nonprofit's expansion to Westfield. Rick's Place compassionately supports grieving children, teens and their families through facilitated peer activities, school-based programs and community outreach. (Photo courtesy of Jocelyn Walker)



Carmen Santos and Zaneta Graskis from PNCU dropped off this raffle basket last Friday to Wilbraham Police Officer Mike Cygan. The raffle basket will be raffled off at their 6th Annual Wilbraham Police Relief Association Golf Tournament on June 9 (Photo courtesy of PNCU)

Life in & WILBRAHAM

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



On Saturday, June 3 in Wilbraham... Logan Walsh crosses the finish line to win Rice's 5K Road Race for the second year in a row. He completed the course in 16:26:90.

(Photo courtesy of Peter Camyre)



Bib #25 Logan Walsh leads the pack down Main Street in Wilbraham on Saturday. He was the eventual winner of Rice's 5K Road Race. (Photo courtesy of Peter Camyre)

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June 3.



Melissa Carreira (of Wilbraham) and her Son Maddox cross the finish line in Rice's 5K Road Race on Saturday June 3. (Photo courtesy of Proud Uncle Peter Camyre)

Community Bulletin Board

.....

**Happy 14th Birthday
Annabella!**

We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Nicholas, Anthony, and Stanlee

.....

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

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



Peter Manolakis submitted this photo of a Snapping Turtle laying eggs at 15 Brookside Circle in Wilbraham.



Peter Manolakis submitted this photo of a deer and her calf in Wilbraham.

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:



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A total of 228 students graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School as part of the Class of 2023 on June 2.



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Congratulations Minnechaug 2023 graduates. Best wishes for a bright future.



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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Congratulations Class of 2023



Minnechaug Class of 2023 graduate Arianna Alves was with Beth Morin, her fifth-grade teacher at Soule Road School, who she invited to graduation on June 2. (Courtesy photo)



Principal Steve Hale hugs his son Joseph, who graduated on June 2. (Courtesy photos)



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Congratulations Graduates!
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CONGRATULATIONS
Jenna Gleason!

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Love, Mom, Liam & family

Cameron Gray

We are so proud of you and can't wait to see where life takes you.

Love Mom, Dad and Gillian

Congratulations
Taryn Grozio

on graduating with highest honors from Minnechaug! We are so proud of you and excited to see you shine at Clemson University!

Love, Mom, Dad, Breslin & Harlowe

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Cassandra Toth

We are very proud of all you have accomplished and wish you luck and a great future at Framingham State University.

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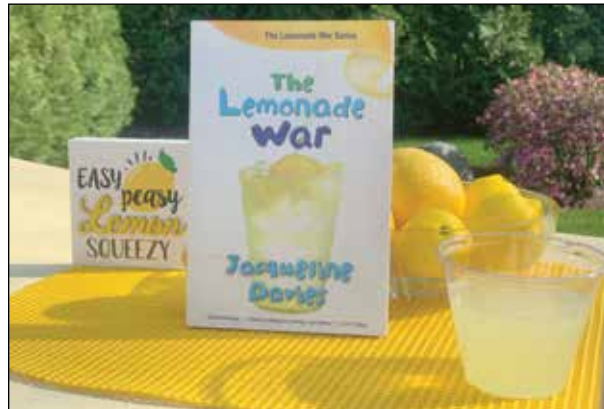
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One Book One Community reveals 2023 book and summer programming



(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Iverson)



(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Iverson)



(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Iverson)



(Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)



(Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)



(Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)

HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM – On June 1, HWRSD One Book One Community revealed its 2023 Book selection – “The Lemonade War”, by Jacqueline Davies. Students in grades K-5 in the district received a copy of the book, generously donated by LUSO Federal Credit Union. Along with the book, students were given a bookmark and flyers with information about all of the summer programming.

Families are invited to participate in a story walk at Thayer Brook, take and make craft activities at the Wilbraham Public Library and weekly raffles at the Hampden Free Public Library throughout the summer. One Book One Community will host booths at various events, including the Main Street Farmer’s Market, the Peach Blossom Festival, and the Bushel of Fun Fest at Fern Valley.

Additionally, children can take part in a “Game of Life”



(Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan)

scavenger hunt; completed game cards can be submitted at LUSO Federal Credit Union for a chance to win one of five great prizes. Rice Fruit Farm will give one free kiddie ice cream to any child who completes the money management bingo game, which is included in the flyer packet. In October, the author of the book, Jacqueline Davies, will visit all elementary schools in the Hampden Wilbraham School District.

For a full list of summer activities and a summary of The Lemonade War, please visit One Book One Community’s website: <https://sites.google.com/hwrso.org/onebook>.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

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Falcons fall to Brownies in WMass final

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—A decade ago, the Agawam boys' volleyball team defeated Ludlow High School in the Western Mass. finals before capturing the state championship title for the first time in school history with a 3-1 victory over Milford High School in the state finals.

Agawam was also the Western Mass. champions the next year, but they had to wait nine years before celebrating another championship title on the volleyball court.

The top-seeded Brownies didn't have very much trouble dispatching North Division rival and second-seeded Minnechaug Regional, 3-0, (25-13, 25-15, 25-16) in the 2023 Western Mass. Class B finals, which took place inside Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium, last Saturday afternoon.

"We haven't won the Western Mass. title since 2014, so it feels very good to finally win it," said Agawam senior Daniel Yovenko.

"We didn't have a volleyball season when I was freshman because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were a brand new team in my sophomore year, and we worked very hard to rebuild this program from the ground up. We did come very close to winning the Western Mass. title last year."

A year ago, the Brownies squeaked out a 3-2 win over the Minnechaug Falcons in the Western Mass. semifinals before losing to Ludlow, 3-1, in the finals at Holyoke High School.

"After losing in last year's Western Mass. final, we came into this season with some extra motivation," added Yovenko, who led his team in this year's championship match with 16 kills, along with five digs, and three aces. "We won today's match as a team, and it feels ten times better."

Yovenko's older brother, Ben, was also a member of the Brownies boys' volleyball team a couple of years ago.

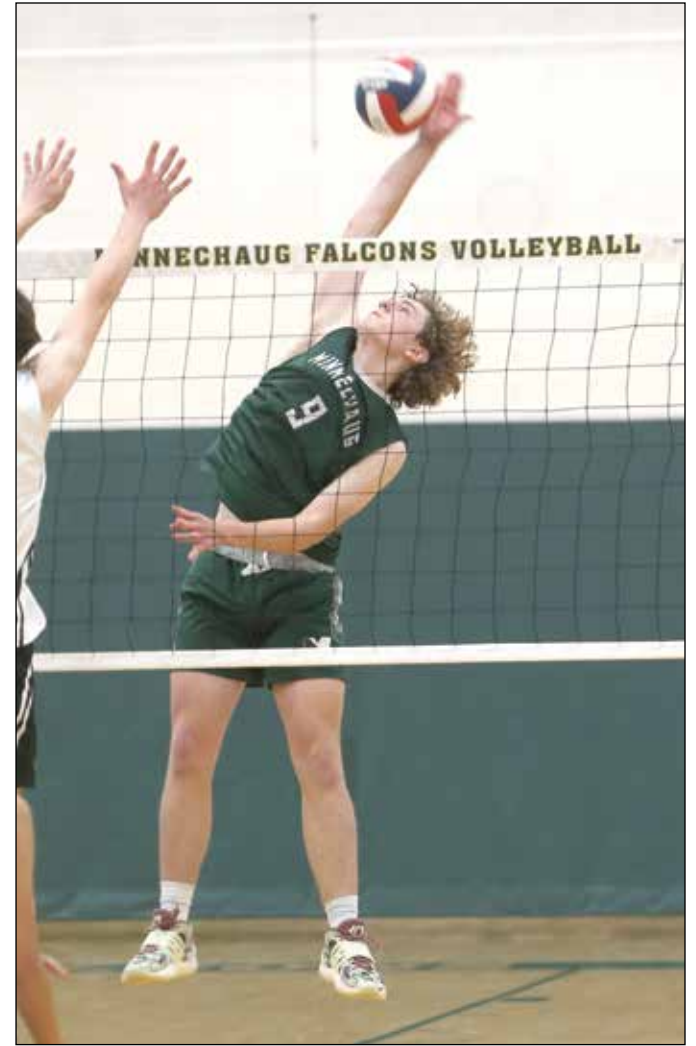
"My older brother wasn't able to win a championship title when he was in high school," Yovenko

said. "His uniform number was 15 and I also wear the same number. I looked up to him when I was younger."

The other seniors listed on the Agawam varsity roster are Carson Asselin, Colin Jorgenson, Antoine Poulin, Dan Fronckevich, Colin La, and Nick Uschmann, who's a first-year member of the volleyball team. Uschmann also reached double digits with 10 kills in the Western Mass. final.

"This is a very big win for our program," said Kevin Pender, who won his first championship title as the Agawam boys' varsity volleyball coach. "I was an assistant coach when we won back-to-back Western Mass. titles in 2013 and 2014. We won the state title for the first time in 2013. We're also colleague champions with Westfield this year."

The Brownies (18-2) advanced into the championship match following a 3-0 semifinal home win against fourth-seeded Ludlow, who are also members of the North



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Benjamin Wilson reaches back for a spike.

Please see **FALCONS**, page 17

Minnechaug turned away by Longmeadow



Samantha Moore makes a pass from behind the goal.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The Minnechaug girls were the runners-up in the Class A Western Mass. Championship game last Wednesday.



Rylee Welch makes the catch on a pass.



WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Minnechaug girls lacrosse team fell to Longmeadow 16-2 in the finals of the Class A Western Mass. Tournament held last Wednesday at West Springfield High School. Minnechaug got two goals in the match from Jayme Cerasuolo. The Falcons moved into the state tournament, defeating Nauset in the Round of 32.

Jayme Cerasuolo looks to get around an opponent and shoot.

Kaliana Gagnon looks to pick up the low ball.



Chaug can't repeat win over Lancers

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Earlier this season, Minnechaug boys lacrosse got some huge momentum when it defeated league rival Longmeadow in a rare regular match. Lightning did not strike twice for the Falcons in a 10-6 loss to the Lancers in the finals of the Class A Western Mass. Tournament held last Wednesday at West Springfield High School. In the defeat, Isaiah Kozub and Matt Beaudin had two goals each and Charlie Hartin added a goal and two assists. The Falcons moved on to face North Middlesex in the first round of the state tournament.



David Noel makes a pass on the run.



Isaiah Kozub makes his way up the field.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nicholas Boudreau rears back for a pass.



Matthew Wurszt holds the ball back as he heads into traffic.



Matthew Beaudin looks to make a move.

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

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

mine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

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

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art facility al-

lows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

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

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

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

Opening weekend for Blue Sox

HOLYOKE - The Valley Blue Sox return to MacKenzie Stadium next week, with their first home game on Thursday, June 8 at 6:35 p.m. The team will then have three more home games June 9, 10, and 11. There will be a special promotion for all fans who attend all 4 home games this coming weekend.

The team announced that any fans who attend all four games June 8-11 will receive their choice of either four flex tickets to any of the remaining home games this season, or early access to a new Blue Sox T-shirt before they go on sale. Fans will receive a punch card on Opening Night that will be filled in with different colored stickers at each game until all four are collected after the weekend.

On Opening Night the team will be facing the Bristol Blues and giving away magnet schedules. The following night, Friday June 9 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the Ocean State Wolves, the team will be hosting Isenberg Night, and giving away T-shirts sponsored by Isenberg School of Management. The first 100 UMass students to show their UCard upon entry will receive a voucher for one free meal and drink. Saturday June 10 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the North Shore Navigators, Boston Beer Co. will be sponsoring a Dogfish Tasting night, and fans will be able to enter a Red Sox/Sam Adams bench raffle. Finally on Sunday June 11 at 3 p.m. vs. the Martha's Vineyard Sharks, the City of Holyoke will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary with the team.

Fans are encouraged to come show their support for the start of the new season, and the Blue Sox look forward to seeing fans back at MacKenzie Stadium next Thursday.



Tristen Hottin gets the bump.



Christopher Zayas goes to his right to keep the ball in play.



Amar Gamidov looks to spike the ball over the opponent.



Hunter LaDouceur goes for the set.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HISTORICAL from page 15
Division.

“Ludlow is a talented volleyball team and we needed to play well in order to beat them the other night,” Pender said. “It was also nice beating Ludlow, especially after losing to them in last year’s final. This has been a very special season for us.”

The last time that Minnechaug (10-10) won the Western Mass. title was in 2008. They also won both the Western Mass. and state titles four years earlier.

The Falcons defeated third-seeded Longmeadow, 3-2, in this year’s semifinal match, which took place on their home court.

“This was the first time that any of us had played in the Western Mass. finals,” said Minnechaug senior tri-captain Chris Zayas, who’ll be a freshman at Westfield State University in the fall. “It was a good expe-

rience, but we didn’t play our best match of the season. We needed to play our best to win this match.”

Junior Ben Wilson and senior Amar Gamidov are also captains for the Falcons.

The other Minnechaug seniors are Jared Laliberte, Alex Tirabassi, and Will St. John.

Minnechaug head coach Josh Griffith wasn’t available for comment following the match.

The Falcons held a 1-0 lead in the opening set before the Brownies built a double digit lead (14-4) with the help of a 12-2 run.

A kill by Yovenko gave the Brownies a commanding 19-7 lead.

The Falcons scored three unanswered points and closed the gap to 20-10 following a kill by Gamidov.

Agawam held onto the lead and entered the second set with a 1-0 lead in the match.

“Winning the first set was huge for us,” Yovenko said. “It set the tone for the rest of the match.”

The Brownies held the lead from start to finish in the second set.

Minnechaug was trailing, 23-9 before reeling off five consecutive points with Tirabassi handling the serving duties. The Falcons sliced the deficit to 24-15 before the Brownies won the final point of the second set.

The score was tied several times at the beginning of the third set before the Brownies took a 14-7 lead with the help of an 11-3 run.

“We did put-together a couple of big runs in today’s match,” Pender said. “It’s something that doesn’t happen very often, especially against a good team like Minnechaug. We never took our foot off the gas pedal.”

The Brownies never looked back after that, as their nine year championship drought came to an end.

Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
- Food vouchers for every home game
- Transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12

Sox game on June 12

- Free clinics for any household member ages 6-13
- Special Host Family recognition event
- 40% discount on all merchandise
- Season-long access to our live-game radio
- Access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined

If you are interested in being a host family, please contact matt@valleybluesox.com for more information.

CAMPUS NOTES

Springfield College recognizes local Dean’s List Students for the 2023 Spring Semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College recognizes the following local students for being named to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2023 spring semester:

Hampden

Jacob Bailey. Bailey has a primary major of Psychology.

Tim Connors. Connors has a primary major of Criminal Justice.

Connor Joyce. Joyce has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Sophia Varelakis. Varelakis has a primary major of Business Management.

Wilbraham

Kelsey Allard. Allard has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Francesca Bongiorno. Bongiorno has a primary major of Health Care Management.

Catharine Brennan. Brennan has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Sarah Champagne. Champagne has a primary major of Sports Biology.

Audriana Croteau. Croteau has a primary major of Health Science.

Gianna DeRose. DeRose has a primary major of Psychology.

Emma Delamarter. Delamarter has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Scott Dunbar II. Dunbar II has a primary major of Accounting.

Frank Gulluni. Gulluni has a primary major of Sport Management.

Amanda Hitchcock. Hitchcock has a primary major of English.

Jennifer Holstrom. Holstrom has a primary major of Business Management.

Jacob Long. Long has a primary major of Sport Management.

Olivia Long. Long has a primary major of Sport Management.

Joe Manning. Manning has a primary major of Sport Management.

Joseph Maurer. Maurer has a primary major of Sport Management.

Ryan McConnell. McConnell has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Abigail Roebuck. Roebuck has a primary major of English.

Madison Roy. Roy has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Jessica Semanie. Semanie has a primary major of Psychology.

Maggie Skorka. Skorka has a primary major of Education.

Samantha VanZandt. VanZandt has a primary major of Business Management.

Trebbe of Hampden awarded degree from Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, RI – Nora Trebbe of Hampden was awarded a bachelor of science degree in Biology during Salve Regina University’s 73rd commencement.

Salve Regina President Kelli Armstrong conferred 804 degrees in total during the ceremony, including 589 bachelor’s degrees, 207 master’s degrees and eight doctoral degrees.

More campus notes on page 7

NOTICE

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

Classifieds

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FOR SALE

ESTATE SALE
11 CALVIN STREET CHICOPEE
 June 10 & 11 8 AM - 4 PM no early birds please

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
 Fresh cut & split \$180.00
 Seasoned cut & split \$270.00
 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
 *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

!!!!FRESH CUT!!!! Over a cord guaranteed. Cut, Split, Prompt delivery. Call D & D Cordwood **(413)348-4326**.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

PIANO BENCH LEATHER ADJUSTABLE EBONY \$90.00 Bogen professional 3001 tripod \$75.00 Real wicker 2 chairs 1 loveseat \$125.00. Cuisinart insta-pot electric pressure cooker used once \$75.00 Husqvarna Viking Daisy sewing machine never used \$85.00 **(413)256-1670**

TAG SALE

DANA WOODS ANNUAL tag sale: Belchertown: George Hannum Rd off Rt 9 (turn at Stop & Shop) Children's clothes, toys, furniture, housewares, tools and more! **Saturday, June 10th, 9:00am-3:00pm**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY
ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860)874-8396**

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

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

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING. Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

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

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

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

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 Storm Clean-up
 Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
 Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954**.

DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

ELECTRIFIED LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE CALL **(413)799-5686**

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 Call or text **413-266-9975**
 Insured - Commercial and Residential

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 Residential and Commercial
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 Free estimates, Fully licensed and insured.
 You'll like us mower
413-240-1992

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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

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DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

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Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

FOR RENT

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

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 or call: 413-283-8393 HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

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1	2	3	4
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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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 Circulation: 59,000

Hilltowns
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First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
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PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Marcel Verdon for a Special Permit to exceed the size limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,500 square foot accessory building on property owned by the applicant at 23 Pine Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/591126677> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 591-126-677).

John McCloskey
Chair

06/08, 06/15/2023

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Mathew Peters for a Special Permit to exceed the size limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,536 square foot accessory building on property owned by the applicant at 25 Bennett Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/591126677> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 591-126-677).

John McCloskey
Chair

06/08, 06/15/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **June 23, 2023** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2017 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD74LF8HH212762
COLOR: Silver
LKO: Deborah Magill
53 Champlain Ave
Indian Orchard MA
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA
413-596-4374
06/08, 06/15, 06/22/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. HD22P1951GD**

**In the interests of
Jayden A Bortz
of Wilbraham, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation
or Petition for Removal of
Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL**

INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a filed by **Stephenie L. Joley** on **03/15/2023** will be held **06/22/2023 08:30 AM** **Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **50 State St, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor:
The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: May 25, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/08/2023

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**

Date: 06/08/2023

The owner or occupants of the following described parcels of land situated in the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM in the County of Hampden and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the public, are hereby notified that the taxes thereon, severally assessed for the year(s), hereinafter specified, according to the list committed to me as the Collector/Treasurer for the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM by the Board of Assessors of said Town, remain unpaid and that said parcels of land will be taken for the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM on the **22nd day of June, 2023 at 10AM** for the principal and interest, if any, with all legal costs and charges thereon, unless the same shall be previously discharged. All plans referred to are on file in the Assessor's office.
Barbara J. Hancock, CMMC, CMMT
Collector/Treasurer

Property Location: 57 Bartlett Avenue
Assessed to: Estate of Beverly R Gore
Subsequent Owner: Daniel L Gore

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$2,862.63	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$2,862.63			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 14000 sq. feet being described as MAP: 400 BLOCK: 57 LOT: 97 listed in BOOK: 23743 on PAGE: 226 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 12 Hunter Street
Assessed to: Chad R Farnham

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 155.35	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$155.35			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 10000 sq. feet being described as MAP: 5700 BLOCK: 12 LOT: 2301 listed in BOOK: 9130 on PAGE: 323 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 16V Hunter Street
Assessed to: Chad Farnham

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 181.26	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$181.26			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 17500 sq. feet being described as MAP: 5700 BLOCK: 16 LOT: 2302 listed in BOOK: 19414 on PAGE: 396 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 3114 Boston Road
Assessed to: Brian S Machia & Mary Ellen Machia

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$1,130.27	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$1,130.27			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 41382 sq. feet being described as MAP: 1150 BLOCK: 577 LOT: 692 listed in BOOK: 6513 on PAGE: 142 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 105V Stony Hill Road
Assessed to: Kiley Skinner

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 32.99	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$ 32.99			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 1030 sq. feet being described as MAP: 11150 BLOCK: 103 LOT: 4757 listed in BOOK: 22563 on PAGE: 138 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 49 Glenn Drive
Assessed to: James J Szymt & AnneMarie Matosky Szymt
Subsequent Owner: Anne Marie Szymt

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 157.97	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$157.97			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 21000 sq. feet described as MAP: 4800 BLOCK: 49 LOT: 2054 listed in BOOK: 23301 on PAGE: 480 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 30V Church Lane
Assessed Owner: David P Radebaugh & Barbara M Radebaugh

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 88.27	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$88.27			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any building, thereon, containing about 10 acres being described as MAP: 2600 BLOCK: 30 LOT: 1231 listed in BOOK: 2884 on PAGE: 370 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 930 Stony Hill Road
Assessed Owner: David P Radebaugh & Barbara M Radebaugh

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 172.43	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$172.43			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any building, thereon, containing about 13.94 acres being described as MAP: 11150 BLOCK: 678 LOT: 5007 listed in BOOK: CERT on PAGE: 10599 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 560V Springfield Street
Assessed Owner: Frank R Saia
Subsequent Owner: Estate of Frank R Saia

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2021	\$ 458.87	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$458.87			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any building, thereon, containing about 4.65 acres being described as MAP: 11050 BLOCK: 262 LOT: 4625 listed in BOOK: CERT on PAGE: 34268 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

06/08/2023

NOTICE
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\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

centerstreetautoparts.com
651 Center St., Chicopee **413-733-2778**

Events & announcements schedule

Minnechaug Land Trust Annual Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2023, La Cucina Di Hampden House, 6 p.m.

HAMPDEN – The Minnechaug Land Trust is holding its 2023 Annual Meeting on Monday, June 12 and invites anyone interested in land conservation to attend. The evening begins with an informal get together at 6 p.m. and the annual meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to celebrate another year of land conservation within the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham. We have been so encouraged by the continual trail usage our properties have seen in the past couple of years, especially during COVID. Unfortunately, in contrast, we have seen a significant drop in our membership numbers. To address this issue, we have been working hard to reconfigure our website and outreach objectives to encourage more people within the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden to join us in keeping the Land Trust alive.

In Wilbraham, we are close to purchasing the land at the rear portion of the Cedar Ridge development on Stony Hill Road. These 60 acres border the Cedar Swamp and will allow us to expand the McDonald Nature Preserve. We were thrilled to receive a state LAND grant last fall which will help defray the cost of the purchase. And on June 3, the Eleventh Annual Run for Rice's will be held. This fun family run helps to maintain the trails and fields of the popular Rice Nature Preserve and helped fund the recent bog bridge installation at the beginning of the trail.

The town of Hampden recently voted to set aside Community Preservation funds for the purchase of a 13-acre parcel on Walnut Road with river frontage adja-

cent to Minnechaug Mountain conservation land. In the coming years we plan to create multiuse trails that access the river and connect to the existing trail system on Minnechaug. We have also been focusing efforts on maintenance of our existing properties including working with the town of Hampden to regrade the entrance of Mt. Vision and clearing invasive species at the entrance of Minnechaug Mountain. Several volunteer maintenance days have been held to clear existing trails, update kiosks, and build bog bridges over wet trails.

Our volunteer Board members are passionate about the open areas of critical habitat that we conserve and maintain for the public to hike, walk, and view local species of plants and animals. If you are interested in becoming a member, you can join at our Annual Meeting or send your membership fee to the Minnechaug Land Trust, P.O. Box 455 Hampden MA 01036. The basic membership is only \$15 but larger donations are appreciated. Your contribution helps maintain properties like Rice Nature Preserve, Goat Rock, Mt. Marcy, McDonald's, Gleason's and Minnechaug Mountain for the enjoyment of all.

Old Post Road Orchestra to perform on June 16, 18

SPRINGFIELD – The Old Post Road Orchestra will be holding its final concerts of the season titled "Tales As Olde As Time". Conductor Alexandria Black will delight audiences with selections from well-loved Disney movies, classic Looney Tunes and Studio Ghibli. Rounding out the program will be tried and true patriotic favorites. Concerts will be held on Friday, June 16, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, 198 Main St., Monson and on Sun-

day, June 18, 3 p.m., Loomis Lakeside at Reed's Landing, 807 Wilbraham Road, Springfield.

Funding for the Monson concert provided in part by a grant from the Town of Monson Regional Economic Development Organization and a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Celebrate the Dads in your life and join OPRO for an entertaining musical experience.

Rotary Club is holding a Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is holding another Calendar Raffle throughout the months of May and June to raise money for local community projects. Calendars will be on sale now through the end of June for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is different from the one held last fall in that only cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month of June. "There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win," announced club president Tracey Perry of Country Bank. To purchase a calendar contact Perry at 413-627-2571 or email Happytral6@gmail.com. All proceeds will be given back to the community through various service projects and scholarships.

Hampden Senior Center Trips

HAMPDEN – A tribute to Garth Brooks at the Log Cabin will entertain us

on Wed, July 12 with your choice of Lobster or Prime Rib for lunch all for only \$85/pp. Payment deadline June 23. No bus, Self-Drive.

A great trip to The Aqua Turf Club on Tuesday, Aug 15th for "Come Fly with Me", a musical journey through the decades; coffee/donuts, free drink, lunch, show & door prize, all for only \$119/pp. Payment deadline Aug 1.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, start the day with a great lunch a Maggiano's Little Italy in Boston; the Fun begins when you board your Boston Duck Boat for a fascinating tour, including background info on the Ducks, Free Time in Quincy Market, all for only \$140/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 29.

Any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271.

Newport Playhouse on Thursday, Sept. 28 is offering a Hilarious play "Ghost of a Chance", along with an All-u-Can-Eat Buffet and a second Cabaret Show, all for only \$142/pp. Payment deadline Sept. 14.

Above prices based on a minimum of 35 passengers; any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271

Healing Touch Spiritual Practices at Federated Community Church

HAMPDEN – Healing Touch Spiritual Practices will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. at Federated Community Church, 590 Main St. in Hampden. First come, first served. Donations are accepted. Come and experience intentional prayer so that the spirit of healing may flow freely through your body. Please enter through the door in the back of the church – the group will meet on the second floor.

Hampden Garden Club to host guest speaker June 15

HAMPDEN – Celebrating its 91st year, the Hampden Garden Club will host guest speaker Cassandra of Cassandra Herbs Unlimited (located on Springfield Road in Somers, CT) at Academy Hall, located at 625 Main St., Hampden, on June 15 at 7 p.m.

Since 1995, Cassandra has been growing, harvesting, storing and using herbs for medicinal purposes. She will be speaking on herbs and the various uses of them to help you and your family maintain good health.

With questions, call Lil at 414-566-1137. The guest fee is \$5.

Soil testing to occur at the Wilbraham Farmer's Market June 14 and 28

WILBRAHAM – On June 14 and 28, pH soil testing is being conducted by the Western MA Master Gardeners from 2-4 p.m. at the Wilbraham Main Street Farmer's Market, 500 Main St., Wilbraham. (in front of the United Church).

Provide one cup of dry soil collected from four corners of your garden in a plastic bag that is labeled with the garden location, your name and phone number or email. This is a pH test to determine alkalinity with recommendations for amendments. A \$2 donation is requested for each test.

Herstory Witch Performance coming to the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Virginia Wolf of the Herstory Theater will be putting on a one-woman forty minute show at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, June 14 in the Brooks Room at 6 p.m. The show, "Panic in Connecticut: Accused Witches Have Their Say," tells the stories of five women accused of being witches in Connecticut between the years of 1646-1693. Travel back to the 1600s and hear what these women (Mary Staples, Lydia Gilbert, Judith Varlet, Mary Barnes, and Mercy Disborough) say happened to them. Actress Virginia Wolf will be fully costumed, fully incensed, and you will be full frightened. Register for this scary event on the library's website: www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This event is made possible by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Lions Club Food Drive this Saturday at Big Y

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Lions Club in conjunction with the Big Y is collecting non-perishable food items at the Wilbraham Big Y, 2035 Boston Road, Wilbraham, on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations will benefit the Indian Orchard Community Survival Center.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our
20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

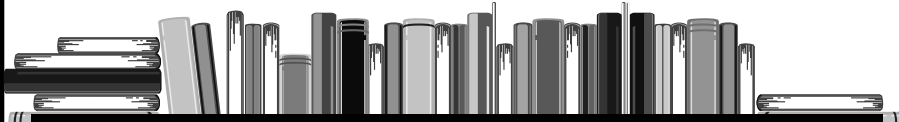
Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

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HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours.
Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.
We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

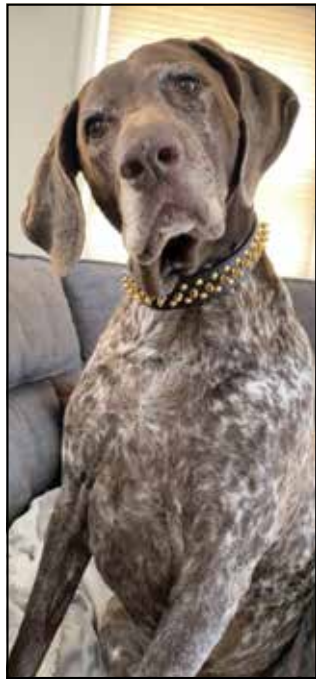


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PET OF THE MONTH



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PET PAGE



READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



Water Safety Tips for Dogs

With temperatures heating up, many dog owners start dreaming about days lounging by the pool, hanging at the beach or jumping in the boat with their dogs in tow.

However, water and dogs don't always go together so perfectly. While there are no confirmed statistics, it is estimated that about 5,000 family dogs drown in swimming pools each year. That doesn't include any accidents that might occur at lakes, rivers or out on the open ocean among dog-owning boaters.

Accidents can happen in an instant. Dog owners should follow these tips for keeping dogs safe in and around the water.

1. **Never Leave Your Dog Unattended Around Water** - always keep him close and in sight.
2. **Understand Your Dog's Breed** - not all dogs can swim. Even some who can, don't do it very well and are at greater risk of drowning.
3. **Pay Attention to Water Conditions** - undercurrents, big waves and frigid water can mean danger to dogs.
4. **Make It Easy** - help dogs get out of the water by having stairs or a ramp lead into the pool.
5. **Consider a Life Jacket** - they keep your dog afloat when their legs are too tired to paddle and, the nifty handles make it a cinch to grab onto your dog and haul him out.
6. **Take Breaks** - lots of sun and swimming can be tiring.
7. **Rinse Off / Dry Off** - whether swimming in a pool or splashing around at the beach, rinse and dry him off when the day is over.
8. **Bring Drinking Water** - pool, lake or ocean water is not safe to drink and it's important to keep him hydrated.



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Wilbraham Animal Hospital

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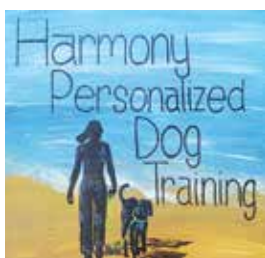
wilbrahamanimalhospital.com

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