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SPORTS

Summer
soccer gets
underway

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JUNE 25, 2026

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Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, presented with the check from the community fundraiser supporting the Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund.

Community fundraiser supports Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund

By Kristin Rivers

Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community came out in droves to the Route 20 Bar & Grille on May 20 for a community fundraiser supporting the Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund.

The event raised \$6,915 and was organized by ECI Technologies in partnership with Route 20 Bar & Grille.

20% of the food proceeds from the event were donated by the restaurant to support the fund, along with an additional \$500 contribution.

Attendees also enjoyed live entertainment from Aelan Lisowski and Owen Antaya, raffles—including a 50/50 raffle where the winner donated half her winnings back to the fund—and celebrity bartenders who were Patrick Renna, director of Veteran Services, Jered Sasen, National Service

Officer, Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, Ashley Pelzek, former Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor at the U.S. Navy's Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), Michael "Bax" Baxendale from Rock 102, Leah Rantz from Lazer 99.3, Adam Feit, former NFL and NCAA Division I strength and conditioning coach and co-owner of TF Performance and James Hisgen, a 20+ year law enforcement professional and former

FYFA coach.

The Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund is a resource to provide immediate, short-term financial assistance to local veterans and their dependents facing hardship. The funds are used to help cover essential needs such as food, transportation and emergency heating or utility expenses.

The event sponsors were Blush in Comfort, Wilbraham. Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 8

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Another rattlesnake story

B F Greene erected a Glendale boulder honoring Wilbraham soldiers

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

We are continuing the column this month with more historical figures that I call "People From the Past" - providing a small profile on why they were important to the town. They join the likes of Rev. Noah Merrick, the town's first minister and Nathaniel Hitchcock, the town's first settler. Also, "Town Father" Fred W. Green, strong woman Miss Evamore O. Beebe; and 20th century selectman John Lovejoy who ushered in the new Minnechaug Regional High School and local gadfly Don Flannery.



Charlie Bennett

Timothy Merrick, who was due to get married, was bit by a rattlesnake and died while working in the fields near what is now Oakland Street in Wilbraham. It happened on August 7, 1761. The tragedy became the source of Wilbraham's own folk song "The Pesky Sarpent".

There is another related story, much less known, that involves Nathan and Mary Mack who lived in a house on Monson Road from 1785 to 1790. Chauncey Peck tells their tale in his "History of Wilbraham".

One day, Mary Mack looked out the door and saw her little daughter sitting on the grass and playing with something in her lap.

Peck wrote, Mary stole quietly up behind her and barely stifled a scream as she saw a large rattlesnake curled up in the girl's lap. "She ran to the cabin, caught up a small tub and hurrying back dropped it down over

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 10

Here come the gowns

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — As June is named for Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, it was fitting that the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham presented an exhibition titled "Tying the Knot: Wedding Traditions Through Time" at the Old Meeting House on June 14.

The stars of the show were more than a dozen wedding gowns dating from the 1850s to the 1950s and donated to the museum. They ranged in style from a modest Quaker-style bonnet and gown to an elaborately beaded Edwardian dress.

Other wedding-themed objects included a collection of white gloves and shoes and a man's top hat.

The dresses had been stored in acid-free boxes and had not been displayed for 15 years, according to

Lindsey Bourcier, marketing director for the Old Meeting House.

Bourcier said she was fascinated by the dark-colored gowns on display, which brides re-wore on

Please see **GOWNS**, page 5



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan
A detail of the intricately hand-beaded gown from 1900.

This hand-beaded circa 1900 astounded museum-goers.



Scantic River Artisans hosts Juried Art Show

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Scantic River Artisans hosted the Eighth Annual Juried Art Show at the senior center on June 13 and 14.

The categories were watercolor, photography, oil, graphics, acrylic and three-dimensional, with ribbons given out for first, second and third place. Some categories also had honorable mentions.

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 13

Nan Hurlburt shows off examples of the Reflective Musings canvases.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Hampden Senior Center hosts Summer Kickoff Luncheon

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The senior center hosted a summer kickoff luncheon on June 12.

The luncheon featured a selection of barbeque chicken, potato salad, and corn for attendees. People were also able to enjoy musical entertainment by The Boomers.

Volunteers brought out food for attendees, with a lunch consisting of barbeque chicken, potato salad, and corn. A little bit later they came out again with lemon and strawberry pie slices for everyone.

Musical entertainment truly brought the energy



Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

Left to right, Ray Borbeau, Louise Boissy, Jane Bilodeau, Irene Cutting, and Linda Bridge sit together and enjoy a good lunch.

Please see **LUNCHJEON**, page 15

Flag Day picnic brings community together

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Friends and family gathered together to have a picnic at Fountain Park in honor of Flag Day on June 14.

During the picnic, the schedule was packed with activities for everyone to participate in during their time at the park.

The day started with a flag raising by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem.

From there, kids brought their own decorated bikes and engaged in a bike parade. Each participant also

received a little prize after the parade.

After the bike parade, games of cornhole and a water balloon toss commenced.

To round off the packed day, people were able to participate in trying to break the world record for most people to do the Macarena in one vicinity.

Organizing the picnic was Tracey Plantier, who quotes friend and Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth co-founder and late Gina Kahn, who inspired her for the Flag Day Picnic.

"She told me events like this are so healthy for the community. It encour-

Please see **FLAG DAY**, page 4



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BELCHERTOWN ▪ WESTFIELD ▪ ADAMS

Town boards, committees gather for workshop

By Reese Magee
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Members of many town boards and committees gathered at the senior center on June 3 for a Building Utilization Committee Workshop to discuss the future needs of town owned buildings and explore possible solutions through group exercises with town officials.

The featured boards and committees were the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, Wilbraham Library Trustees, Playground and Recreation Committee, Historical Commission, Open Space and Recreation Committee, Wilbraham Cultural Council, Wilbraham Housing Authority, Economic Development Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee.

The Building Utilization Committee has been evaluating town owned buildings to determine whether these facilities require repairs, renovations, expansion or changes in use to meet current and future community needs.

Some of the buildings that were discussed were the Old Meeting House, the Children's Museum, Memorial School, the public library and many more facilities.

One of the buildings discussed was the Old Meeting House. This building is a historic building that is 250 years old and has limited parking space, but the whole facility is fully utilized.

The committee also reviewed the library. Survey results collected from employees provided insight into lighting issues, humidity and cooling issues within the building.

However, the building is fully utilized in the community.

Another building discussed was the WFD2, a fire station located in the heart of the town. Built 68 years ago, the station plays a key role in minimizing emergency response time. However, the building is very small and survey results indicated that the building is overcrowded and has limited space for



Turley photo by Reese Magee

The board and committee members discuss one of the scenarios.

growth.

These issues make it challenging for firefighters and emergency personnel.

Following the presentation, town officials and committee members were divided into small groups and were assigned hypothetical scenarios involving town facilities, with participants discussing possible approaches and sharing the recommendation with the larger group.

One of the scenarios was the future of Memorial School.

Participant Aurora Pierangelo Frias said the group focused on modernizing the historic building, noting that "Memorial School is a very community-oriented building already so how can we expand on that and improve it?"

The group also discussed grants and funding, stating, "We talked a lot about state and federal grants that are available for historic buildings and cultural buildings."

Another highlight was upgrades, funding opportunities and whether the building could accommodate additional town departments and selling three buildings—The Little Red Schoolhouse, Town Hall and the Old Police Department—and moving those departments into Memorial School, generating revenue.

Another scenario that was workshopped was the community recreation center and these participants envisioned a facility that could serve residents of all ages and be non-sports related. Some of the programs that would be included would be arts, education, community programs rather than focusing solely on sports.

Specific programs and

activities that the group mentioned during their discussion were raised during their discussion was "who's going to use it?" "How do we decide what programs go into it?" and "zoning and planning board concerns."

The group also discussed how they would fund the project: "Funding obviously is going to come from Grants, CPA, Partnerships and other groups."

Some questions that were raised during their discussion was "who's going to use it?" "How do we decide what programs go into it?" and "zoning and planning board concerns."

The group also highlighted community support.

"We talked about residential approval on a board basis as well as residents and taxpayers," they said.

Another scenario that sparked discussion was about the sale of Memorial School and other municipal buildings. One participant noted that "if we sell off Memorial School and these buildings, we may be losing property and land available to us."

The group also discussed the future of recreation programs that are currently housed at Memorial.

"The school right now has a lot of sports and recreation used outside and inside the building," they said.

There could also be potential impacts on town services and how the revenue from property sales could be used.

The participants of this scenario also emphasized the importance of ensuring any future development, whether housing recreation facilities or senior services would provide lasting benefits to the community and that they

would want the development to be community-oriented. The speaker stated, "Is that what the town wants?" "Is that going to be useful to town?" "Is it going to be good for our community?"

During the next activity, committee members and other officials worked in their scenario groups to develop implementation plans. At every table there was a chart and Post-it notes, and groups were to identify key milestones, project dependencies and major town meeting days that could affect their proposals.

Participants were also asked to identify any new constraints, needs or opportunities that emerged during discussion. The groups then organized their ideas into timelines showing that their scenarios could be implemented over a five-to-10-year timeline.

The workshop concluded with a gallery review activity, which allowed participants to evaluate ideas generated by other groups on different scenarios. Each participant received four different colored stickers to place on notes and proposals throughout the room.

Red stickers identified a critical concern or risk, yellow stickers highlighted the most critical needs, green stickers marked the most promising strategy or opportunity and blue stickers indicated ideas that needed further research.

Over a 10-minute period, participants also reviewed the scenarios and used their stickers to provide feedback and help identify priorities or concerns they had for future consideration.

Over the course of the workshop, residents, town officials, and community members came together to discuss the future of the town's building and facilities. Through group discussions and collaborative feedback activities, participants explored challenges, opportunities and priorities for many possible scenarios.

The workshop encouraged attendees to communicate, listen to different perspectives and think critically about how town resources can serve the community in the future.

Rock into Summer on July 11

HAMPDEN – Rock into Summer featuring Acoustica will be taking place on July 11 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Thornton Burgess Middle School—the town hall—at 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.

The event is in partner-

ship with Hampden Parks & Rec and East Village Tavern.

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Selectboard, regional dispatch discuss radio system maintenance

Also, one year extension on regional dispatch

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard met with Anthony Gentile, director of the Wilbraham Regional Communications Center, on radio system maintenance on June 15.

Gentile explained he met with Fire Chief Ed Poulin at the beginning of this year

about radio infrastructure and later with Police Chief Dan Bruno.

"If there's an issue with the radio system or whatever, have one point of contact, which would go through me. So, if the fire department has an issue, if the police department has an issue, let me know," Gentile said. "And if it's something that I can fix, I will do it. If it's something that I can't, then I'll go to radio vendors and ask."

Gentile said Hampden uses two markets "for most of the infrastructure," and Goosetown "for some of the

cruisers."

"The grant that I got a year or two ago had put additional radios in each of the cruisers. Goosetown deals with that and they're still under warranty," Gentile said. "Last week, there was an issue with one of the cruisers. They called me. I actually had Goosetown and Wilbraham doing something and I had them sent right down there and fix it. Warranty, no charge to anybody."

In Wilbraham, Gentile takes care of the radio system there and "any type of radio system goes through me."

"That's so everybody

knows, my people will know that if a site goes down, if a firetruck is disabled, if a police cruiser is having a problem, it goes to me. I let my people know so everybody knows and that's the same thing I want to do for the town of Hampden," Gentile said.

After Chair John Flynn asked how he's compensated in Wilbraham—with the answer being he is not—this was the next question asked.

"Would you offer us the same deal?" Flynn said.

Gentile replied yes.

"It's a great deal," Flynn said.

"It is a great deal," Gentile said.

After Poulin also shared his thoughts and said he was in favor of this, Gentile added Bruno also approved.

After further discussion, Selectboard Member Don Davenport asked about Granby joining the regional dispatch, which currently serves Hampden, Wilbraham and Belchertown. Gentile said there was a "letter of attestation" with Granby, with plans to move forward and nothing set in stone yet.

"So I think after July 1, I'll start coordinating with them

and start moving forward. I'm looking for a July 1, 2027 start date with a soft cutover in June and then a full cutover July-ish," Gentile said.

After further discussion here, Town Administrator Brian Domina explained how the board was holding a copy of the one-year extension agreement for the dispatch, which was reviewed.

After Flynn read the document into the record, it was unanimously approved, with signatures from Hampden, the Wilbraham Select Board, Belchertown Select Board to be pending.

FLAG DAY from page 1

ages kids to find things to do that are healthy and are good community events that strengthens our community," Plantier said. "And I never really looked at events like that before. She made me look at events in that light that doing things like this in your community are so important for creating a healthy community."

With a megaphone in hand, Nan Lingenfelter helped lead the events at the picnic.

"As a history teacher, America has done so many amazing things. The country is fascinating, and courageous, and brave, and honorable, and so our flag needs to be celebrated," Lingenfelter said.

There were lots of local youth vendors courtesy of the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Many of those vendors are students and alumni from Minnechaug.

Speaking on behalf of the program and promoting their small businesses at Flag Day are HWP4Y Coalition

Coordinator Jackie Hafner, Framingham State junior Ava Murray with Tails and Trails, Arcadia University sophomore Morgan Lape with Tangerine Creations, and Minnechaug junior Jillian True with Cottontail Creations.

"It's a summer program where the young people can get together and sell their handcrafted crafts, make some money, and learn different skills of customer service," Hafner said on the entrepreneurship program.

Murray with Tails and Trails, sells a variety of items including posters, candles, stickers, Dog Balm, and Blind Date with a Book.

"I recently started doing craft fairs. I love selling the things I make, and I like people seeing what I made," Murray said. "I'm very grateful they took me in. I love Fountain Park, so I am really happy to have the opportunity to go somewhere to sell my things."

Lape is part of Tangerine Creations, which specializes in artistic items such as charms.

"Doing things like this is important because there are

a lot of people selling items, it's important to get this experience, and overall it's just fun," Lape said.

True with Cottontail Creations sells a variety of handmade items including crochet animals, glass bookmarks, and earrings.

"I like giving back to my community and having a booth. Seeing everyone here and them finding so much joy in my products feels really heartwarming," True said.

Also in attendance at the picnic was the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club, who participated in the snack shack. They also provided bingo for children in attendance. Once they completed the bingo, they could get a free snack from the shack.

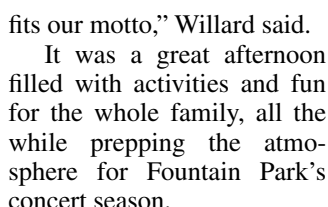
The club also gave parents a card that gave them five free raffle tickets to their upcoming Designer Bag Bingo in October.

Brenda Willard, the current president of the Women's Club, spoke on behalf of the Club on their attendance at the picnic.

"Our organization is all about supporting community volunteering and service. It



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen
Members of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts raise the American flag to start off the celebration.



Alan Crawford and Lindsey Kenney with Rock 102 provide music for the picnic.



Will Quinn and Morgan Lape with their business Tangerine Creations.



Alan Crawford and Lindsey Kenney with Rock 102 provide music for the picnic.

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GOWNS from page 1

formal occasions after their wedding day. It wasn't until Queen Victoria wore a white wedding dress in 1840 that white for weddings began to be ubiquitous.

Deborah Gromack, visiting Wilbraham from Cambridge, has worked as a theatrical costumer, and was impressed by the excellent conditions of the gowns.

"They are incredible," Gromack said. "The buttons are shiny; the lace is intact."

Gromack marveled at the craftsmanship of the dresses, pointing out the hand-beading on one

gown and the custom lace on another. She noted how that the small bustle on the circa 1850 Quaker gown would have been fashion-forward for its time.

The gowns brought back memories of visitors' own wedding dresses.

Mary Gromack, Deborah's mother, recalled how she made her own veil to wear with



White gloves and white shoes from weddings of long ago.



The 1907 gown of Harriet Churchill Puffer is adorned with intricate lace and textile work.

whitened the dress by washing it with Palmolive dish soap to display at her parents' 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

"Everyone leaves a legend behind them and every gown has a conversation of its own," remarked Mary Gromack.

The exhibition brought Tamara Shattuck of Wilbra-



Louisa Neal wore this Quaker bonnet and wedding dress in around 1850.

ham, a sewer herself, to the Old Meeting House for the first time.

"The gowns are all lovely," Shattuck said, "but if I had to choose I'd take the one with the beads."

Shattuck found it "super fun" to see pictures of the brides in the gowns.

The exhibition was one of several free family-friendly events planned this summer and fall to bring return visitors and newcomers to the historic Old Meeting House on Main Street.

"It's a great little treasure here in Wilbraham" said Dave Bourcier, president of the Athenaeum Society. "It makes people aware of our past and connects them to stories from the community. "We can't showcase everything we have due to limited space, so we're always changing up the exhibits. And, we receive new artifacts every week from people's great-great-grandmothers' attics." The next event at the Old



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan
Julia Porteri Trombley cofounded Wilbraham's first kindergarten and later operated Tower Hill Greenhouse. She wore this satin gown with floral details in 1945



Lydia Bolt Higgins' two-piece plum-colored gown from the mid 1800s.



Twentieth century wedding gowns on display at Wilbraham's Old Meeting House.



Nine-year-old twins Hazel and Linnea, of Wilbraham, made flower arrangements at the "Tying the Knot" exhibition.

Meeting House will be an ice cream social on July 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. featuring music, kids' crafts, and an art demonstration—as well as ice cream, of course.

There will be a Treasure and Trivia Day on Aug. 9,

showcasing rarely seen artifacts from the museum's collection.

For more information, go to the Old Meeting House Museum's website: theomh.org.



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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why don't they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical:

Believe it or not, putting SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to tran-

sition to that plan and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

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

Kohlrabi: The first Garden Lady question of the summer

A reader of 'In the Garden' wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have."

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels's sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the "bulb" but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let's start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I'm curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted ma-

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

nure, blood meal or fish emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do it's thing.

Since you've had luck with kohlrabi in the past, I'm thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale with new materials or more limited space.

The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures below 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before

The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulging up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That, I know we will.

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

This summer...



© DAVE GRANLUND.COM

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a green heron catching a fish at Lake Wallace.

The green heron is solitary at most seasons and often somewhat secretive, living around small bodies of water or densely vegetated areas.

When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously and raises and lowers its crest.

The small heron is about 16 to 22 inches long. The green on this bird's back is an iridescent color and often looks dull bluish or simply dark.

They have orange yellow legs, chestnut neck, black crown feathers. Young birds are duller and brown with a striped neck.

Northern birds migrates as far as Panama and northern South American. Green herons in the most southern states do not migrate.

Green herons inhabit coasts and shorelines, forests



Green heron

and woodlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and saltwater wetlands. Their call is a sharp "kyowk" or "skyow."

They nest in a wide variety of situations, including willow thickets, mangroves, dry woods and open marsh. The female lays three to five pale green or blue green eggs. Both the male and female incubate the eggs which takes 19 to 21 days.

The male chooses nesting territory and calls repeatedly from prominent perch in tree or shrub. Displays of male include stretching neck forward and down and snapping bill shut, pointing bill straight upward while swaying back and forth. Male and female may perform display flights around territory. Nest site is usually in shrub or tree 5-30 feet above ground, but some-

times on the ground.

It is often very close to water, but it can be quite distant away. The nest is a platform of sticks. The male begins construction, then female builds while male brings materials.

Both parents also feed their young by regurgitation. Young begin to climb about near nest by 16-17 days after hatching, usually make first flight at 21-23 days.

They are fed by parents for a few more weeks. Young are reportedly capable of swimming well. These herons have one to two broods per year.

These herons forage mostly by standing still or stalking very slowly at edge of shallow water, waiting for prey to approach. Sometimes they use bait" by dropping a feather or small twig on surface of wa-

ter to lure fish within striking distance.

They eat mostly small fish, but will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs and tadpoles. Other items include grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms, snails and small rodents.

Black and white warbler

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler by the cross country trail at Quabbin Regional High School last week. As the name implies, the warbler has black and white feathers with black streaking on the breast and white wing bars, white eye line and white belly.

Red shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident had a red shouldered hawk in her yard. She sent a photo of it in flight.

Whippoorwill

I received an email on May 15 from a Belchertown resident. She stated, "The whippoorwill is back in my yard again this year. The calls starts around dark and continue off and on till sunrise. She or he perches on the roof and calls all night. It can be very annoying as you are trying to sleep, but I still feel blessed or cursed."

Common Ravens

A Brimfield couple had common ravens in their yard last month. They stated in an email, "We mostly hear them and sometimes see them flying over a local feature called West Mountain that is about 1000' elevation and runs north/south about a half a mile east of our house."

They stated, "On a Thursday a raven was in the driveway where I throw a seed mix daily for ground feeders. I saw the bird from inside the garage, my wife saw it with binoculars from inside the house."

They stated, "We both noticed the larger size, bigger than the American Crows that often feed in the same area. I noticed the wedged shaped tail when it flew away and my wife saw larger, heavier bill and the shaggy throat feathers." A few days later they saw three ravens.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

We Want to Hear From You

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

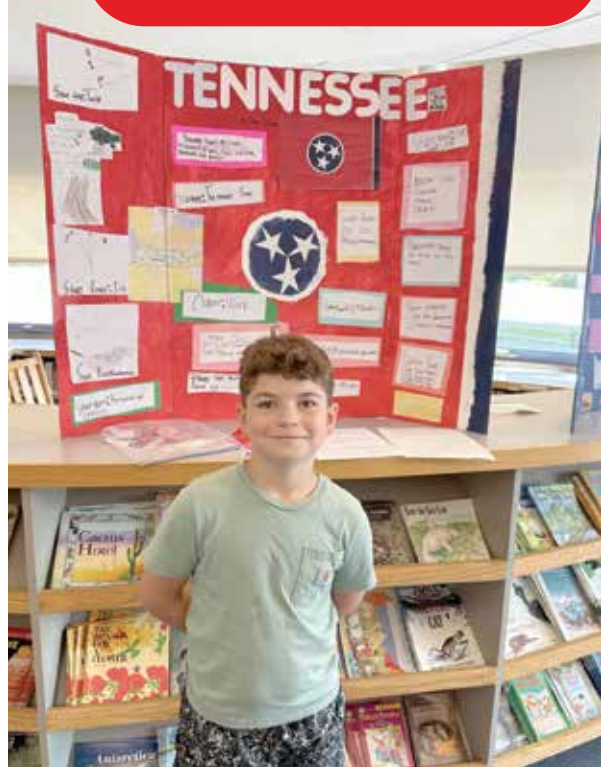
Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness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

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

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Submitted photo and caption Randy Rivest
Zach Rivest, a fourth grader at Green Meadow School in Hampden shares his information on Oklahoma with Superintendent Provost.



Green Meadows *hosts* 'States Fair'

Students in the fourth grade at Green Meadows Elementary School participated in the annual 50 States Fair on June 12. The highly anticipated event featured students presenting information they had researched about their randomly assigned state using trifold display boards and creative "tourist booth" items that highlighted each state's unique attractions, landmarks, and culture.

Held at the school, the fair served as the culmination of several weeks of informational research and learning. Family members, staff, district leaders, and classmates had the opportunity to visit the exhibits and learn about all 50 states (and Puerto Rico) while celebrating the students' hard work, creativity, and presentation skills.



Here, we have students showing off their presentations of the states of Hawaii, Illinois, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Nebraska and New Mexico.

Submitted photos Melissa Nelson, Kristen Chapdelaine and Brianna O'Neill

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Major traffic impacts ahead this summer

Due to Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road Road improvement project

WILBRAHAM - Travelers through the Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road intersection are advised to plan for major traffic impacts due to the intersection and sidewalk improvement project in this area this summer. Ludlow Construction and their subcontractors will start work on Tuesday, June 23. This project will run most of the summer, with substantial completion expected by Aug. 28. Travel lanes will be closed with alternating traffic from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. throughout construction. Travelers should use alternate routes to avoid delays.

The project includes several improvements including:

Widening the eastbound approach to improve the alignment and visibility of the left-turn lanes on Springfield Street.

Installing a new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Springfield Street, extending from Town Hall to Stony Hill Road Grammar School.

Upgrading the traffic signal to include dedicated turning signals and pedestrian crosswalk signals.

Tonya Capparello, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer said, "Thanks to grant funding from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund and MassDOT's Complete Streets Program, along with local support from the Wilbraham tax payers and local boards and committees we are able to deliver meaningful upgrades that will improve traffic flow, increase pedestrian safety, and enhance accessibility for residents, students, and visitors. The new sidewalk connection between Town Hall, the Senior Center and the Stony Hill Road Grammar School is especially significant providing a safer route for pedestrians while strengthening connectivity within our community. I would also like to recognize the residents and property owners who will be affected by this project. They have been terrific to work with throughout the planning process, and their cooperation, patience, and constructive feedback have helped us move this project forward."

For project updates visit: www.wilbraham-ma.gov.

FUNDRAISER from page 1

ham Tanning, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Rice's Fruit Farm, Magnolia & Maple Pottery, Spartan Brake & Muffler, The Scented Garden Shoppe, Ferrindino Maple, Stevens Diamond Jewelers, Coyne Tax, TF Performance, Mary's Creative Space, Pane Dolcetti, Gio's Pizzeria, Common Grounds Café, Jackie's Vintage Vault, ECI Technologies, Hunt Realty, Pip Printing Marketing Signs and Print and Total Image Salon.

Nicole Antaya, client relations manager at ECI Technologies, explained the owners of both businesses share "a long-standing connection" through daughters who graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School in 2020.

"Having previously partnered to thank Wilbraham's first responders with great success, we felt strongly about coming together once again this time to support our local veterans and their dependents," Antaya said.

Antaya was thrilled with the turnout and community support.

"Seeing the community come together made my heart whole, after more than six months of planning, outreach, and coordination. The support shown for our veterans was truly inspiring. I loved hearing how impactful the Veterans services had been for people during a time when they needed it most. Seeing their smiles and hearing people thank me for organizing the event made every second worthwhile," Antaya said.

The event was also important to her personally.

"I personally chose to help Veterans in honor of my father-in-law, who is a disabled Vietnam Veteran. As well as both of my grandfathers and a cousin. I went to Patrick's office back in August of 2025 to learn about what he did and to see if there was a need for help right in our hometown. At the time, he had recently started working as the director and had said they barely had enough funds to be able to put on the ceremonies they hold for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day services. We discussed how the former director, Jered Sassen, had graciously created a fund to be able to help veterans when they faced financial hardships who may need a little assistance with emergent needs such as fuel for heating, food insecurities, transportation, etc. Unfortunately, the fund



A group photo of some of the celebrity bartenders who took part in the event.

Photos courtesy of Nicole Antaya



Attendees had a great time supporting the fundraiser.

did not have much funding," Antaya said. "Once I heard this, I knew that I had found a program that had amazing potential to truly assist the Veterans when they needed it. Fast forward to May 22 of 2026, I arrived at Patrick's office to deliver the check for the funds that we raised. I learned that hours before my arrival, a single Veteran mom had left his office with a gift card to a local grocery store so that she could buy formula and food for her and her baby. Hearing that simple statement made me feel good about doing what we did and that we already have helped someone in need."

Renna said the event "was a wonderful example of what can happen when local businesses and community members come together to support those who have served our country."

"It was truly heartwarming to see such an incredible turnout and show of support. While I was humbled by the number of people who attended, I wasn't surprised. We have an outstanding veteran community here in Wilbraham and throughout the surrounding towns, and time and again I've seen people step up to support those who have served," Renna said. "What

makes this community special is that people don't just say they support veterans—they show it through their actions. The turnout at this event was a perfect example of that generosity, compassion, and community spirit."

He added that funds like this also "provide critical resources that allow us to assist veterans and their families when they face unexpected hardships."

"The Wilbraham Veterans Fund exists to ensure that no veteran or military family in our community has to face a crisis alone. When unexpected hardships arise, this fund allows us to provide assistance quickly and locally," Renna said. "One of the things I'm most proud of is that every dollar raised stays local. These funds directly support veterans and families in our own community when they need help the most. Just as importantly, events like this send a powerful message to veterans and their families that their service is valued and that their community stands ready to support them when they need it most."

He added the community can continue their support through events like this, volunteering, raising awareness for the fund and by checking out the Friends of Wilbraham-Hampden Veterans, which meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the senior center.

Laurie Bongiorno, the owner of Route 20 Bar & Grille, shared that it was their first time doing a dine-out event like this and the support was "unbelievable and so appreciated."

She credited Antaya in spearheading the community

fundraiser.

"Many vets, along with family and friends, attended and many vets could be heard telling their personal stories of when they served. The outpouring of support was truly amazing," Bongiorno said. "Funds that were raised have already helped families in need. Hopefully, this first time ever has helped raise awareness to the town that our vets and their families need our support and that they can continue to donate directly to the Wilbraham Vets Fund. We hope to make this an annual event and bigger and better next year."

The restaurant, she added, also gives 15% discounts to veterans.

Along with Antaya and Bongiorno, Renna also expressed his thanks and shared this message.

"Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and helped make this event such a success. A special thank you goes to Nicole Antaya and the entire ECI Technologies team for their vision, planning, and hard work in organizing this fundraiser, as well as Route 20 Bar & Grille for generously hosting the event and helping create such a welcoming atmosphere," Renna said. "It was a wonderful evening filled with great conversations, familiar faces, and new connections. Most importantly, it demonstrated the tremendous support that exists for our local veterans and military families. Many veterans are used to being the ones helping others, and sometimes it can be difficult to ask for assistance. Events like this remind them that their community is here for them just as they were there for our country. On behalf of the veterans and families we serve, thank you for your generosity, your support, and your commitment to ensuring that no veteran in our community faces hardship alone."

To support the Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund, residents can send a check to the Town of Wilbraham and note in the Memo "The Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund."

Local grocery store gift cards can also be dropped off at the senior center and note "Attn: Patrick Renna - Veterans Services."

Digital art and drawing for kids and teens at WPL

WILBRAHAM - Join us on Wednesday, July 8 to create digital art on iPads with KevTech.

Join Kevin Figueroa to learn the basics of digital art creation with an iPad! In this class, we cover the basics of creating art in the Procreate app, the most popular app for making art on the iPad. We cover various features in Procreate like colors, brushes, layers, and more. The class includes an activity in which a piece of unique artwork is created. Kevin provides all the tools needed to learn!

Online registration required as space is very limited.

Program Details

Kids' Digital Art and Drawing, Wednesday, July 8, 1 to 2:30 p.m. For students entering grades 3-5. Registration opens Monday, June 15 at 9 a.m.

Teens' Digital Art and Drawing, Wednesday, July 8, 2:30 to 4 p.m. For students entering grades 6-12. Registration opens Tuesday, June 23 at 9 a.m.

For more information or to register, visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call (413) 596-6141.

Sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, Wilbraham Public Library 25 Crane Park Drive Wilbraham, MA.

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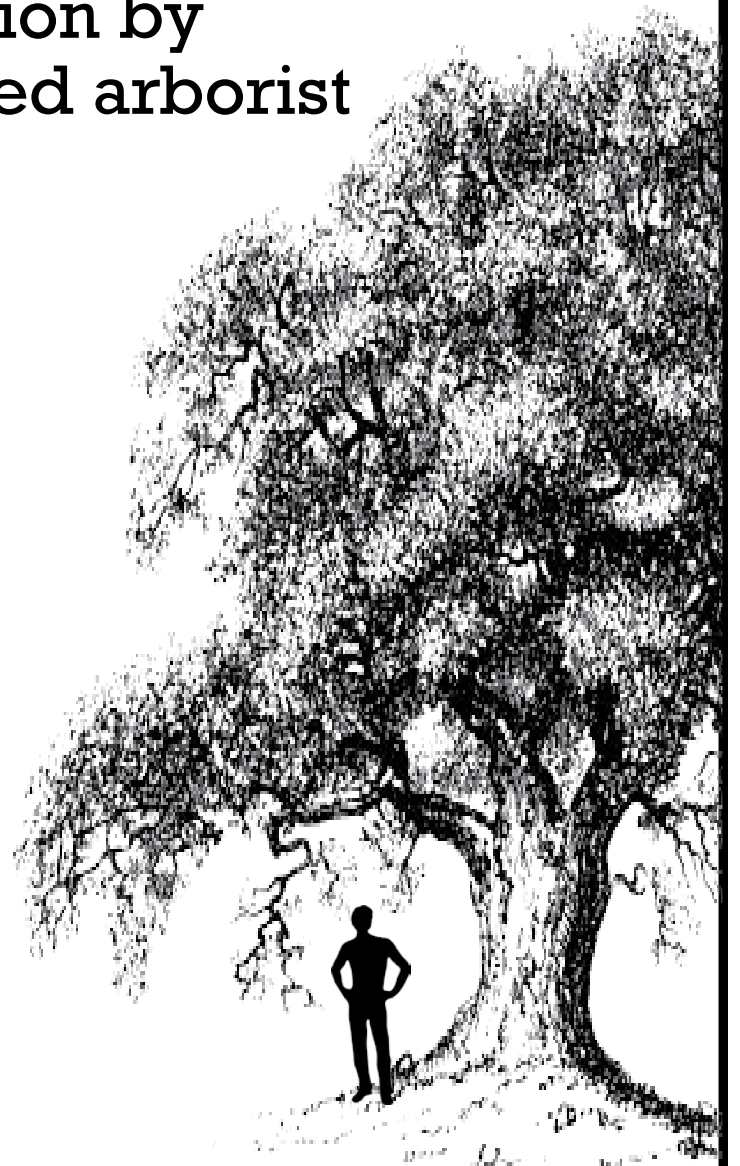


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HISTORICAL from page 1

the snake, which had started to crawl off the girl's lap, and drew the child away."

Mary nearly fainted as she carried the girl into their cabin. The father Nathan, coming home from his work, saw the tub in the yard and picked it up when out sprang the rattlesnake, which he quickly killed with his hoe. The rattles were quickly cut off the snake and treasured by the little girl as she grew to womanhood. Many years later she gave them to her daughter and they were kept in the family until they wore out.

Mary Mack died January 13, 1810 and is buried in Adams Cemetery.

B. F. Greene

Historian Henry Edson, in his memoirs "Glendale Stories" left us with information about well-known Glendale personality B. F. Greene (1844-1928), who with his wife Isinella Bennett Greene (1853-1920) were affiliated with Glendale Methodist Church, across from Glendale Cemetery. They are both buried down in the valley at Woodland Dell Cemetery, off of Main Street.

Greene was president of the church Board of Trustees and was in charge of investment and finances. Edson said Green would be remembered for his work in the community, "from the work parties like repairing of horse sheds and barns destroyed by heavy snows" and more.

At the turn of the century a memorial society in town, at the suggestion of a few re-



Delivery, 1913-style...

A delivery cart from the Frank A. Gurney Store in the Center Village of Wilbraham is off to make a delivery to Sixteen Acres. Note the Soldier's Monument in the background, which was erected in 1894. And, his horse takes a drink from the town trough. Gurney's customers had to use their own horse and carts around the farm so they relied on Gurney's to deliver the goods. (Times file photo from Wilbraham Library)

maining Civil War veterans, made Greene president and they worked painstakingly to erect a memorial boulder under Greene's direction. Greene took charge of the project and after a particularly busy day's work on their mission, a baseball game broke out, and though Greene was in his 60's then, legend has it that he "Pulled off his heavy work boots, and in his stocking feet, played better than his young companions."

In 1913, the town's 150th Anniversary planning committee made Green the chairman of the dedication of the Soldier's Boulder next to Glendale Cemetery, which carried the engraved names of Wilbraham

soldiers from various wars. On the third day of the 150th anniversary, June 19, 1913, the headlines screamed "Veterans Unveil Massive Boulder" - "Wilbraham Pays Tribute to War Heroes in Closing Day's Exercises".

In those days Glendale, which prior to the Civil War was part of the Underground Railroad, was ablaze with grassy glens and dales. With patriotic bunting on nearby homes the important boulder project that had been overseen by B. F. Greene, was dedicated.

The newspapers of the day described the event: "A goodly amount" of Civil War veterans were joined by school children from the Glendale School No.



The Collins Inn at North Wilbraham served as a hotel for railroad passengers debarking from the North Wilbraham Railroad Station. The hotel was located at the corner of Boston Road and Chapel Street just across the street from the station near the old post office and a livery stable. The hotel was torn down sometime in the 1950's to make way for what is now an auto service station. In this photo, Chapel Street is seen heading out of the lower right portion of the image. (Photo courtesy of Joe and Greg Roberts)

7 for the dedication."

Warren Collins

Warren Collins will always be remembered for persuading the Western Railroad to establish a full-fledged railroad station in North Wilbraham. According to the Charles Merrick "History of Wilbraham", that move gave our town respectability in the business community.

Mr. Collins subsequently became the first station agent and the first postmaster at North Wilbraham.

His son, Warren Levi Collins, built the Collins Inn in 1874 and then the livery stable in North Wilbraham. He owned and operated the stage line between the north of town and the Center Village for

many years. That responsibility allowed him to carry the mail from the railroad station to the Post Office in the Center. He gave the land on which the paper mill, Collins Manufacturing Company, was built. Warren Levi Collins, died Feb. 15, 1901 (aged 72) and is buried in Adams Cemetery.

Revolutionary Moment

We continue to honor our country's birthday, 250 years of freedom, each month.

Lt. John Glover from Wilbraham was a "Minuteman" and spread the word of the "Lexington Alarm" (The Battle of Concord and Lexington) through local towns in 1775.

He served at Dorchester in 1776. He was drafted into Capt. Daniel Cadwell's Com-

65 Years Ago

Zoned for Industrial Use

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a June, 1961 edition. "The Wilbraham Industrial Development Committee is working towards securing desirable industry for the town. We have only one major area zoned for industrial use," Leo E. Kuehn, Chairman of the Planning Board.

pany. Later Glover served as a cavalry officer in the Continental Army. He died at the age of 78 in 1830 and is buried in Adams Cemetery.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913 by Chauncey E. Peck.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.



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PVSSL adult soccer season action



Emma Allyn looks to smother a shot.

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday evening, the adult summer soccer schedule continued into its second week with Celtic United White, consisting of players from multiple communities, facing off with the Monson Mustangs at Minnechaug Regional High School. Monson, out to a 3-1 start in the women's division, defeated Celtic 8-0. Celtic fell to 0-2-1 on the season.



Abby Rockwal attempts to clear the ball away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Francesca DePergoia takes a free kick.



Olivia McGrail tries to kick the ball away.



Marisa Martins-Gil tips a pass.

Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals leading to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lussitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"This is a very challenging league," said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. "We've had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight's game."

The Mutiny (1-5-2) are first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1.

The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team earns a berth in the league playoffs.

Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer.

"I'm really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country," Klingensmith said. "Its going to be a different type of experience for me."

Hope Santiniello, who's from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders.

"The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing," said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday's match.

Please see **MUTINY**, page 12

Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— After 21 days away from historic Lussitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra-state showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two matchup ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

"We held a 2-1 halftime lead," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We didn't play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us."

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league playoffs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019.

The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak alive.



Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jaiden Williams makes a quick pass to his left.

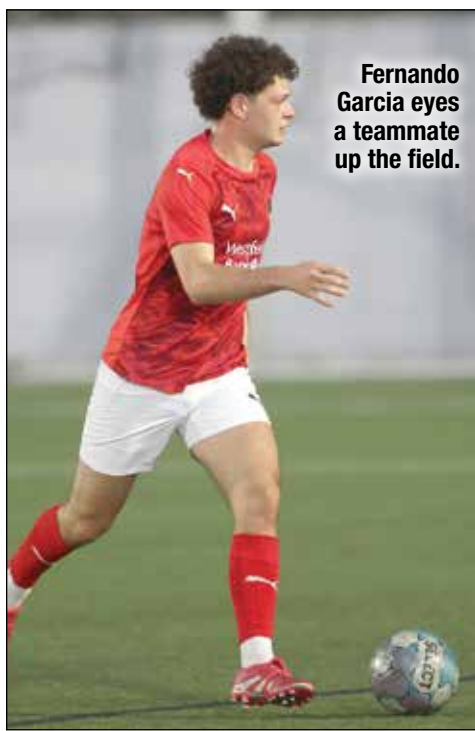
"It's very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans," said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. "We're going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season."

De Andrade, who's from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three matches a year ago.

"Western Mass has always been a very strong team," he said. "I just wanted a new challenge this year. The atmosphere here is amazing and it's a privilege to be a member of this squad. I wouldn't change anything."

De Andrade, who was a member of the New England

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12



Fernando Garcia eyes a teammate up the field.



Alfred Baafi dribbles up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Chloe Laizer corrals the ball.

Blue Sox suffer loss to Newport

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (7-5-1) were unable to score a run against the Newport Gulls (7-7-1) on Saturday night, suffering a 10-0 loss. This was the second meeting of the season for these two teams, tying their first game 2-2 on Opening Day.

To start the ballgame, the Blue Sox went down 5-0 immediately, after a rough inning from Kaden Kimble in his first start of the summer. Gus Gandy and Devan Zirwas hit back-to-back singles, and Brandon Larson was walked, loading the bases for Newport.

The Gulls' first two tallies came from Kimble consecutively walking Ryan Novak and Ryan Jaros, which forced in the runs that put Newport up 2-0. With the bases still loaded, Braxton Tramel singled to left field and sent Novak and Larson home to extend the lead to 4-0.

Newport's fifth and final run of the first inning was the result of Adam Broski hitting a RBI single to right field. The Blue Sox going down 5-0 so early on completely knocked the wind out of them as they remained hitless until the bottom of the eighth inning.

In the top of the second, the Gulls had the bases loaded once again after Cade Brown and Novak were walked, and Jaros singled. The sixth run for Newport was scored on a fielder's choice play that stemmed from a Cole Johnson at-bat.

The Gull's offense continued to pile on Valley in the fifth as they scored five more runs, solidifying their win long before the final inning. Gandy and Zirwas quickly found themselves on base due to Gandy hitting a double and Zirwas getting walked.

Newport's runners were able to steal second and third base, but an error from the Blue Sox allowed Gandy and Zirwas to advance, adding another run for the Gulls. Cade Brown then hit a single that sent Zirwas home, increasing the gap to 8-0.

MUTINY from page 11

"It's always been a pleasure playing for this team."

Just like Klingensmith, Santiniello is seeking an opportunity to play soccer at the professional level. She's hoping to join a women's team in Florida.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Tennessee Murphy, who began her high school soccer career at Monson High School before transferring to the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut. She'll be a freshman on the Bucknell University women's soccer team in the fall.

"Being a member of this soccer team is preparing me for the college level," Murphy said. "I'm counting down the days until I leave for college. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Murphy is scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania on July 27.

The Mutiny took a 1-0 lead less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Hudson Valley goalie Brianna McDonald attempted to clear the ball, but it went directly to Mila Dillard, who put a shot into the open net for an unassisted goal.

Dillard, who lives in Chicopee, is going to be a senior on the Pope Francis girls' varsity soccer team,



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get control of the loose ball.

which is coached by her father, Brent. She has verbally committed to playing soccer at the University of Kentucky a year from now.

The Crusaders tied the score during the 18th minute of the opening half with Joy Okonye putting a header into the left corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Chloe Laizer.

About six minutes later, a goal from Emmanuella Frimpomaa gave the visiting team the lead for first time.

The Crusaders were then given a penalty kick follow-

ing a foul in the box.

Okonye took the shot, which deflected off the right post.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Laizer made an outstanding save on a breakaway shot from Frimpomaa, which kept the score at 2-1 a little bit longer.

The Crusaders did take a 3-1 lead when Marta Carrasco Mesa headed the ball into the net following a corner kick.

Frimpomaa scored her second goal of the match 30 seconds into the second half, which pretty much sealed the Crusaders victory.



Monson's Tennessee Murphy advances up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com. Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.

At the end of regulation, Trinity Clark scored a goal for the home team.

The Mutiny were scheduled to play a road match against AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before wrapping up the season against Vermont Green at Lusitano Stadium at 6pm on Saturday night.



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, sends a long kick away.



Maeve Staunton overtakes an opponent.

PIONEERS from page 11

Revolution Academy soccer team in high school, began his collegiate career at UMass Boston. He'll be joining the men's soccer team at Bryant University, which competes at the Division I level, this fall.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the contest.

Bolts goalie William Synnvestvedt made his first save on a header from Martin Echarren six minutes into the first half. A minute later, Echarren, who plays soccer at the University of Charleston, lined a shot towards the goal, but Synnvestvedt (2 saves) made the diving save knocking the ball over the end line resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers broke the ice during the 21st minute.

The scoring play began with Alfred Baafi delivering a crossing pass in the box to Echarren, who put a header into the right corner of the net.

Three minutes later, De Andrade fired a shot into the back of the net after receiving a pass from Echarren.

The Bolts (3-4-2) cut their deficit in half when Connor Gibson scored on a header in the 37th minute.

Nikolaj Bertelsen was the Pioneers starting goalie for the first time this season. He replaced Ben Alexander, who suffered an injury in a 1-0 win over the Conn. Rush two nights earlier.

"Ben suffered a head injury the other night and he had to get stitches," Molinari said. "He'll probably be out a couple of games."

During the 60th minute, Xavier Tanyi lined a shot from about 25 yards out into the net tying the score at 2-2.

The Pioneers had a couple of chances to retake the lead during the last 30 minutes, but the score didn't change on the scoreboard.

Western Mass. defender Riley Priddy was given a straight red card from referee



defender and the home team salvaged a tie.

A tie is better than a loss, but it wasn't what the Pioneers fans were hoping for.

The Pioneers are scheduled to face the Bolts for the second time this season at Brandeis University on June 30.

AT LEFT: Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Luis Reis after pulling down a Bolts player just outside the top of the box in stoppage time. The free kick taken from Rainer Osselmann-Chai deflected off a Western Mass.



Yigit Kilic looks to play the ball off his body.

Tanglewood Bus Trip

WILBRAHAM – The senior center is offering a bus trip to seniors in the area to go to Tanglewood on Aug. 2 to watch Violinist Joshua Bell perform.

The cost is \$99 per person and all gratuities included.

Arrive by 10:45 a.m. for an 11 a.m. departure with the expected return time at 7 p.m.

Picnic on the Lawn 12:30 to 5 p.m.

This is a rain or shine event. Seats are available under the sheet or on the lawn, your choice! Enjoy a prepared box lunch before the show, included with your admission.

The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. and runs for approximately two hours, plus a 20 minute intermission.

Limited space available, payment due in full at registration. Call 413-596-8379 to reserve your spot. Make checks payable to the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Hampden celebrates 250 Years

HAMPDEN – The town of Hampden will celebrate 250 years with a free Band Concert on Friday, July 3, at 6 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair, bring a blanket, pack a picnic!

The concert will be at 85 Wilbraham Rd in Hampden at the Town Hall Gazebo.



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ART SHOW from page 1

The winners were the following.

Watercolor

First Place: Joe Burger, *Second Place:* Eileen Hodge *Third Place:* Cathy Guidetti *Honorable Mention:* Renee Brown

Photography

First Place: Joyce Donovan; *Second Place:* Laura Salerno; *Third Place:* Melanie Newhouse; *Honorable Mention:* Joanne Bell

Oil

First Place: Susan James; *Second Place:* Jean-Marie Magnier; *Third Place:* Susan James; *Honorable Mention:* Richard Swiatlowski

Graphics

First Place: August Schau; *Second Place:* Noreen Acconcio; *Third Place:* Melissa Barbeau

Acrylic

First Place: Teresa Warka; *Second Place:* Harriette Block; *Third Place:* Roger Kellman; *Honorable Mention:* Harriette Block

Three-Dimensional

First Place: Holly Tuttle; *Second Place:* Laura Salerno; *Third Place:* Cheryl Perrault; *Honorable Mentions:* Audrey Safford and Antoni Syrek

The art show was sponsored by Lawn Tech Lawn Care, Blick Art Materials, Mass Cultural Council and Hampden Cultural Council, Monson Savings Bank, RAH (Recreation Association of Hampden) and the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

SRA President Laura Salerno explained how professional artists within their fields are hired to judge the artwork prior to the show's

opening to the public, determining which ones are selected and prizes.

"It's completely up to the judges. It's anonymous, they have no idea who they're judging and they're people from out of the area, so they really don't know any of us, so it's pretty exciting. They're in a closed room with the artwork and do their thing," Salerno said. "That happened last week, so all the results are up here now for all to see with their little ribbons."

Salerno said some new faces were a part of this year's show and "some beautiful artwork" was being featured, with several pieces already sold as well.

"We had about 93 pieces that were entered into this show, which is a great turnout and looking forward to seeing the community come out now," Salerno said. "I think we had seven non-members enter this show and one of the members, this is the first time she's entered but she's been a member for a year... we've had a few people that I've never seen their work before show up, so it's quite exciting and I encourage to keep doing that. Keep showing their work. I don't care whether you're a beginner, experienced, doesn't matter. Keep showing."

Her favorite art pieces were "After the Harvest" from Susan James, "The Great Blue Heron" and "Serenity" from Joanne Bell, "Vine Keeper" from Nan Hurlburt and "Pears & Pinot" from Deb Penna.

Coming up for the Interactive Learning Through Art workshops meanwhile is "The Art of Tattoo" with Instructor Phil Olivera on July 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.

"We've got a lot of interest in this," Salerno said. "He's a very enthusiastic, very passionate about the arts and he's going to teach everybody in the art of tattooing. What part of the body is best and why. Going to give you samples of tattoos, how they're done, he's going to tell you the safety behind it and why safety and cleanliness is so important...I can't wait to see this one."

Also featured at the art show was the Reflective Musings signups with people to create their own artwork that will be featured at the Fall Art Show on Oct. 24 and 25.

"We have the instructions and the canvases here to hand out to folks," Salerno said.

Residents can still pick up the materials at the upcoming ILTAs on July 16 and Aug. 13, any of the art classes going on at the senior center and reach out to the SRA through their website at scanticraverartisans.com. The canvases will need to be submitted by Sept. 18.

Her message was this.

"If you haven't seen one of our shows yet, we're local," Salerno said. "Come see, just pop in, see what we're all about and I guarantee you'll enjoy it. You'll enjoy what you see."

She also praised the artists.

"Thank you to all the artisans and please show up during our reception because there's lots of people in the



These pieces were also standouts to the judges.



Here is "Grasses" from Melissa Barbeau.



Joe Burger's "Somethin' Fishy" won first prize in the Watercolor category.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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America's 250 Celebration Contest

WILBRAHAM - Help us celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the ideals that inspired the founding of our nation.

All Wilbraham residents are invited to decorate their front door or entryway in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Get creative with patriotic colors, historical themes, symbols of liberty, civic pride, hometown heritage, or anything that reflects the enduring spirit of our country and community.

How to Participate & Win Prizes:

- Decorate your front door/entry

- Take a clear photo
- Submit your entry at WilbrahamCenter.org.

Prizes will be awarded for:

- Best Overall
- Most Patriotic
- Most Creative
- People's Choice and more!

Everyone in Wilbraham is welcome!

Let's make Wilbraham shine for the 250th!

Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to join the fun and enjoy the beautiful decorated entries all around town. Visit WilbrahamCenter.org today for full rules, prize details, submission form, and more.

WilbrahamCenter.org
Community - Connection - Living with History

Beatles Concert to be held at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM- All are invited to attend "The Music of the Beatles" at Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, June 29 at 6 p.m. In this one hour concert, musician and instrumentalist Melodious Zach will perform the Beatles' greatest hits and quiz the audience on Beatles trivia.

Weather permitting, this performance will take place outside of the library and attendees are encouraged to bring a chair. This program is supported by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is appreciated but not required. Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Adult Crafternoon at the WPL

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Public Library is offering a Crafternoon for Adults on Friday, June 26, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Join us to create personalized beaded bookmarks. This is an easy to learn craft that produces excellent results.

And the bookmarks make great gifts!

No experience is needed, and all craft supplies will be provided. But registration is necessary as space is limited. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

OBITUARY

Peter J. Boden

1946-2026

WILBRAHAM - Peter J. Boden, 79, died peacefully on June 11, 2026. Born in Springfield to the late Frank and Jayne (Bronislawa) Boden, he attended the former Cathedral High School in Springfield, American Inter-



many stories through the years. Peter belonged to a train travel club with many of his Boston co-workers. Their trips took them to many destinations, including Canada and the West Coast. A trusted friend to many, Peter enjoyed gathering with friends for Thanksgiving dinners and pizza nights. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

He later began his career as a State of MA employee with the Department of Transitional Assistance as a systems analyst in Boston. Peter worked there for 30 years until his retirement. Peter's special group of friends have their strongest memories from the 1970's at the radio station WTCC at Springfield Technical Community College. Peter hosted a weekend "Fabulous Fifties" radio show and became great friends with his "on air" colleagues, sharing

In addition to his parents, Peter was also predeceased by his sister Ann Russo. He will be sadly missed by his beloved brother Frank Boden of Boise, ID.

The family would like to sincerely thank his care team for their countless hours of compassionate care.

Peter's Funeral Mass was held at St. Cecilia Church and burial was in Woodland Dell Cemetery, Wilbraham.

LUNCHEON from page 1

of Mike and Bob from The Boomers, which on frequent occasions got attendees up on their feet and dancing.

The Boomers, which have been performing for over 25 years, but their first time performing in Hampden, said that the crowd was "exceptionally enthusiastic and responsive." They expressed their gratitude to Tina Doran, program and volunteer coordinator, and the senior center staff for a fantastic experience and hope to be back soon.

Doran, who played a large role in the luncheon, spoke about the event herself, while also highlighting the senior center as a whole.

"We're just kicking off the summer and having some fun," Doran said. "Everyone is welcome, whoever comes through our doors, and we're not just for seniors. We have a lot of different classes that anybody can take advantage of."

In attendance for the luncheon was community member Linda Bridge, who has been attending senior center events for years.

"I heard about this place and started coming. I was always very happy with everything," Bridge said. "So,



Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

Attendees enjoy good food and company at the summer kickoff luncheon.

when they come up with having lunch and a show, it's just something really nice to have."

The senior center cafeteria was, also, very nicely decorated in a red, white and blue fashion by the quilting club, centerpieces were made by receptionist Joi Giuggio.

"I just use things that are here at the senior center, always trying to reuse and repurpose what we have," Giuggio said. "We had mason jars, a lot of supplies and ribbons here. And we always have flowers. There was also a little stick with a commemorative 250 for the birth of the United States. And I just



Tina Doran introduces The Boomers.

cut those out and put them together."

It was a nice afternoon for people to come together with

friends, meeting new friends as well, all under good food, music, and atmosphere.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of July 3, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: Hyundai Sonata
 VIN#: 5NPEB4AC3BH045889
 LKO: Zachari Zayas-Damiam
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R & S Assoc. Inc
 PO Box 543
 Wilbraham MA 01095
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06/18, 06/25, 07/02/2026

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CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- Excitedness
- Armed Forces branch
- Actor Harris
- Middle Eastern capital
- Air hostesses
- Partner to "Pa"
- Percussion instrument
- Popular computers
- Reduce light
- Asian mountain range
- Every one of two or more
- Absence of difficulty
- A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- Whittles
- Impact
- Serviceman
- A French river
- Prehistoric people
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Clapton, musician
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Singer Hansard
- A way to disentangle
- Atomic #93
- Manifesting approval
- Indigo bush
- Former AL MVP Vaughn
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to passerine birds
- Arrange systematically
- Grew older
- Not the leader
- Lang (country singer)
- A driver's license is one
- Nests of pheasants
- Wildebeests
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Type of cat
- It cools your home
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Pouches
- German trigraph
- Form of Persian
- Measurement unit
- Body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee
- Snack food
- Front part of a quadruped
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- ___, myself and I
- City in Utah
- They play in the trenches
- "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
- Type of tree
- Performers
- Slang for mistake
- More open
- Most slick
- Needles
- University of Dayton
- Atomic #11
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not any
- ___ and behold
- Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
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Jason Arnold welcomes everyone to the showcase.



The drummers along with Jason Arnold take a group picture.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Gajda

DRUMMING concert held at HSC

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Senior Center African Drumming Circle had their annual performance in the senior center on May 29.

The group showcased a selection of songs that they have been practicing over the past few months. Each member of the group was also able to showcase their own solo in the songs as well.

They also invited audience members to take a turn with the drums and learn a few beats.

The program is led by Jason Arnold, a teacher from the Community Music School in Springfield.

"I show them different kinds of rhythms, and we

play African rhythms and it's almost like a family," Arnold said. "I've been doing it for two and a half years and they are so into it. And we just have fun, learning rhythms, and it's energetic and full of laughter."

Tina Doran, the program and volunteer coordinator for the senior center for three years, took a minute to speak about the program.

"He (Jason) will usually have about 16-18 people in his class. And I always tell them to their face, they're all crazy because they enjoy themselves so much," Doran said. "They like to play, they like to laugh, and they just like to have a good time. It's amazing."

Drumming Group Member Susan Superson also took

a moment to talk about the group. She has been with the program for two years.

"The people are really great and encouraging. Jason is an amazing teacher. And it's actually great upper body exercise and a great stress reliever," Superson said.

It was a great celebrational showcase displaying something that the senior center members love. And showcasing one of the Hampden Senior Center's outstanding programs that they offer.

The Hampden Senior Center drumming class is every Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. and new students are always welcome. No previous experience is needed.

The current session runs through July 31 and costs \$7.



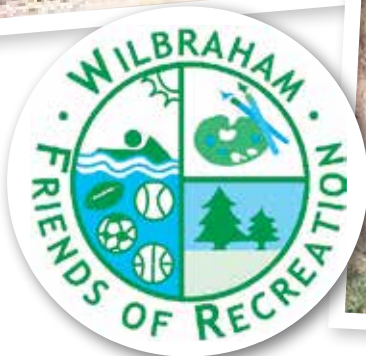
Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Danielle Shaugnessy (Left) and Mary Auger (Right) hold the drums they have been given and join along with the drumming circle.

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Javier Gomez

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RACE WINNERS:

Winners by Age Group

- Top Male: James Coletta
- Top Female: Joni Beauvais
- Top Wilbraham Male: Brody Summers
- Top Wilbraham Female: Kristen Pessolano
- 0-7: Madison Pessolano
- 8-11: S. Carreira
- 12-19: Declan Kelly
- 20 - 29: Sierra Hays-Rivest
- 30-35: Emily Dunbar
- 36-39: Michael Goodreau
- 40-44: Brian Beauvais
- 45-49: Chris Duby
- 50-60: Adam Long
- 61+: Andy Bourke