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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

(L to R) Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center members Deb Gormley, membership director, Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary, Judy Cmero, director of the Board of Directors, Brenda Willard, Kate Belsky, recording secretary, Chuck Pelouze, member of the capital campaign for the new senior center, Maria Cacela, vice president, and Pam Sonnefeld display signs promoting the upcoming Bushels of Fun Fest during their July 7 Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center meeting.

Friends of Wilbraham Senior Center plans Bushels of Fun Fest

The meeting took place on July 7, event to take place Aug. 27

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center met in the library's Brooks Room on July 7 to plan the first annual Bushels of Fun Fest.

The day-long event takes place on Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Fern Valley Farms on Main Street, with proceeds supporting the Friends.

Bushels of Fun Fest will have food trucks, live bands, crafters, lawn games including corn hole and disc golf, standing yoga, produce vendors, face painting, temporary tattoos, tractor rides and many more activities.

Residents can visit bushelsoffunfest.com to learn more.

Throughout the meeting, members discussed plans for

placing lawn signs, photos with the apple mascot "Appleonia" the BFF Apple, vendor and activity locations and finalized the event schedule.

Additional ideas will be discussed on July 21 at 2 p.m. at the senior center.

Maria Cacela, vice president of the Friends' Board of Directors, has been part of the group for 14 years, explaining the Catch the Buzz Committee, an ad hoc committee, focuses on additional fundraising opportunities for the new senior center,

support programs and services and more.

She was excited about planning Bushels of Fun Fest, hoping "it'll be a continual annual event."

"When we reached out to Fern Valley Farms to see if they were interested in helping us in some way, they were gracious enough to offer their venue, their location, for the day. So, we are so fortunate that Dan Fernandes and Kim Montagna,

Please see **SENIORS**, page 7

Hampden Selectboard addresses beaver trapping, Rock-A-Dundee Bridge, more

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Town Administrator Bob Markel alerted the Board of Selectmen on July 10 that Hampden is dealing with beaver dam issues.

Markel said two of the sites where beaver dams are located are permitted for trapping and that the town needs to stay aware of the situation. He said the town can issue permits for trapping during the season, and Board Chair John Flynn responded humorously.

"Is the market going back up? I know it died in the 1800s, and it really went down, but if it's coming back that's great," Flynn said.

Markel said the issue stems from the water displacement that occurs when a dam is created, putting property owners at risk if the dam breaks.

"If it's private property and if the owner says release the dam, and the water goes downstream and floods somebody, the owner is liable so there's a lot of reluctance from private owners of dams on private properties. They get advised not to allow the release of them," Markel said.

Markel shared a list of troublesome locations with the Selectmen, although he did not share it with the public. Flynn

Please see **HAMPDEN**, page 3

Kids enjoy a "Bad Art Afternoon" at Hampden Library

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Children enjoyed a fun afternoon of creating art pieces with a twist from noon to 1 p.m. on July 8 in the library's Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center.

The event, titled "Bad Art Afternoon", is one of several programs the library is offering the community throughout the summer.

During the event, kids worked on creating their own art and experimenting with different art and craft pieces while mixing paint colors, trying out different art canvases and more.

Young Adult Librarian Maxine

Girard explained she came up with the program idea when perusing Pinterest for inspiration.

"I was looking at craft activities and I saw one that was called bad art. It was 'Bad Art Night', but we're doing it in the afternoon so I changed the title. It seemed like a fun thing to do," Girard said.

Girard explained what "Bad Art Afternoon" entails for attendees.

"Basically, we just put out a bunch of arts and crafts supplies and the kids just get to do whatever they want. There's no pressure for it to look great. It's just a fun way to express their creativity," Girard said.

The arts and crafts had various art and craft pieces for attendees to get creative from foam shapes,

googly eyes and beads to yarn, pom poms and paint.

Additional pieces included canvases, rocks, picture frames and paper plates.

"Just a little bit of everything," Girard said.

Girard loves holding programming during the summer, especially for kids and teens.

"I like that it's sort of a blend of getting people into the library and still keeping that community feel when everybody's sort of doing their own thing in the summer. There's a central place to come together and do fun things," Girard said. "In general, our summer programming has higher attendance and it's a nice time for kids

Please see **ART**, page 13



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A multi-shades of purple art piece made with paint on a paper plate during the "Bad Art Afternoon" event at Hampden Free Public Library. It was one of several art pieces designed by kids during the event.

Board of Selectmen holds two public hearings with National Grid

Also, concerns raised regarding the Minnechaug Booster Club

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM – The Board of Selectmen held two public hearings on July 10 with National Grid for projects on Glendale Road and Crane Hill Road.

For Glendale Road, the petition focuses on pole and wire locations, while Crane Hill Road involves Verizon New England Inc. with joint or identical pole locations.

Lisa Jasinski, senior designer at National Grid, explained from Glendale Road up to Crane Hill Road “they need to upgrade the service” as “it’s very much over its capacity.”

“In doing so, we have to add a few poles, it’s there in the plan, and in doing that, there’s some tree trimming but there is also some tree removal,” Jasinski said.

Jasinski added she spoke with Department of Public Works Director Tonya Capparello that morning, who sent over a list of poles after going through them with the tree warden and reviewed the trees.

Jasinski said “some poles obviously have to get upgraded” to “help bring that service up to date.”

Charlene Morse lives on Glendale Road and had two questions.

“I’m just curious when is this taking place?” Morse said.

Jasinski replied she was unsure as they “have to go through the steps of approval.”

Morse then asked about timelines.

“When it takes place, are we out of power for a certain amount of time?” Morse said.

Jasinski said no, as any power outages would take place during the power swap.

The Glendale Road #30649774 petition passed 3-0 for the laying and maintaining of one pole and wire location.

The Crane Hill Road #30649774 petition passed 3-0 for the laying and maintaining of identical or joint poles and wire locations for four joint poles.

A major topic was a developing hot-button issue regarding the Minnechaug Regional High School Booster Club after residents sent several letters of concern.

Town Administrator Nick Breault explained what the board received.

“I was copied in on some communications from residents just alerting the board and the office of conversations that have been ongoing or tried to be ongoing regarding funds and transparency of funds being allocated with the Booster Club,” Breault said. “It’s also widened a bit into discussion about what are the Booster Club’s bylaws, who are present members on the board, what is the makeup of the board, should that may be looked at again, so there’s several questions.”

Breault said the board has also received information from Principal Stephen Hale on the status and origin of the Booster Club and additional information from a member of the Booster Club, with further discussion set to take place in a district meeting on July 20.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich said she asked Breault to put this item on the meeting agenda to “bring it to light and to let citizens know” their concerns are being heard.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

(L to R) Wilbraham Board of Selectmen Clerk Michael Squindo, Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell and Town Administrator Nick Breault listen as Lisa Jasinski, senior designer at National Grid, shares her thoughts during two public hearings with National Grid at the July 10 meeting.

“We have received their correspondence and we are going to pursue it with the School Committee and hopefully we can get some answers for everyone because it is a hot topic in town,” Goodrich said.

Goodrich encouraged residents “to keep sending us your emails.”

“Send them to the town office and we will help,” Goodrich said.

She also reminded residents about the town’s regional school system.

“It’s not just cut and dry. Wilbraham can’t do something, Hampden can’t do something, so we have to work together,” Goodrich said. “The School Committee has a great deal of power and control, more so than the boards do on this kind of regard, so I just wanted to let everyone know that.”

More next week as the Planning Board, the Finance Committee and more received new appointments, an update on regional dispatch and more.

Fun Field Day in Hampden July 22

HAMPDEN – On July 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., a Fun Field Day will occur at Life Stream Church, 216 Allen St. The event will be hosted by Christina’s House and feature exciting outdoor activities.

Come and join the fun for an exciting outdoor event to keep your children and family moving. Don’t forget your chairs.

Activities for all ages, including sand castle building, face painting, live worship, arts and crafts, field games, food trucks, vendors and more.

For more information and volunteer opportunities, email: Kareem@christinashouse.org.

Correction

During the June 24 Summer Reading Kickoff at Hampden Free Public Library, The Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library provided ice cream sundaes and pup cup treats by Ice Cream Emergency during the summer reading kickoff event.

Hartsprings Bin to be located at senior center through the fall

HAMPDEN – As a reminder, the Hartsprings Bin will be located at The Hampden Senior Center through the Summer and Fall. This bin is a fundraiser sponsored by The Friends Of the Hampden Seniors, and items such as clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, books, towels, sheets and bedspreads or comforters and any small kitchen item can be accepted. However, No BED PILLOWS or FLOOR RUGS can be placed in this bin. If you have any item that is in a box or large bag and does not fit in the bin’s door, please contact Joan Shea at (413) 566-8224 and arrangements will be made to help you.

Any additional questions in regards to an item you have, please feel free to contact Joan.

In picture is Mike Shea of Hampden helping a client put boxes in Hartsprings Bin located at 104 Allen St., Hampden.



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Cornhole Tournament sign-ups

WILBRAHAM —Whether you enjoy playing CORNHOLE just for fun or you are a serious league player, the Bushels of Fun Fest event on Aug. 27 at Fern Valley Farms, 758 Main St, Wilbraham is where you need to be.

Here's the opportunity to try your skills against other like-minded enthusiasts. There will be three single elimination tournaments, at 12, 2, & 4 p.m. Each winning team will walk away with a Trophy, gift cards, and bragging rights!

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors programs and the new Senior Center. Sign-ups for 2 person teams are going on NOW, so email Kate at katebelsky13@gmail.com to register your team.

For more information, call Kate at 413-949-6466. Spots are limited! Cost \$20 per team payable at the event. So, here's your chance to smoke out all your friends & family and attain the glory of "Bushels of Fun Fest" Cornhole Champions title while supporting the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors with their programs.

Evening Book Discussion at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – The Evening Book Discussion wants to know "What are you reading now?" on Wednesday, July 19 at 7 p.m.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month and is facilitated by Assistant Director Mary Bell.

"The summer is such a busy time for people, that we decided instead of reading one book we would have a laid-back discussion about what we're reading," said Bell.

Come with a title (or two!) and be prepared to share a little bit about what you're reading and what you think of it. Add to your TBR pile by getting others' recommendations! Newcomers are welcome and no sign up is necessary.

For more information contact Mary Bell at 413-596-6141 or email mbell@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

The Summer Program Car Wash

HAMPDEN – From July 31 – Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Thornton Burgess School, a car wash will occur to benefit the Hampden Police Department's Public Safety Night Out in October. A donation of only \$5 is required. The school is located at 85 Wilbraham Road.

Hampden seeks a Recycling Center Assistant

HAMPDEN – The Town of Hampden is seeking an individual to fill the position of Recycling Center Assistant. The position requires availability every Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information you may contact the Board of Health or forward a simple resume to:

Hampden Town Administrator, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036, or fax: 566-2010.

HAMPDEN from page 1

was relieved that one location remained off the list.

"I see the list and am surprised and happy to see that the biggest problem we used to have was East Longmeadow Road. Thank goodness it's not on the list because that is a big problem," Flynn said.

Flynn shared an update regarding an ongoing project to make improvements to the bridge on Rock-A-Dundee Road.

"We did have a teams' meeting with the state on the Rock-A-Dundee bridge project... they could easily finish that project well before 2027. They were talking sidewalks, and I said, 'You're talking about a sidewalk from nowhere to nowhere.' A bike lane would be more appropriate," Flynn said.

Markel noted that the bridge was constructed in 1987 and that "it's not that old."

He noted that the design phase on the repairs is 25% complete.

Flynn pointed out that the bridge does not receive a large amount of traffic on a daily basis.

"You're talking a bridge that has 10 vehicles go over it a day maybe," he said. "I can't recall ever hearing about an accident."

Flynn said the state isn't entirely in agreement on how to fix the bridge, although the fences on each side of the structure are out of code.

"The fences on both sides are not up to code if you will. It looks like the town put them in or the abutters put them in, which I think might have been the case so they should be still guardrails or cement posts," Flynn said.

More in-depth information on the bridge will be featured in next week's edition.

During the meeting, Markel said that the town has five candidates for the fire department's administrative position.

"They were interviewed by Chief (Ed) Poulin, Jane Budykiewicz and me. We have a tentative candidate and are awaiting a final recommendation from the Chief. We can have that on (July) 17 or 24," he said.

The position of administrative assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator has also been posted internally.

"We have a quality candidate. We're going to conduct an interview and bring that candidate presumably to the Selectmen on the 24th," Markel said.

Lastly, Markel noted, "the new audio system has arrived. We'll have that set up ASAP."

It's safe to say the audio will soon be improved at Board of Selectmen's meetings.

Correction

The Cartells performed the first summer concert this season at Fountain Park, not Trailer Trash. Sorry for the mistake.



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Events & announcements schedule

Main Street Farmers Market

WILBRAHAM – Come support local farms, specialty food producers, artisans, food trucks and community groups every Wednesday from 2-6 p.m. between June 14-Aug. 30. Market is located on the front lawn of Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main Street, Wilbraham. We are grateful to our sponsors for their support of the market: InfinityEd, Iron Horse Flower Farm, Premier Exteriors & Design, Jeni Mei- Coldwell Banker Realty and Katie Beliveau- Geneva Financial Home Loans.

Amended instructions for Adult Summer Reading Challenge

The Adult Summer Reading Challenge for 2023 started on Saturday, June 17 and will run until Saturday, Aug. 12. Participants can register by downloading the free Beanstack app onto their device. Readers can also register by going to <https://www.beanstack.com/find-a-site>. Type "Wilbraham" and then click on the image for Wilbraham Public Library. Create an account and then follow the prompts to the Adult Summer Reading Challenge.

Patrons have the option of participating in the challenge by filling out review forms each week at the library. A raffle ticket will be given for each review.

Contact tsymington@wilbrahamlibrary.org for information.

Contact tsymington@wilbrahamlibrary.org for answers to any questions.

Vacation Bible Camp Registration

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham United Church invites you to register for our summer vacation Bible camp program "Stellar".

We welcome campers ages 4 (as of July 31) through sixth-grade.

Program runs July 31- Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$50 per child. Registration is online at

<https://wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/>

Volunteer opportunities available!

Hampden Senior Center Trips

HAMPDEN – A great trip to The Aqua Turf Club on Tuesday, Aug. 15 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

BHN's Kamp for Kids™ in Westfield to hold 'Kamp Welcome Day' July 18

Founded by Judy Hoyt, Kamp serves children with and without disabilities

WESTFIELD — Kamp for Kids™, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, will be holding an open house event, "Kamp Welcome Day," on Tuesday, July 18 from

10:30 a.m. to noon at Camp Togowauk, 754 Russell Road in Westfield.

State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) will be in attendance, along with other public officials, representatives of BHN and parents and friends of Kamp for Kids™. A brief program will be held with remarks by elected officials and BHN staff, and "Kampers" will give demonstrations that they prepared of their creative work including skits, songs and artwork.

Kamp for Kids™, located at Camp Togowauk on Russell Road in Westfield, is for children and young adults ages 3-22 – both with and without disabilities – and offers an opportunity to experience growth, inclusion and fun in a summer camp setting that includes a spray park; expressive arts; outdoor education; arts & crafts; and non-competitive sports.

Kamp for Kids™ operates every summer during July and August with about 150 Kampers over three sessions. This year, Kamp runs from July 10 through August 18, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.bhninc.org/kamp-kids.

Kamp for Kids™ was founded by Judy Hoyt, whose son Rick was the inspiration behind the camp. Rick recently passed away in May 2023 at the age of 61. He became well known through his participation in several Boston Marathons with his father, Dick.

Lawmakers see FAA bill as an opportunity to support families

WASHINGTON- Sen. Edward J. Markey and Sen. JD Vance members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, sent a letter to Sen. Maria Cantwell, chair of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and Sen. Ted Cruz, ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

The letter urged them to include a provision in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration to prohibit family seating fees. In their letter, the senators included legislative language which would prohibit

airlines from charging monetary fees for parents to sit with their children during a flight.

In their letter, the senators wrote, «Airlines should never be allowed to force parents to choose between paying more and being separated from their kids. In extreme circumstances, parents have found themselves assigned seats many rows away from their very young children - a serious safety risk for those kids and an injustice to those families. This practice must end. The 2023 reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration provides an important opportunity to support families by banning these fees.»

Markey is a staunch advocate for consumers, from the streets to the sky. In January, he reintroduced the FAIR Fees Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging fees disproportionate to the cost of the service. In February, Markey introduced the Families Fly Together Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging a fee for families to sit together on a flight.

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SCHOOLS

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary awards scholarships to area Students

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary recently presented \$3500 in scholarships to area high school students pursuing careers in healthcare. Each year the scholarships are financed by the hard work and dedicated fundraising efforts of its members.

The Auxiliary awarded scholarships to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High schools who are pursuing higher education in the healthcare field. The students were chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

The scholarship award recipients are: Madeline Jaszek from Belchertown High School, Kaylee Lyman from Ludlow High School, Nikolas Supczak from Minnechaug Regional High School, Maggie Ronaldson from Monson High School, Colton Santarelli from Palmer High School, Morgan Austin from Pathfinder Regional High School, and Callie Orszulak from Ware High School.

“Our Auxilians work hard each year to raise funds for scholarships because it is very important to them to support our future healthcare professionals,” said Ursula St. Amand, chair of the scholarship committee. “We are extremely proud of these students and grateful to the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary members for their continued dedication to our hospital and our communities.”

For over 75 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital. “We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support,” said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health’s Eastern Region.

Legislation Announced on U.S. Leadership Advancing LGBTQI+ Rights on World Stage

WASHINGTON- As LGBTQI+ communities across the world gather to celebrate Pride Month, Sen. Edward J. Markey, Jeanne Shaheen and Jeff Merkley and Rep. Dina Titus reintroduced the Greater Leadership Overseas for the Benefit of Equality Act, legislation outlining a comprehensive vision for the United States to uphold and defend international LGBTQI+ rights.

The GLOBE Act would ensure equality and justice are critical components of U.S. foreign policy, reaffirm that the United States will not tolerate any discrimination, hatred, and violence against LGBTQI+ persons around the world, and develop assistance and immigration programs for LGBTQI+ individuals abroad.

The legislation would also make permanent the office of the Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, which President Joe Biden established, as well as ensure that future administrations

continue to uphold LGBTQI+ rights on the world stage by directing the State Department to document and respond to bias-motivated violence against LGBTQI+ people abroad.

The bill will implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to criminalization, discrimination, and violence against LGBTQI+ people. The GLOBE Act also calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to establish a permanent Senior LGBTQI+ Coordinator responsible for coordinating across the agency with respect to inclusive development programming.

“As LGBTQI+ people face rising discrimination here at home, we must use Pride Month as an opportunity to affirm our commitment to freedom and equality - regardless of gender or sexual orientation - for every person, from Utah to Uganda,” said Markey.

Wilbraham students graduate from TEC Connections Academy, Commonwealth’s largest virtual school

WALPOLE - Jackson Duquette and Matthew George of Wilbraham were among more than 300 seniors graduating in June from TEC Connections Academy, the Commonwealth’s largest, public K-12 virtual school. TEC Connections Academy enrollment has grown steadily from about 240 students nine years ago to nearly 3,000 today with students representing every county in Massachusetts.

TEC Connections Academy is a tuition-free, online public school for K-12

students that offers a safe and social learning environment where empowered students direct their own educational journey. Teachers focus on emotional well-being and social development in addition to academics. They work closely with families to tailor curriculum to explore specific student interests and address particular needs. Students who enroll in the school join a collaborative community of their fellow students and educators that provides a welcoming, distraction-free learning environment.

Elms College Announces Dean’s List for Spring 2023

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following local students to the Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester. To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

Wilbraham: Arianna Hamel, Anna Kierkla, Olivia Skoczylas, Rachel Dane, Grace Dineen, Malwina Gorzyska and Sherica Rowe

Hampden: Raul Combe and Taylor Strum

Weir graduates from Eastern Connecticut State University

WILLIMANTIC, CT – More than 850 Eastern Connecticut State University students graduated in the 2022-23 academic year, which culminated with two commencement ceremonies at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester. The University’s undergraduate ceremony occurred May 16 at the XL Center in Hartford, CT, and the graduate-level ceremony occurred May 13 on Eastern’s campus.

Terrell Weir of Wilbraham graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport & Leisure Management and Business Administration.

Nate Chivers, Minnechaug grad, awarded PhD in Music

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND – Nate Chivers, a 2011 graduate Minnechaug Regional High School, was recently awarded his PhD in Music Composition from the Royal Northern College of Music and Manchester Metropolitan University in Manchester, England. He had previously been awarded a Master’s degree from RNCM, and a Bachelor’s in Music from Berklee College of Music. While obtaining his doctorate, Nate had compositions performed in collaboration with Britain’s NHS, by the RNCM Percussion Ensemble on their tour of China, and arranged for the Manchester Video Game Orchestra, where he also performed his arrangement in front

of Josh Mancell, the composer for the Crash Bandicoot and Jax video game franchises. His music has been featured on BBC Radio 3.

While at Minnechaug, Nate was a member of the Wind Ensemble, Madrigals, and the Advanced Jazz Band. His piece “Conscience” was performed by the Wind Ensemble in his senior year. He credits band director Margaret Reidy and choral director Ray Drury with teaching him the fundamentals of both playing and composition, along with the opportunities to explore them.

Nate has recently relocated to the Central Florida area. His work can be heard at nchiverscomposer.com.

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VIEWPOINTS

Why can't I collect survivor benefits from my deceased wife?

Dear Rusty: I am a 62 year old widower that is still working full time. While my late spouse was in hospice, I was able to get her to apply for Social Security disability and she received one payment before she passed away two years ago. I was told that I could collect a survivor benefit, so I called my local Social Security office, but they told me that I could not collect any type of benefits from my wife and that all the money she paid into SS for all of those years was basically gone for good. Would you please advise what I can do and if this is true? I was also told that Social Security's agents will do everything they can to avoid paying out benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Widower

Dear Frustrated Widower: I suspect that the reason Social Security said you were not eligible for benefits as a widower is because you are working full time. At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early Social Security benefits. The 2023 earnings limit is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your earnings are high enough, that could make you temporarily ineligible to collect benefits until 1) your earnings are less, or 2) you reach your Full Retirement Age (FRA) when the earnings test no longer applies.

Assuming you have not yet claimed your personal SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your



wife when your earnings are less or after you reach your full retirement age. One strategy you may wish to consider, if you plan to keep working full time, is to wait and claim only your surviving spouse benefit at your FRA (67), thus allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue growing until you are 70 when your personal SS retirement benefit will be about 75% more than it would be now. Although your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA, your personal benefit doesn't reach maximum until age 70, so it's possible to collect your smaller survivor benefit from your wife first and claim your higher personal benefit later.

You were apparently given some confusing information when you contacted Social Security. If you haven't already claimed your own SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife but likely cannot collect a widower benefit at this time because you're working full time. However, that doesn't mean you can never collect a survivor benefit; only that you can't collect it at this time because of the "earnings test." The earnings test goes away when you reach age 67, so you can claim only your survivor

benefit at that time or before if you no longer work full time and allow your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow to age 70 if you like.

From our experience with the Social Security Administration, the skill level of SSA representatives varies, but we have never suspected their goal was trying to avoid paying benefits due. Nevertheless, depending on the agent you spoke with, the information provided may have been less clear about the best claiming strategy for you, which is why the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service exists. Our advisors are all highly experienced and strive to provide you with complete and clear information which enables you to make an informed choice about how and when to claim the Social Security benefits you are entitled to. I hope we have succeeded.

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.

Dog days equal a good balance of maintenance and reward

I am not sure if it is the heat or the calendar that causes my annual shift from planting mode to maintenance mode.

A cooler June extended the former somewhat, but with the last week or so of hot, sticky weather, I am mostly done planting anything but a few succession crops of lettuce or green beans. From here on out it's maintenance full steam ahead, and yet, enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors.

What have I been up to you ask? Well, here goes:

Deadheading is the number one priority in my flower gardens. We clip off old flowers to keep the new flowers coming.

If we let spent flowers form seed pods, the plant thinks it has fulfilled its job of reproducing itself and it will begin to decline. In addition to deadheading, I am ever mindful of plants that may need a little perking up.

If flowers are sparse and leaves look a little pale, some balanced organic fertilizer applied at the base of those plants should encourage more blooms and healthy foliage. Liquid feeding can also be effective.

Brew your own compost tea by filling a coffee filter with aged manure or good compost and securing it with a twist-tie. Let it soak in your watering can overnight and then it's ready to use.

Water the foliage and also let it sink in to the surrounding soil.

Earlier today I cut back my strawberry plants. I am not doing a full renovation this year, where I'd pull up the oldest plants and replace them with newly rooted runners.

I did that last year. This year, I simply cut the plants back.

My patch isn't huge, so it was accomplished by hand with a good pair of scissors. I basically grabbed a fist full of the plant, and chopped it back to about four inches tall.

I also weeded and thinned as I went. A push style lawn mower set on the highest setting can be used to get the job done in bigger plantings.

After the plants were cut back, I loosened the soil, sprinkled organic fertilizer around the plants and had about an hour before it started raining. I'll reapply mulch to keep the weeds down and that should be all the patch requires until winter.

I have been harvesting kale and peas so far, and in abundance. I continue to shuck, then blanch shelled peas for ninety seconds before freezing, first loose on a cookie sheet then poured into plastic containers where by I can take out what I need for a specific



recipe.

I no longer do any pretreatment prior to freezing kale. I simply rinse, shake the excess water off, rip the tender part of the leaf away from the midrib then pack in baggies, approximately 6-7 leaves per bag.

I try to get all the air out of the bag best I can. Kale, frozen like this, is a wonderful addition to soups, stews and green drinks.

The more you pick it the more it grows!

My herbs are also growing well now that the nights have warmed up. This is especially noticeable with basil.

All the rain and some early thinning has produced some awesome dill foliage as well. Basil is not flavorful dried, but dill weed is.

I've been picking small bunches, securing them with a rubber band and hanging them in

my hot attic to dry.

Basil, on the other hand, is best preserved in pesto. I make my own version less the pine nuts by filling a food processor with basil leaves (no stems or flowers), a few garlic cloves and olive oil.

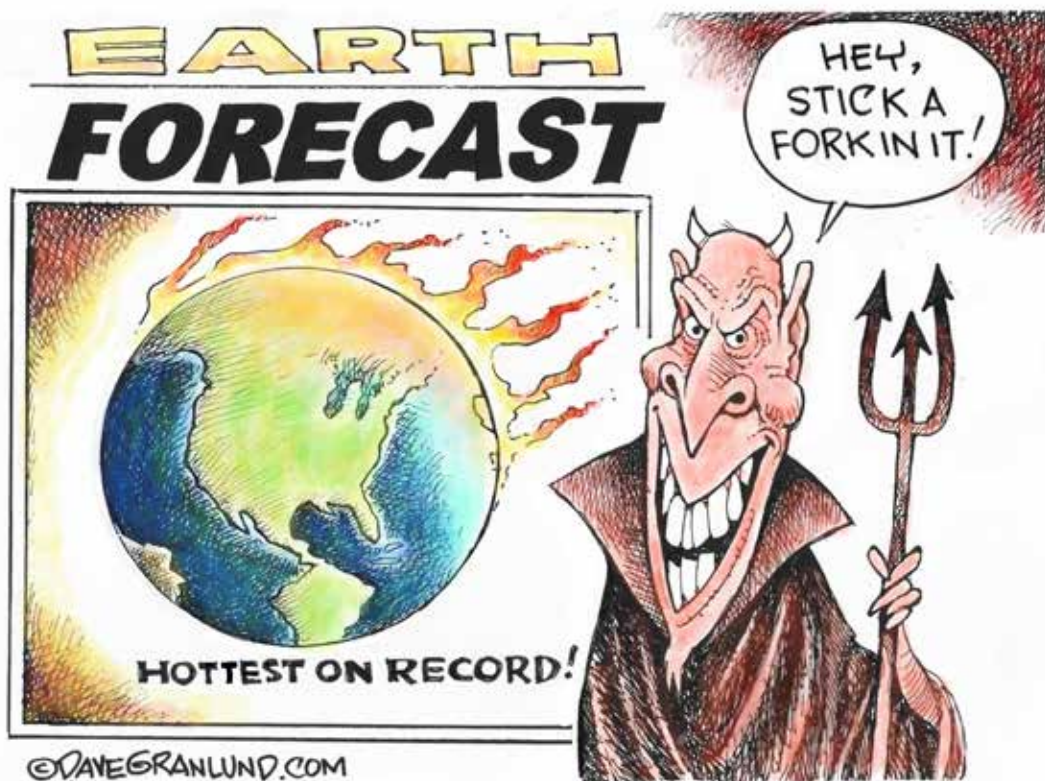
Once it reaches the desired consistency, I spoon it into ice cube trays. Once frozen, I pop out the cubes into gallon size freezer bags.

These can be added to all kinds of recipes or turned into real pesto (plus the pine nuts!) as needed. In the event that you can't harvest basil, keep that foliage coming by pinching the flower heads off, otherwise it too will think it has done it's job and it will begin to decline.

Be on the lookout for Japanese beetles on your plants- cover them if you see the foliage getting eaten up or be diligent about hand picking the insects off into a bath of soapy water.

Enjoy the dog days of summer. The maintenance outweighs the reward.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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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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OBITUARIES

Helen T. Farnsworth

1928 – 2023



WILBRAHAM – Lifelong Wilbraham resident Helen T. (Murphy) Farnsworth, 95, died peacefully on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at Baystate Wing Hospital. Born in Wilbraham, she was one of 10 children of the late Michael and Mary (Moriarty) Murphy. Helen owned a lunch counter in Wilbraham many years ago, worked at State Line Potato Chips and worked for many years at Tambrands until her retirement. She was predeceased by her husband Norman Farnsworth and her son Robert Farnsworth.

Helen will be sadly missed by her three devoted daughters; Norma Houghton and Mary LaPierre (Brian), both of Tupper Lake, NY and Jeannie Babineau (John) of Wilbraham as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. Helen's Funeral Service was held on Monday, July 10 at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Road, Wilbraham followed by burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, Palmer. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959 or Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KSD 66675.

Death Notices

Helen T. (Murphy) Farnsworth
Died July 6, 2023
Wilbraham Funeral Home

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.

HEALTH

From sunburn to sun poisoning: precautions can prevent serious harm

SPRINGFIELD – As vacation season begins in earnest, the healthcare providers at American Family Care urge local residents to take precautions to prevent sunburns and sun poisoning this summer.

“School is out, and many people are hitting the beaches, parks and backyards looking to enjoy some summer sun,” said Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of AFC for Massachusetts. “While it’s great to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather, it’s also important to remember the sun can cause both short- and long-term damage to your skin and overall health.”

Immediate effects of sunburn include redness, pain and tenderness, with more severe cases of sun overexposure potentially causing blisters, headache, fatigue and nausea. These signs typically appear within the first few hours and can last several days.

For some people, things can take a turn for the worse: sun poisoning.

“This sunburn complication, which is not really poisoning but rather overexposure, can include a blistering rash that burns and itches,” said Koslow. “You may also experience nausea, chills, dehydration, lightheadedness and even shortness of breath.”

Koslow recommends seeking medical attention for a severe sunburn. “Indicators of severity include blisters over a large area of your body or on your face or hands, severe swelling, blisters that show signs of infection or a sunburn that doesn’t improve within a few days,” he said. “Seek emer-

gency care if a sunburn is accompanied by a fever, confusion, dehydration or fainting.”

Because the cumulative effects of sunburns come with long-term damage and risks—including dark spots, roughness, dryness, wrinkles and skin cancer—prevention is important.

Sunburns can develop in about 15 minutes on unprotected, exposed skin. Koslow advises:

- limiting time in the sun;
- applying sunblock with an SPF of 30 or higher at least 20 minutes in advance of sun exposure;
- reapplying sunblock every two hours, more often if perspiring heavily or getting wet; and
- wearing a hat or otherwise providing shade to better protect the scalp, ears and face.

“Remember, you can get a sunburn on a cloudy, overcast day because the UV rays can penetrate cloud cover,” Koslow added. “Your best bet is to apply sunscreen if you plan to be outside at all. Be sure to include your ears and feet, which are common places people often forget.”

The medical providers at AFC Springfield and AFC West Springfield offer convenient, walk-in care seven days a week for patients of all ages. Services include urgent care for illnesses, sprains and strains; stitches for minor cuts and lacerations; diagnostic rapid tests and antigen tests for COVID-19; physicals and on-site x-rays.



Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center members Brenda Willard and Maria Cacela, vice president, take a photo with the Instagram cutout for the Bushels of Fun Fest during the July 7 Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center meeting. Willard made the cutout, which will be used to help spread the word about the event on social media the day of.

SENIORS from page 1

his sister, were kind enough to offer us their location for the day,” Cacela said.

Cacela was thankful for the sponsors giving their support, including the Country Club of Wilbraham, Hampden Podiatry, Willard Financial Group, LUSO Federal Credit Union, State Rep. Angelo Puppola (D-Hampden), State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Rice Fruit Farm.

The community partners include Veterans Services with the Mobile Veterans Center, Shriners, Friends of

Wilbraham Public Library, the GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club, Friends of Wilbraham Seniors and the YaYa Sisterhood Red Hats.

“Simply put, it means that love is in the air. They are so willing to step up when they knew we were doing this for the seniors in town,” Cacela said. “They all came forward and said, ‘I want to be a part of it.’”

Deb Gormley serves as membership director for the Friends, also expressing gratitude to the sponsors and community partners.

“It’s way past the amount that we were supposed to get, so we were just enthralled over the fact that so many people stepped forward to help us,” Gormley said.

Gormley joined the Friends when funding for the new senior center began while she was involved with the YaYa Sisterhood Red Hats.

“It was fun. It’s a great way to meet people and just

the camaraderie that everybody has, they’re like family. It’s great. I’ve really enjoyed it,” Gormley said.

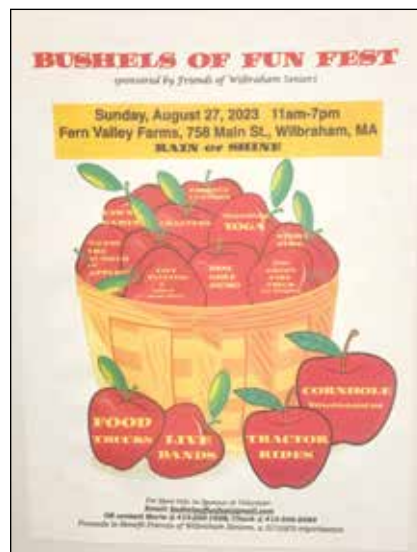
Gormley wants residents to know Bushels of Fun Fest is due to support from the whole community.

“The purpose of doing this and combining a lot of the fundraiser ideas that we had and being able to do it up at Fern Valley just exploded with the idea: we can really get the whole community involved. It’s not just the seniors coming. It’s everyone,” Gormley said.

Cacela wants residents to know “seniors are alive and well and thriving in our town.”

“To have a new senior center, to be able to augment the quality of life that they want to enjoy and have a place that they can meet at, have a cup of coffee, meet a friend, have a lunch and feel the support that they’re getting from the Town of Wilbraham, that just brings joy,” Cacela said.

To learn more about the Friends, visit <https://friendsofwilbrahamseniors.org/>.



A poster of the Bushels of Fun Fest, an upcoming event the Friends of the Wilbraham Seniors were working on during their July 7 meeting in the Brooks Room at Wilbraham Public Library. The event takes place on Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Fern Valley Farms in Wilbraham.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Lillian Sergienko of Wilbraham, pictured in the middle, won the \$100 bill in the Westfield Bank half-time kick at the New England Mutiny soccer game Saturday night. She wanted to take a pic with her friends Colby and Sophia O'Connor, also of Wilbraham. (Photo submitted by Dave Henry)

Life in & WILBRAHAM

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

Karen Geaghan, left, Vice President of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society Board of Trustees, signs up new Atheneum member, Carole Albano, at the July 9 Ice Cream Social in the Gift Shop of the Old Meeting House Museum in the center of town. The Society oversees the museum, which contains many historical exhibits. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



You are never too old for Arts and Crafts...
Liz Pacosa-McEvoy of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society Board of Trustees shows history buff Bob Tour that you are never too old to enjoy arts and crafts during the Ice Cream Social at the Old Meeting House Museum in Wilbraham on July 9. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



Liz Pacosa-McEvoy, right, shows Micah Long how to work with decoupage at an arts and crafts session during the Ice Cream Social at the Old Meeting House Museum in Wilbraham on July 9. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



Last month, the Wilbraham Falcons 10 U A Division Baseball team wrapped up a remarkable season. The 10-year-old boys beat the Agawam Dirt Dogs 14-4 in the semifinals on Sunday and won the championship on Monday night. This was the second consecutive 10 U A division championship on the heels of their tournament win back on Memorial Day weekend in Albany New York. The boys went an impressive 5-0 during the three-day tournament. They opened with wins over Rhode Island and South Troy New York. They then defeated the Rhode Island River Dogs and Columbia County New York in the finals. Great pitching, stellar defense and hot bats all contributed to their success. Brennan Hoey were named to the all-tournament team. The boys season ended with an impressive performance. Hoar, Nicholas Kennedy, Chase Zuber, Brennan Hoey, Phillip Costello, Axel Reed, Christian...

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



...kable season by winning the John L Sullivan League A Division. The Wilbraham ... in the championship game by beating the Western Mass Invaders 14-2 at ... nship for the boys. The league championship win Monday night follows ... rk where the boys won The Battle by The Capital 10 U AAU Tournament. The ... in pool play against Guilderland New York, The Upper Deck Stone Crabs from ... s in the semifinals and followed with a win against the Columbia Clippers from ... contributed to the wins especially in the 5-3 championship game. The boys have ... ure packed games. Gavin Hoar was named tournament MVP and Jack Yvon and ... overall record of 26-1. Players in the photo: Jack Yvon, Austin Piquette, Gavin ... an Catellier, Nico Siciliano and Quinn Follie. (Photo submitted by Brian Hoar)

Community Bulletin Board



Happy Birthday
Genevieve who will be 9 on July 15.

Happy Birthday, Max Cayo (13) & Katerina Kutz (5)!

The "Cousin Birthday Twins", both celebrating on July 19th!
Love From Your Family

.....

If you see Marty Paquette from Falcon Knolls on July 19th, wish her a Happy Birthday and Many More!
Love from All Her Friends

.....

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 dzbierski@turley.com



Sue Nelson submitted this image of a bobcat in her backyard at 22 Cedar Oak Lane in Hampden.



On July 6, a retirement ceremony was held for Kathy Zanetti, a 26-year veteran of the Hampden Police Department. She was hired as the Police Chief Clerk by Chief Phil Adams and served under five different police chiefs during her career. (Photo submitted by John Flynn)

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SENIORS



AGING WELL IN WILBRAHAM

There has been a lot of talk in the news lately about age in regard to politicians and celebrities. I have friends whose parents are well into their nineties and others who lost their parents recently when they were only in their sixties. This got me thinking. Why do we age? I don't mean getting older as in having birthdays; that is just a way to chronicle how many years we have been alive. Why do some people age quickly and others more slowly? Why are there 60-year-olds who seem to be 80-, and 85-year-olds who can work as hard as they did in their fifties? Why are we more prone to certain diseases as we age? Is there a scientific reason for this or is it random? Is it all in our genes and so out of our control, or can we modify our aging processes somehow? I was intrigued and so decided to do some research. Some scientists put aging into two categories: intrinsic aging, which is determined by our genes and occurs naturally; and extrinsic, which is a result of outside factors that we can somewhat control. This article will touch on intrinsic factors and my next on extrinsic factors.

First, what is aging? The medical definition is the time-related deterioration of the physiological functions necessary for survival and reproduction. According to the National Institutes of Health, it is "the se-

quential or progressive change in an organism that leads to an increased risk of debility (physical weakness), disease and death". Both of those are pretty depressing as well as a bit abstract. So, what really happens as we age? Our bodies change until they can no longer keep us alive and breathing. No one really knows for sure how and why peoples' bodies change as they get older. There are many theories such as injuries to our cells by ultraviolet light over time, wear and tear on our organs and muscles, or byproducts of our normal metabolism. Some other scientists see aging as a predetermined process controlled by our genes. There are theories that talk about evolution or natural selection, cell mutations, a longevity gene, etc. Nothing has been proven 100% correct yet.

Some cells change through atrophy, which means they shrink. If enough of an organ's cells shrink, the entire organ atrophies and so doesn't work as efficiently. This is what happens when we lose muscle as we get older. Cells also don't get replaced as quickly as they get broken down. This is why our bones get thinner as we age. Some cells change their shape or size, which means they don't work as they did before. Cells are also prone to neoplasia, which is the formation of tumors, either cancerous or

noncancerous as we get older. If our cells change into tumor cells, they can no longer do the jobs they were doing before.

This is all very scientific. But put simply, we age because the processes that make our bodies run, like digestion, breathing, our hearts, and brains are all run by cells and their systems. These systems wear out over time through a combination of factors. Like a car, if the parts get old, it doesn't work as well. Some parts can be continually replaced easily, like an oil filter (our bones and skin). Other parts, like a radiator, are more complicated and require a lot of work to fix (nerves and muscles). Eventually replacement parts are no longer available (the cells can't regenerate any more) or the main computer (our brain) gets too many glitches in its programs and the car no longer works.

I promise my next article will be much more optimistic, as I will be discussing the various ways, we can not only live longer but stay healthy as we do so. As always, I can be reached by email at seniorinfo2021@gmail.com and a message can be left at 596-2800 ext. 315.

Diane Weston, RN, BSN
Senior Center Building
Committee

Monthly highlights for July at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur in July at the Hampden Senior Center, located on Allen Street.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!

Thank you to those that donated toilet paper last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves.

D & R FARM Summer Farm Share, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

D & R FARM is offering fresh produce weekly on Wednesdays, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify. If interested, contact Wendy ASAP to get your application in! If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month. Shares are limited. Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

Senior Farmer's Market Coupons 2023

To be eligible to receive Senior Farmers Market Coupons, you must be:

- 60 years of age or older, or
- Disabled and living in senior housing where congregate nutrition services are provided
- Your income must be lower than the income limits outlined below.

Coupons Income Guidelines:

Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$2,248
2	\$3,041

Coupon Books will be worth \$50.00 this year and will be available on a first come first serve basis.

If you qualify to receive these coupons, please call Wendy at 566-5588.

Coupons will be available for distribution in

July.

Reservations for special events and Grab & Go Dinners will be taken on the first business day of the month, on a first-come, first-serve basis. All other reservations will be accepted anytime.

Calling all hidden "Chair Volleyball Players!"

More fun than you can possibly stand while seated! Come enjoy this fun-filled game. It is great for upper body mobility & joint flexibility. It enhances your muscle tone, reflexes, hand-to-eye coordination, and endurance. The game is played with a beach ball and a five-foot-high net. Rules are similar to regular volleyball, except "cheeks are on the chair!" Please call 566-5588 to register. Beginning in the Fall. More details to follow.

Here's the Scoop....

Ice cream makes the world a better place, so come out of the heat and join us for an Ice Cream Social. Friday, July 21 at 12:30 p.m.

This is our treat! But space is limited, so please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Sponsored by Bluebird Estates

Come join the Hampden Assessor's Office to learn about Real Estate Tax Exemptions

Wednesday, July 26 at 10:30 a.m.

The Town of Hampden offers exemptions to Seniors, Veterans, and Blind Persons. Exemptions are also available for surviving spouses, minor children, and for temporary financial hardship.

Certain requirements must be met to qualify for each type of exemption. Applications must be submitted annually by April 1st. The Assessors will be happy to provide you with information, answer questions, and let you know if you would meet the criteria for an exemption. Please call 566-5588 to RSVP for this event.



(Submitted photo)

Here's your chance to be a big winner!

WILBRAHAM – The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are announcing their Bushels of Fun Fest event, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Fern Valley Farms on Main Street, Wilbraham across from Rice Fruit Farm. This one-day event is sure to be a fantastic celebration of music with two live bands, over 20 crafters and local farms, best of local food trucks, Fieldcrest Brewery, a cornhole tournament and a wide array of activities for adults and children. To kick off this exciting event, the Friends are conducting a raffle for a \$500 Lotto Scratch Ticket Basket! Tickets are available for purchase now and throughout July and August up to the day of the fest where the prize winner will be drawn at 6 p.m. The winner receives a basket of lotto tickets of various amounts – all totaling \$500! Tickets are one for \$5, three for \$10 or seven for \$20.

Besides on the day of this event, the Friends will have displays at various town events where you may purchase tickets. Look for their display at

-The Farmers' Market (United Church) on Wednesdays, Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 2-6 p.m.

Grab and Go Dinner, Thursday, July 27

pick up is 2-2:30 p.m. Enjoy a delicious dinner of Pasta with Meatballs, Salad, Bread, and Dessert. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting July 1st to order your dinner.

Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance - Saturday, Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fundraiser dinner dance with entertainment provided by Off The Record. The cost is \$30 prepaid, per person. Includes Appetizers, Chicken Parmesan and Pasta, Complimentary Cocktail and Dessert.

More details will follow. Cash Bar & Raffle Prizes!

Reserve and purchase your

-The Knights of Columbus Car Show (Fountain Park) on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Rain date – Aug. 26)

The Friends will also be at the Wilbraham Senior Center on various occasions. Look for raffle flyers in the Senior newsletter as well as additional flyers at the Center. You can either mail tickets in with your check or place in Drop Box in Senior Center Lobby.

Here's your chance to not only win \$500 worth of variety of lotto instant tickets, but the proceeds from this fundraiser will help the Friends in providing the funds that support the new Senior Center being built as well as fund future programs and services that enhance the lives of seniors. The Friends are hoping you can help them in this worthy endeavor. For more information, check out their website BushelsOfFunFest.com or call either Maria Cacula 413-250-1928 or Chuck Pelouze 413-596-5089. If you're unable to purchase tickets at any of these locations, they're offering free delivery within the greater Wilbraham area. Contact them for details.

tickets today by calling 566-5588.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Join the Tri Town Team with the Hampden Senior Center and Walk to End Alzheimer's

Sunday, Oct. 15 at 9 a.m. at Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke

Register online at act.alz.org, click on Find a Walk Near You, click on Find a Team and select the

Tri Town Team and follow the instructions to register. Call 566-5588, we can help you register.

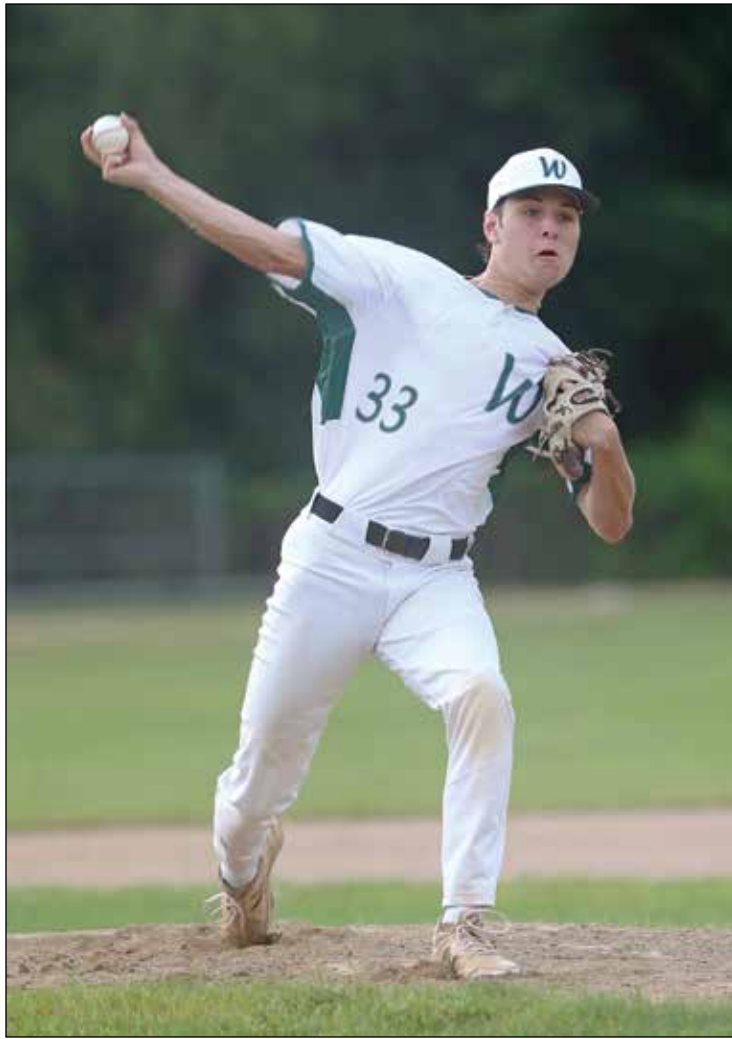
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Wilbraham Legion #2 picks up win



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ryan Atkin sends a pitch to the plate.

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday evening, Wilbraham Post 286 #2 picked up a 10-9 win over Pittsfield. It broke a three-game losing

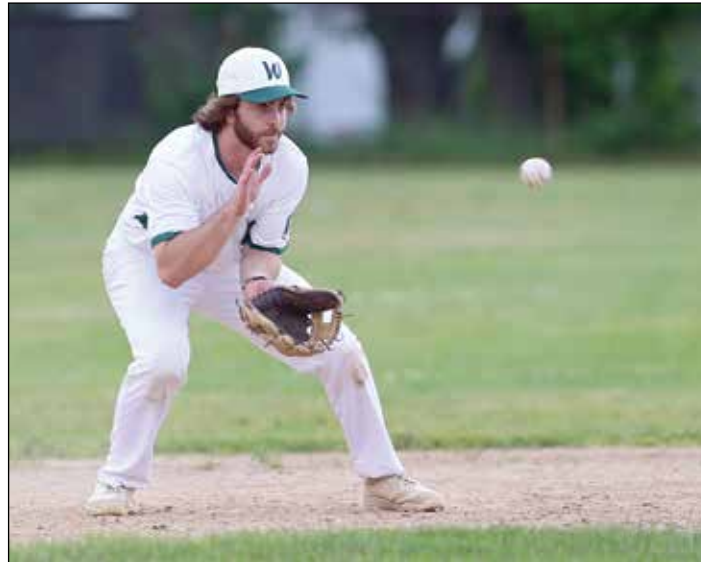
streak for Post 286 #2. Wilbraham improved to 3-8 for the summer.



Bryce Barlow slings to first for an out.



Frank Graziano gets the out.



Aaron Gasteyer squares up a bouncer to third.

Pioneers score shutout to keep playoff chances going

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Mamadi Jiana was one of the seven reserve players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers starting line-up sheet for last Friday night's USL League Two match-up with Vermont Green FC.



Tomas Duben stops the ball as he runs into the opposing defense.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Connor Hicks, of Monson, runs down the ball.

Jiana, who was a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School a couple of years ago, entered the match during the 78th minute. Two minutes later, he scored what turned out to be the game winning goal.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive with an exciting 1-0 victory before the largest crowd of the regular season at Lusitano Stadium.

“The tempo was very high when I came into the game late in the second half, and I was ready

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 16



Bankers rolling to first place finish

James Flahive continues to rack up wins for PeoplesBank.

Dave Clark makes a good throw to first.

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank are the elite of the Tri-County Baseball League, and are now 13-1 heading into the final stretch of the season. Last week, the Bankers scored at 14-4 win over St. Joe's, and a 12-1 win over DiFranco Realty. Those wins took place on consecutive nights and the Bankers now have a five-point lead for first place. The Chicopee Falls Tigers hold second place at 10-5-1. St. Joe's has moved into third place at 7-8. The regular season is heading for a close during the next two weeks.



Cam McDonald winds up for a long throw for an out.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Wall Stadium Speedway to host big race

MILFORD – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby will look to add yet another track to his winners list this Saturday night. Wall Stadium Speedway, located in New Jersey, is a high-banked, high-speed track that has tight corners and often produces exciting side-by-side racing.

When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour rolls into town for the Jersey Shore 150, Coby will drive the Tommy Baldwin Racing, Mayhew Tools No. 7NY. With one win this season (Monadnock Speedway), Coby enters the race third, 30 points back in the championship

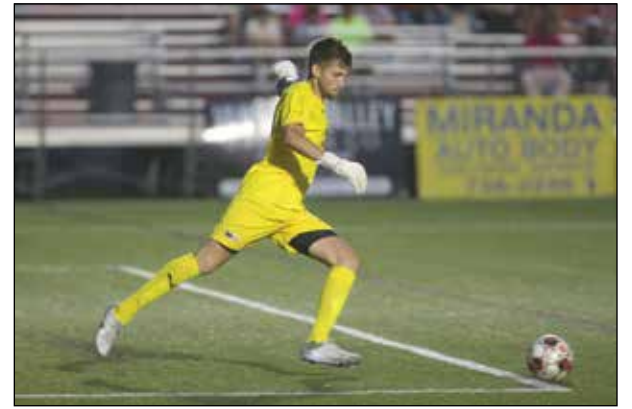
standings on the Whelen Modified Tour circuit entering the eighth race of the season.

In his 35 career wins, Coby has been to Victory Lane at 12 different tracks. At Wall Stadium, Coby has three career Tour starts, with only one coming in the last 18 years. Coby started sixth, led 72 laps and finished 10th in 2019. He did not compete in the Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall last year, but Jimmy Blewett won in the Tommy Baldwin Racing entry Coby will be driving for this event.

“I watched the race last year and it didn’t seem like it was similar to the one in 2019,” Coby said. “It

seemed like the groove had moved around. Wall is one of those places that can throw a lot at you – and a lot can happen quickly. Our car will be good. I’ve never won there and it’s on my bucket list of tracks where I want to win. I got my first pole there, used to race at Little Wall as a kid, and I’ve always liked the facility.”

Saturday’s practice session will roll from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by Mayhew Tools qualifying and the Jersey Shore 150 at 8 p.m. The main event will be live on FloRacing.TV for those who would like to watch from home.



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a kick away.



Jaiden Williams plays the ball.

Blue Sox score doubleheader sweep

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Valley Blue Sox swept a doubleheader versus another North Division opponent. The team defeated the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 to climb back to .500 on the season at 14-14. Valley now leads the West Division by one game over the Bristol Blues.

As in the first game, the Nighthawks got on the board first, following a sacrifice fly in the top of the second.

Blue Sox pitching was rock solid in the ballgame, only allowing one run off five hits. Dillon Ryan started the game for the team, pitching three innings allowing one run while striking out two batters.

Michael Weidinger would relieve Ryan in the top of the fourth inning, pitching two shutout innings and striking out five batters.

All of the runs for the Blue Sox came in the bottom of the fifth following a huge rally, even with the team only recording two hits in the inning. Efrain Correa Jr. was hit by a pitch, Will Gale singled, and newcomer Jack Power walked to make it bases loaded with no outs.

Jeff Pierantoni and Eliot Dix both hit RBI fielder’s choices to take the lead for Valley. The team added two more insurance runs off

an RBI single from AJ Guerrero, and a throwing error from Upper Valley to allow the final run of the ballgame.

Jason Arrigo would relieve Weidinger to close the game for Valley. Arrigo’s curveball was ranked third in the league in RPM. The right-hander pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself the save, and added to his strikeout totals with three more on the night.

AJ Guerrero went 2-for-3 in the game, with an RBI. Will Gale also had two hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

In Game 1, another close game throughout the seven inning contest saw the Blue Sox rallying back from a three run deficit to claim the victory.

The Nighthawks scored one run in the top of the first inning following an RBI double, then added two more in the top of the second inning off an RBI single.

Sean Scanlon was on the bump to start the game for Valley, pitching four innings while allowing three runs and striking out two batters. In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Sox took a run back off of an RBI double from Zach Ketterman. Matt Bergevin scored on the play to make it a 3-1 game.

Valley added two more runs to tie the game in the bottom of the third following RBI singles from AJ Guerrero and Matt Bergevin.

The Blue Sox then wasted no time taking the lead, scoring a run in the bottom of the fourth inning following the first home run hit by a Blue Sox player at home this season. Zach Ketterman hit a towering solo shot over the right field wall to make it a 4-3 ballgame. The third baseman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the contest.

Terry Murray relieved Scanlon in the top of the fifth inning, pitching two innings allowing one unearned run while striking out two.

The Nighthawks rallied back to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth after two straight errors from the Blue Sox.

Zach Cameron pitched a scoreless frame in the top of the seventh to set the Blue Sox up to walk it off in the bottom half of the inning.

Jeff Pierantoni walked in the bottom of the seventh, then AJ Guerrero hit a double to put runners on second and third with only one out. EJ Kreutzmann hit a ground ball down the third base line allowing Jeff Pierantoni to score. The Blue Sox secured their second walk-off victory of the season 5-4.

HoopHall introduces new board members

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four new board members. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association Foundation, was

named to the Board of Governors. Executive Chairman of Delano Media Group, Todd Delano; Former NBA Head Coach and Player, Vinny Del Negro; and Thomas Tull, Chairman of the USIT Fund, and Chairman of Tulo Holdings,

named to the Board of Governors. Executive Chairman of Delano Media Group, Todd Delano; Former NBA Head Coach and Player, Vinny Del Negro; and Thomas Tull, Chairman of the USIT Fund, and Chairman of Tulo Holdings,

“I look forward to working closely with our new Board members,” said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Hall of Fame. “We have a significant amount of investment coming to the Hall over the next few years, and the Board’s input and guidance is critical to the success of our organizational goals.”

Board members serve as ambassadors of the Hall while also being responsible for preserving the fundamental mission and financial well-being of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The Board is made up of individuals that work in or have worked in the game, as well as business leaders that have supported the game in Springfield, Mass., or on a national or global level.



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PIONEERS from page 15

for the moment,” Jiana said. “When I saw the scoring opportunity, I knew that I had to capitalize on it. We played very well tonight, and it just feels amazing. I’m very proud of the guys.”

It was Jiana’s third goal of the regular season and all of them were game winners.

“We can’t win games with just eleven players,” said Pioneers longtime head coach Federico Molinari. “We need contributions from all 18 players to be successful. Mamadi is a local player and we’re very happy to have him on our team this year.”

Jiana scored his first goal wearing a Pioneers uniform in a 2-1 road win against AC Connecticut on June 10. A little more than two weeks later, Jiana, who currently lives in Westfield, was a starter in another road match against Pathfinder FC. He netted the only goal of that contest.

During the past two years, Jiana scored 17 goals and had 13 assists for a total of 47 points as a member of the men’s soccer team at Norwich University, which competes at the Division 3 level. He recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is hoping to play soccer for a Division 1 school in the fall. Jiana has two more years of college eligibility remaining.

The Norwich University men’s soccer coach was Adam Pfeifer, who retired at the end of last season. Pfeifer is currently the Athletic Director at Kimball Union Academy and is also the Vermont Green head coach.

The first and second place finishers in the Northeast Division will qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers (8-1-3) and Vermont (9-3-0) are battling for one of those two spots, along with the Seacoast United Phantoms. If the Pioneers can win their final two regular season matches at Albany, which was scheduled to be played on Tuesday night, and at home against AC Connecticut on Saturday night, they should lock up a playoff berth. The last time that the Pioneers didn’t qualify for the playoffs was in 2018.

“This is a very good win for us tonight,” Molinari said. “We made a couple of changes at halftime, and we played a lot better in the second half.”

Alec Hughes, who entered the match at the start of the second half, had a couple of opportunities to give the home team a 1-0 advantage.

Hughes breakaway shot in the 58th minute was flicked over the endline by Vermont goalie Nathan Schmur resulting in a corner kick.

Less than ten minutes later, Hughes had another wide open shot, but his chip shot clanked off the cross bar.

The Pioneers didn’t miss their third scoring chance.

The scoring play began when Connor Bagdon, who had also entered the match at halftime, intercepted a pass before delivering a pass to Lucio Berron. After dribbling the ball over the midfield line, Berron made a short pass to Ignacio Albo, who then found Jiana open on the left side. Jiana dribbled the ball into the box before firing a rocket shot into the right corner past Schmur, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

“I was wide open, and Ignacio passed the ball to me,” Jiana said. “Then I shot the ball with my right foot into the corner. As soon as I shot the ball, I knew that it was going to go into the net.”

When the Pioneers made the trek north to the University of Vermont on June 17, Albo scored the only goal of the match.

A year ago, the Pioneers pulled out a thrilling 3-2 come-from-behind home victory over the Vermont Green.

In the first ever meeting between the USL-League two rivals.

During the first half of last Friday’s home match, Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cerosimo (4 saves) made a couple of outstanding saves, which allowed Jiana to score his third game winner of the season with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

MA State Senate approves \$55.9 billion budget for 2024.

BOSTON- Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Senate approved a \$55.9 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The Senate approved 478 amendments, adding \$82.2 million in spending to the budget. The next step will be the formation of a Senate and House Joint Conference Committee to work out an agreed-upon budget to send to the Governor.

In addition to increasing support to public libraries, Oliveira stressed the importance of regional equity for western Massachusetts and secured an additional \$1.75 mil. for the budget, much of

which will go directly to municipalities in the district. The increase to funds will make their way to the district indirectly through broader funding of critical investments in areas like regional transportation, public higher education, and healthcare.

"I'm glad to see the Senate take action with a comprehensive and inclusive budget that will bring regional equity to western Massachusetts, and I'm proud to have secured funding that will have a positive impact on the communities of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District," said Oliveira.

In addition to the \$750,000 in state

aid to regional public libraries, Oliveira secured \$500,000 for an advanced manufacturing training program, \$200,000 for infrastructure improvements to the Cottage Avenue bridge in Wilbraham and Ludlow, \$50,000 for public safety improvements in Chicopee, \$50,000 for the Women's Fund of Massachusetts, and \$35,000 for the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club. All funds that Oliveira stressed are headed directly back to the district.

When asked about his approved amendments, Oliveira said "The Senate's budget prioritizes upholding fiscal discipline and responsibility and supports the long-term economic health of the state.

The Senate budget delivers investments in education, housing, regional transportation, health care, workforce development, climate preparedness, while centering equity and opportunity as part of a broader, more comprehensive strategy to make Massachusetts more affordable, inclusive, and competitive."

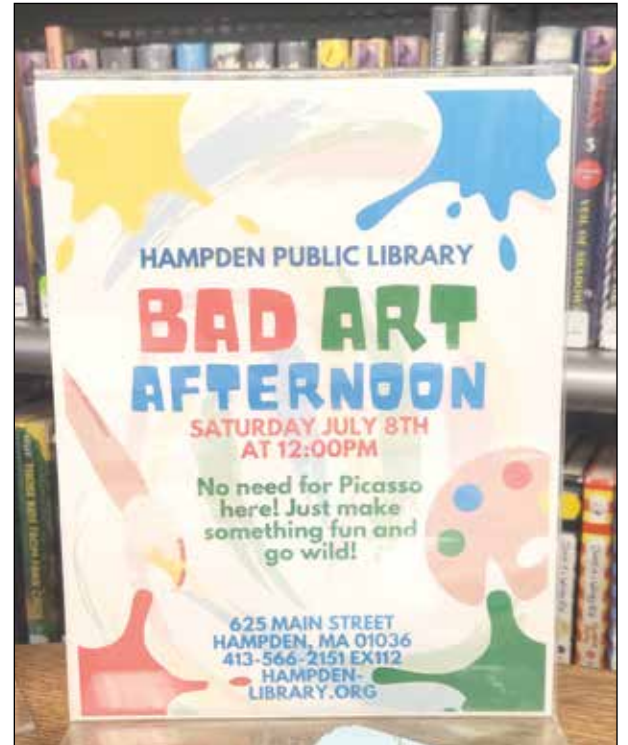
If the Senate's budget is approved, a group of six House and Senate lawmakers will meet privately to iron out differences between the two budgets and then send the final document to Gov. Maura Healey, who can accept or veto sections of the bill.



Siblings Kayla and Jake Vanderleeden show off their creations during the "Bad Art Afternoon" event at Hampden Free Public Library.



A close-up of art and craft pieces attendees enjoyed while making their art during the "Bad Art Afternoon" event at Hampden Free Public Library.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A sign advertising "Bad Art Afternoon" to library patrons at the Hampden Free Public Library.

ART from page 1

to interact with each other in a non-school environment."

Girard also provided updates on how the library's summer reading program was going, which held its annual kickoff on June 24.

Before the "Bad Art Afternoon" event kicked off, Girard had even signed up another teen for the teen summer reading program.

"Summer reading has been awesome. We have already had a bunch of kids bring their reading logs in to start earning raffle tickets. People seem really interested and excited for the raffle baskets that they can win," Girard said.

She added she was also excited to see "a lot of empty shelves" as people have been checking out books.

Girard said kids and teens have been enjoying the summer programming, including making candy mosaics and an Escape Room

event where groups work together to solve a puzzle for an antidote to prevent people from turning into werewolves.

She shared what was coming up. "We have our Anime and Manga Club, we have Bleached Tye Dye on July 15 at noon, a murder mystery on July 20 from 4-6 p.m., a Paint Sip Fun program on July 25 at noon. So, a lot of fun things just, you know, to get out of the house and do something different," Girard said.

Girard wants the community to know the library has many summer program offerings and to check them out.

Also, it's not too late for residents to sign up for summer reading.

"Everyone is still welcome to stop by and register and participate. We have some great prizes," Girard said. "It's always nice to read throughout the year and summer's a great time to do it."

To learn more about the library's upcoming events, check out their calendar at www.hampden-library.org/events/.

This Week in Rec

Erin Carroll, Assistant Director

The heat is on! Summer is here and WPRD is as busy as ever. Spec Pond Beach opened on Saturday, June 17 and we are open seven days a week 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through July 30 and then hours will be 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 31 - Aug. 20. Spec Pond and Amy's Sparkle Spray Park is a clean and convenient beach area that is led by a dedicated group of lifeguards and concession staff. We hope to see you at the pond!

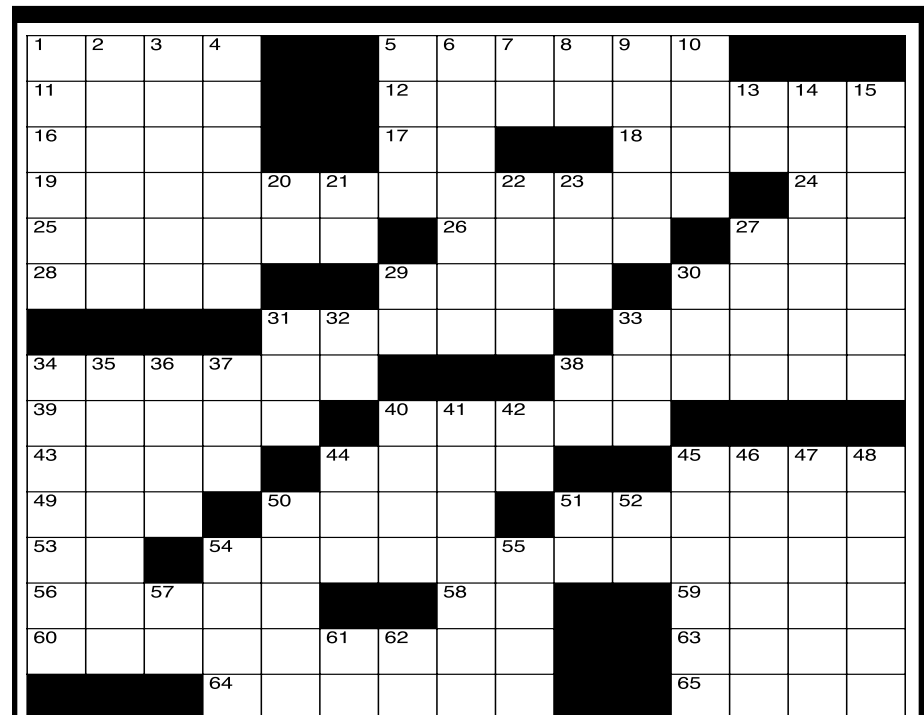
We have an abundant summer program calendar that has something for everyone! Please check out our website WilbrahamRec.com to view these offerings that aim to keep kids engaged, social, motivated and physically active for their summer break. Our Spec Day Camp will be starting the week of July 10th and our camp staff is busy planning a great 6 weeks to keep our local kids busy and having some summer fun.

A shout out to all of our spring sport teams who have had a very successful season. We have some champions in the JLS baseball leagues. The 8U team

led by Jessie Donovan, 10U A team led by Brian Hoar, and 10U B team led by Kevin Kudla all were champions in their divisions, congratulations! All our spring sport teams should be proud. Success isn't always measured by what you achieve; it's measured by the obstacles you overcome and the growth shown.

The end game of this article is a BIG THANK YOU to all coaches. It is amazing how much time is dedicated within the course of a season, how much energy it takes to run a practice, plan for each practice and game, and fit work and volunteerism into a single day/week. Our community is so lucky to have hundreds of coaches step up to volunteer their time and sacrifice hours of family time to teach the youth of Wilbraham. Thanks again for making a difference in the community!

NOTES: Fall Soccer and field hockey registrations are open through the end of July. Be on the lookout for more information on these and other fall programs before the summer gets too busy.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. ___ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Prevents river overflow
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. Mister
- 25. Ends
- 26. Slope or tilt
- 27. Taxi
- 28. The very ends
- 29. Actor Sean
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Muddy, boggy ground
- 39. Not worldly
- 40. Actress Lathan
- 43. Soil
- 44. ___-Cola
- 45. Asleep
- 49. ___ Angeles
- 50. Give birth to a child
- 51. Beach shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Local jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted from a horse
- 60. Charge with a crime
- 63. Close in
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden
- 5. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 6. Saw
- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. In a way, produces
- 15. Bowlers
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Gets some sun
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Aronofsky film
- 30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- 31. Equal to 100 square meters
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Arrived extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- 36. Membranes
- 37. Some is poisonous
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small brown gray rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military official (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Took off
- 47. All
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Passed with flying colors
- 57. A way to win a boxing match
- 61. The Golden State
- 62. Home of the Longhorns

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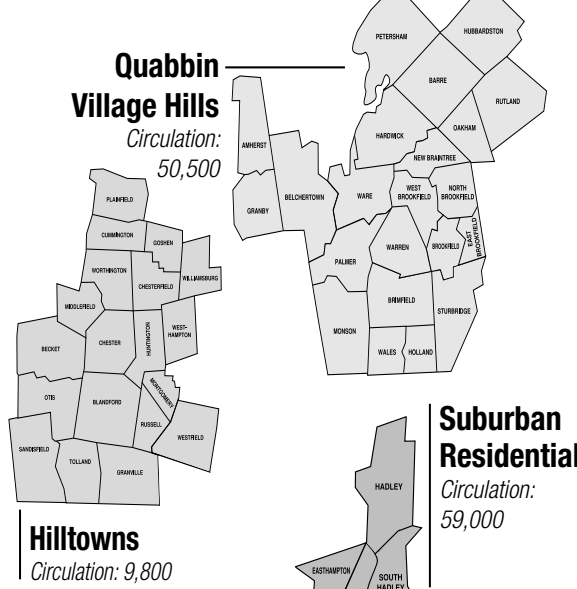
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When it comes to poison ivy - prevention takes priority

PALMER – (Courtesy of Baystate Wing Hospital) Problems with Poison Ivy are most prominent during the spring and summer. However, poison ivy can cause a problem any time of the year," said Dr. Joe Sills, chief of Emergency Medicine at Baystate Wing Hospital.

"An allergic reaction to the oil in these plants, called urushiol produces the rash," Sills said. "Exposure to poison ivy can happen when people are hiking, camping or at home gardening, clearing brush, cutting vines or carrying and burning wood. Every part of the plant, the leaves, stem, vines, flowers, and roots - contains urushiol. Once you're exposed to urushiol, a rash can occur from several hours to three days after contact with the plant. While direct skin-to-plant contact with poison ivy, oak, or sumac is probably the most frequent cause of the rash, the irritants from the plants can also be passed on indirectly by pets, garden tools, shoes, or virtually any-

thing that touches a plant."

"Rinsing your skin immediately after touching the poison ivy, oak, or sumac, with lukewarm water, may help to rinse off some of the oil and lessen or avoid the rash," Sills said. "Beware that the oil can stick to clothing and other surfaces as well, so be sure to also wash the clothes you were wearing when you came into contact with the poisonous plant, as well as gardening tools, golf clubs, leashes, and even a pet's fur."

Most people (85%) develop a rash when they get urushiol on their skin. The first time you get this oil on your skin, you may not get a rash. The next time, this oil gets on your skin you can become sensitive to it. Once you are sensitive to it, a rash appears. About 15% of people do not become sensitive to this oil and never develop a rash. The rash caused by these plants is not contagious and does not spread. Scratching the rash or the leaking fluid from the blisters does not spread the rash, although

it can cause scarring and potential infection.

"Urushiol can remain active for years. For that reason, even dead poison ivy, oak, or sumac plants must be handled with care," Sills said. "Plants should never be burned or shredded, as airborne particles can spread the oil to sensitive areas like the face and eyes and may potentially cause damage to lungs."

According to Sills, "Prevention is the best approach; know what the plant looks like and teach your family to avoid it. If you do have contact with one of the poison plants and the rash has set in, the three main goals of treatment are to stop the itching, decrease inflammation, and prevent infection."

"The rash from poison ivy, oak, or sumac usually lasts one to three weeks," Sills said. "Most rashes go away without treatment and while your skin heals, it more than likely will continue to itch. If the eruption is mild, applying

calamine lotion three or four times a day can help with the itchiness. If the rash covers a large area of the body, oatmeal or baking soda baths may help reduce itching and discomfort. Avoid those preparations containing anesthetics or antihistamines, as often they can cause allergic eruptions themselves," said Dr. Sills. "Infections can occur if blisters break, and bacteria enters the open wound. Keep the rash clean and any open blisters bandaged to help lessen the chance of infection."

"A rash from poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac, can usually be treated at home," Sills said. "If the rash is severe, on your face, on extensive parts of your body, seeing a doctor is important, you may need a prescribed steroid ointment that you can apply to the skin, or to be placed on an oral steroid like prednisone."

If you have any of the following symptoms, or if you have a serious reaction, seek immediate medical care by going to the emer-

gency room, including:

- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- A rash that covers most of your body
- You have many rashes or blisters
- Swelling, especially if an eyelid swells shut
- The rash develops anywhere on your face or genitals
- Much of your skin itches and nothing seems to ease the itch.
- Signs of a bacterial infection, such as pain, increased redness, or pus

"There is no cure for the reaction once the rash starts," said Dr. Sills. "Avoiding the plants is the best treatment. It is very important to learn what the plants look like and to not touch them."

For more information about Baystate Wing Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/wing.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 20, 2023** starting at 5:30 PM on the application of Peter Zimmerman for a special permit under Section 3.4.5.16 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow motor vehicle repair services in the enclosed building on property owned by Railroad Ave Realty NOM Trust at 3 Railroad Avenue as further specified in the application and plan that are on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/419610741> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 419-610-741).

Edward Kivari Jr.,
Chairman
07/06, 07/13/2023

Wilbraham Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday July 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall on the Notice of Intent filed by Thomas Kennedy under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The project proposed includes the restoration of a small portion of a historic beach upgradient of the Bank of 9 Mile Pond. The area is 290 square feet and is currently void of trees and has approximately 3-6" of mulch on the surface. The property is located at 2689 Boston Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission. Christopher Brown, Chairman 7/13/2023

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing
The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public

Hearing on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Raymond Kuselias for a Special Permit under Section 7.2.4 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw for a Substandard Frontage Lot on property owned by the applicant on Burleigh Road, Parcel 28-029-000. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours. For the Board,
Madison Pixley, Chair
Hampden Planning Board
07/06, 07/13/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1403EA Estate of: William R. Foley Date of Death: 04/25/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sandra Foley of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sandra Foley of**

Wilbraham, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/07/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 03, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/13/2023

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:45 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Alston Graham of Graham Construction for a Special Permit under Section 7.542 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw for a Common Driveway to provide access to three adjoining lots owned by the applicant located on Highland Circle and South Monson Road (lots 45, 46, and 47). Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board,
Madison Pixley,
Chair
Hampden Planning Board
07/06, 07/13/2023

NOTICE
The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission (MSLC) has received a KENO

License application from: **The Local Tap and Table 2039 Boston Road Wilbraham, MA**

Estimated weekly traffic: (number of people):500.
Current No. of Cashier positions selling Lottery products: 0

Percentage of floor space currently devoted to Lottery sales: 0%

Percentage of floor space for KENO sales: 5%

Estimated annual gross revenues of current Lottery products: \$0.

Estimated percentage of gross revenues from sales of Lottery products: 7%

Estimated net income to be derived from sales of KENO products at this location: \$6,000.

If you object to these agent(s) receiving a monitor, you must do so, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter. If applicable, please address your written objection to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, Legal Department, 150 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 and send via email to cporche@masslottery.com or by mail.

Should you have any questions regarding this program or any other issues relative to the Lottery, please call the Lottery's General Counsel, Greg Polin, at 781-917-6057 or via email at

gpolin@masslottery.com. We look forward to working with you as the Lottery continues its efforts to support the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth. 07/13/2023

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wilbraham

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:10 PM** on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by the Massachusetts Electric Company under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw to determine whether the work depicted on submitted plans that include the installation of a new utility pole and removal of two dead trees adjacent to 470R Crane Hill Road is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw. The work proposed will occur within 100' of locally-regulated wetlands. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission. Christopher Brown, Chairman 07/13/2023

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.

HOURS:
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

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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Western Mass Comedy Championship

For the Best Comic In The Pioneer Valley Award

Western Mass comedy is back in full force! On any given weekday, you can find comics honing their craft at open mics across the region. When the weekend comes, local comedy clubs are hosting shows packed with talent. Check out any of these events, and you'll find local comics of all kinds, who have taken their talent to the next level. And now, there's an event to celebrate this diverse group of seasoned professionals -the first annual Western Mass Comedy Championship!

Throughout the summer and fall of 2023, 46 of the area's top comedians will take part in more than a dozen showcase events at the best venues across Western Mass. Week after week, the contestants will bring their A game to the stage, with the audience deciding who moves on and who goes home. Every show is sure to be hilarious, but in the end, only the top rated comics proceed to the finale, with the winner taking home the title of the Best Comic in the Pioneer Valley.

Every showcase will feature killer lineups, packed with a variety of talented comedians.

Contestants range from promising new voices to local favorites to powerhouse vets. Many of these comedians have lived from show to show, stage to stage, for years, performing everywhere from Boston to New York, and beyond. This event could be their first step toward being the next big name in comedy!

The full event schedule, showcase details, and tickets can be found at www.jazzmenproductions.com. Information about the local comedy scene, such as times and locations of open mics and showcases, are also available at the site. (Tickets are also available directly through eventbrite.)

We are honored to showcase the rising stars of Western Mass in this annual event. So clear your weekend calendar, and come out and see some rising stars on their way to the top, before they're selling out theaters and killing it on late-night shows.

Monson Savings Bank donates \$1,000 to Wilbraham United Players

MONSON – Recently, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty met with Shelly Capen, president of Wilbraham United Players, to present her with a \$1,000 donation. This donation was a part of Monson Savings Bank's annual Community Giving Initiative.

The Bank's Community Giving Initiative puts the power in the hands of the people, calling on the public to place their votes for their favorite charitable organization. After votes are tallied, the community bank graciously donates to the top vote recipients.

"The Wilbraham United Players is a wonderful local organization that brings creativity and culture to the surrounding communities through theatre," said Moriarty. "We are happy to present this donation in support of the local arts and look forward to the Wilbraham United Players upcoming shows!"

Since 1956, the Wilbraham United Players have been entertaining audiences of all ages with musicals, comedies, and dramas. This Wilbraham based non-profit group brings together people of all generations, cultures, and backgrounds from throughout the Pioneer Valley. Originally the theatre group focused primarily on Gilbert and Sullivan, performing an operetta every other year through 1984. In recent years, Wilbraham United Players' repertoire has expanded to



(Submitted photo)

Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO, met with Shelly Capen, Wilbraham United Players' President, at Monson Savings Bank's Wilbraham Branch to present her with the donation.

include well-loved hits, like Chicago, Steel Magnolias, Guys and Dolls, The Pirates of Penzance, The Great Gatsby, and The Light in the Piazza. Learn more at <https://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/>

"We are very grateful to our community members for voting in Monson Savings' Community Giving Initiative! Without you, we

wouldn't be receiving this generous donation. As a small organization, we are reliant on the support of the community to operate," said Shelly Capen, Wilbraham United Players' President. "Thank you to Monson Savings for once again hosting their Community Giving Initiative."

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 13, 2023.

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**