



COMMUNITY
Terracotta
Pot Painting



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Falcons
summer
soccer action

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Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen
Lepidopterist Jerry Schneider holds up a frame of butterflies.

Butterflies
visit library

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Lepidopterist Jerry Schneider took a visit to the Hampden Public Library for a children's butterfly program on July 8 as part of the library's summer reading events.

The program featured Schneider talking about butterflies, the characteristics of butterflies, how to protect the pollinators, how to build a butterfly garden, and the difference between butterflies and moths. Schneider also was able to answer any questions that the children had surrounding butterflies.

The program ended with a fun t-shirt craft where children could place stencils on their shirts, then spray them with color, revealing a fun spray dyed butterfly shirt at the end.

Schneider, who has been

running butterfly programs for over 25 years, talked about his program and the importance of helping butterflies. This was his first program ever at the library.

"I want them to learn about how butterflies are important, pollinators especially. And that if we want to help their numbers, because the numbers are going down, we can do things like growing butterfly gardens," Schneider said.

Youth Services Librarian Kate Rumpalik spoke about the butterfly program.

"We love having free things for the kids to do all summer that are fun and educational, and that they can come with mom and dad and hang out and do," Rumpalik said. "So this one we've never had before, so he is a new one for us. He taught us all about butterflies, and had a really cool t-shirt craft at the end. I think the kids really liked him. They always like to be able to take some-

Please see
BUTTERFLIES, page 8



Photo courtesy of Abigail Ferrone

Xiomara Albán DeLobato, a resident of Wilbraham, has been appointed to the Cannabis Control Commission and, also, recognized as a 2026 Commonwealth Heroine.

DeLobato appointed to Cannabis Control Comm.

Recognized as 2026 Commonwealth Heroine

By Kristin Rivers
Editor

krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Xiomara Albán DeLobato, a resident of Wilbraham, was recently appointed to the state's Cannabis Control Commission.

She was also named a 2026 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, having been nominated by State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield).

Albán DeLobato explained she was approached about the opportunity first "to see if this is something I would be interested in."

"The Legislature moved forward the new statute, Ch. 65 of the Acts of 2026, with a clear mandate for the new Commissioners to bring the industry into the future, and that was very appealing and interesting to me. I also found the position a good match for my recent roles as Vice President and Chief of Staff for the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council, including my experience

serving at the municipal and state level on several boards that have direct impact to our communities," Albán DeLobato said.

On what drew her to the role, she said this.

"My seat on the Commission comes with a social justice mandate, and that mission is very important to me. Throughout my career, I've included social justice as part of my leadership methodology. My goal is to always embed inclusive and equitable strategies with everything. As a Latina, a member of the LGBTQ community, a first-generation American, all those identities intersect and I'm bringing that perspective to the Commission. It's critical for us in any industry, in any agency, to ensure that we're looking at all sides and angles of how we connect with the people we're meant to serve," Albán DeLobato said.

Albán DeLobato said the Cannabis Control Commission "does a lot" and elaborated on the agency.

"The agency's main duties are issuing licenses to cannabis businesses and then ensuring those businesses-and their

Please see **APPOINTED**, page 9

Softball committee meets with Select Board

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham-Hampden Softball Committee President Scott Fletcher met with the Select Board on June 29 to discuss the committee.

Fletcher offered the board a committee overview and introduced organizational vice president Keith MacInnes. He mentioned he had just become organizational president and stated his intent was not only to develop a relationship with the town but with the wider community as well.

"He suggested that we come down tonight and just

sort of open up areas of dialogue, introduce ourselves and kind of tell you what we're about," Fletcher said. "We're here tonight just to kind of give you an overview of some of the things that have been going on in our softball community and what it is that we sort of represent, and so just kind of develop some relationships so that going down the road if there's things that you're aware of that we could be involved in or something that we could take advantage of in terms of the overall aspect of the community, just

Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 13

“IF YOU WANT TO PLAY, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF YOU WANT TO GROW, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU AND EMPHASIZING HAVING GOOD COACHES AND TRAINING OUR COACHES AND SAFE PLAY AND, LIKE I SAID, SPORTSMANSHIP AND, ULTIMATELY, A GOOD FEELING OF COMMUNITY.”

- Scott Fletcher

Wilbraham-Hampden Softball Committee President

Selectboard approves Hampden Police Department reserve officer

By Kristin Rivers
Editor

krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard unanimously approved a new reserve officer for the police department on July 6.

Police Chief Dan Bruno explained Nate Rabidoux came recommended "from a

couple of folks."

"As you know, we're still trying to fill out our ranks of reserve officers. Nate appears to be a good fit. We've interviewed him. Full background has been completed. Currently working at Mount Holyoke College as a full-time officer, but he feels that he can commit to us in Hampden and his shift

work, primarily, work some details as well, but he's well experienced," Bruno said. "He's fully certified, post certified, completed his academy and importantly, he's—if you look at his resume there—he's worked in several other agencies such as Hampden, so he's very acquainted with small town policing as it were. He

is also familiar with all of our current computer systems and the systems we use for software; he currently uses those systems. So, that ties in nicely and we'd think that he'd be able to do a very abbreviated training period with us just to get acclimated to the town and the procedures in Hampden and then hopefully be able to

come on board and start."

On Chair John Flynn's question on certification, Bruno replied that "everything is current."

"Post certified. All of his training is up to date," Bruno said. "Also a nice benefit is he gets all of his training through his full-time employee, so we don't need to concern

ourselves with that, which is nice."

After Flynn thanked Rabidoux for applying, Selectboard Member Don Davenport asked this question.

"You're at Mount Holyoke full-time. right? And you're still going to do Hadley part-

Please see **HPD**, page 2

Young United Players to present 'Shrek Jr.'

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players' Young United Players' are looking forward to opening their summer production of "Shrek Jr." on July 17, which will run until July 19.

"Shrek Jr." is directed by Deb Trimble, who has been leading the charge on this production since May.

"With a youth cast there's an element of education included in the rehearsal

process. Not only are we teaching them the elements of the show... blocking, music, choreography, but we're also giving them the opportunity to learn about what it means to be a different character and how to bring that character to life. We're teaching them what it means to be a good audience member. They're learning about the world of the play through exploration of their character's at-

Please see **SHREK**, page 9

Soule Rd. presents 'Annie' Kids, the Musical

By Selena Nguyen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On the evenings of Monday, June 15 and Tuesday, June 16, the Soule Road School Drama Club presented "Annie" Kids, the Musical.

A total of 58 kids—fourth and fifth graders—were involved in the production - spread across two casts. The Monday Show was called "The Green Cast" and Tuesday's Show was "The Gray Cast."

The Production showcased classics, such as "Maybe" and "Tomorrow", performed by



Submitted photo

The Gray Cast of "Annie" Kids, the Musical taking bows after their performance

the elementary schoolers' musical talent with the trusty help of accompanying musicians within the Wilbraham-Hamp-

den District.

WMS Band Director Richard Cuoco, who was one of the instrumentalists involved,

emphasized the importance of theatre having live music.

Please see **ANNIE**, page 5

HPL summer reading events

By Riddhi Patel
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Free Public Library is hosting numerous summer events—in addition to their summer reading program—this summer for grades five through 12.

The purpose of these events is to encourage students to pursue an exciting and active summer and also make time to read during the summer months.

On events, recent events such as Perler Beads, Spa Day and Terracotta Pot Painting have helped achieve that goal by appealing to the creative side of many.

At each event, children of all ages are able to create fun memories with their friends along with creating unique crafts. Not only are they able to enjoy the summer with their friends but also go out of their comfort zone and try new experiences.

Students often believe going to a library involves reading and not everyone likes to read. However, the Hampden Free Public Library hopes to



Turley photo by Riddhi Patel

A photo of this year's raffle baskets for the teens to win during summer reading season.

host events that are enjoyable for all.

These include events like K through Four Sip Fun at 4 p.m. and Teen Sip Fun at 6 p.m., both on July 23, the Candy Sushi event on July 25 at Noon and Mystery Movie Night on July 30 at 4 p.m.

Other events include Video Game Night – Ramen Bar on July 16 at 4 p.m., Squirt Gun Tie Dye on July 18 at Noon and Goat Story Time with Cloverbrook Farm on July 22 at 11 a.m.

For those who do enjoy reading, the library has been hosting a Teen Summer Reading Program.

For every five hours read, kids will receive a raffle ticket by which they can win several raffle baskets such as the Movie Night basket, Arts & Crafts basket and the Laser Tag basket.

The steps to register for the Summer Reading program can be found on the library website or by visiting the library. Just register, read and win numerous prizes.

There are also summer reading programs for kids and adults too.

To celebrate all the reading achievements of the numerous children that participated, a Finale Party for

all ages will be held on July 30 at 5:30 p.m. This event is generously funded by the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library and Village Food Mart. During this event, the library will announce the summer reading raffle winners along with hosting a pizza party.

Attendees are encouraged to register.

Also, on Aug. 1 at Noon will be the Finale Parties for the teens and adults.

With all these events, the library encourages everyone to enjoy an eventful and exciting summer before the new school year starts.

Adult Crafternoon at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Public Library is offering a Crafternoon for Adults on Friday, July 17, 2 to 3:30pm.

Join us for a unique crafting opportunity: making bee baths! Participants will each create a simple bee oasis that can be set out-

side and used by any thirsty bees.

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

Teen Drawing Workshop at Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - On Tuesday, July 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., grades 6-12 can join us for “Teen Drawing Workshop: Seashells” at the Wilbraham Public Library.

This workshop is an introduction to graphite sketching taught by Ellie Antonacci of Art Lessons with Ellie. Ellie will be teaching several drawing techniques as the group sketches seashells from observation.

Each artist will leave class with a small coastal still life. All supplies are included and all skill levels are welcome. Starting on July 13 at 9 am, online registration is required at wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141.

This program is sponsored in full by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

APPOINTED from page 1
time and Hampden County Sheriff's Department?" Davenport said.

Rabidoux answered yes and he can come to Hampden from the college and go through Route 9 from Hadley.

“They got rid of their part-time officers last year, decided to focus on full-timers. So, myself and another were let go, but we were kept on as part-time/TCOs, but we don't work shifts...” Rabidoux said.

He was then unanimously approved subject to all certifications as established by the police chief.

Later on, the board also discussed sending a letter to the School Committee to resolve the contract with para-

professionals in the school district.

“I always get it wrong whether it's Group A, Group B, whatever they call them. But they've settled with the teachers, but they still have—as far as we know—ongoing discussions with the para group,” Flynn said. “Don has written a letter that he would like the board to endorse, to share with the School Committee, our feelings on how important it is that they get this going in a reasonable time. They've been going a year without the contract already. We have a new school

year starting in less than two months, and it's only fair to these paraprofessionals—many of whom live in this area and in this district—they have families. They're involved. They have children going to the school and it's just not right to keep them going along.”

Flynn added that whenever the board endorses the letters like this, he would like them to be included in the minutes posted online.

“Because we've had a couple of messages go out and Don authors many of them,” Flynn said. “But I think it's

important that sometimes, we read them into the record, but it's easier if they're part of the minutes that we post online.”

Davenport agreed with the suggestion.

“Absolutely. They should be,” Davenport said.

Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden also voiced his support for the letter.

“Don, very well written. I support your letter completely,” Vanderleeden said.

The letter was then endorsed and approved unanimously.

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COMMUNITY



The teens stand together holding the terracotta pots that they painted.

Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

HPL hosts Terracotta Pot Painting event

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Free Public Library held a terracotta pot painting session as part of their summer reading festivities on July 2.

Teens were able to paint their own terracotta pot in the teen room of the library's new location at the former Thornton W. Burgess School. The Sheila R. Flynn Teen Space was decorated for the occasion with a huge table set up for the painting, along with a variety of paints for attendees to choose from.

Also, the room had a calming atmosphere with string lights and lofi music in the background.

Each teen painted a four-inch terracotta pot with acrylic paint, as part of the summer reading program: Plant a Seed, Read.

Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard led the program that evening, and spoke about the teen programs at the library for the upcoming summer.

"This year's summer reading theme is Plant a Seed, Read. It seemed kind of fun to have something that was creative, artistic, and plant



Emerson Couture paints her terracotta pot.

themed. So after they paint them, once they are dried, they can plant their own little seeds and grow something," Girard said. "With the new location, it has that contin-

ued sense of community since they're not seeing their friends every day like they're at school. It's nice to have a place to come and do what they want and especially now

that we have an entire room for them. And just having fun activities that get them in the building and hopefully they get excited about the summer reading baskets and then they want to read in addition to coming to our programming."

In addition to their summer reading program, participants can read books over the summer which can get them raffle tickets, which they can put into a wide variety of raffle baskets to be raffled off later in the summer.

The Teens Summer Finale Party for Summer Reading will take place on Saturday, Aug. 1 at Noon.

It was a fun afternoon for teens to come together and enjoy arts and crafts, all the while being able to take home something that they made and can use to plant something in their home.

The Hampden Free Public Library looks forward to their summer teen events. With programming every Thursday and Saturday, upcoming teen events include candy sushi, movie nights, and video game nights and more, which you can check out for more details on their website at hampden-library.org.

Searching your family history with Ancestry Library Edition

WILBRAHAM – Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, July 29 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief introduction of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library

computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

"Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I and II draft cards, and other records worldwide.

International records available include particularly good coverage in Canada and the United Kingdom," said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive or sent to your email from Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both

library computers or personal devices connected to the library's Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

A look at the MRHS track season

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Track and Field Team has finished an outstanding outdoor track season.

Notable achievements include girls league champions for the first time since 2008 with an undefeated league season, boys second in the league with a record of 4-1.

Both boys and girls teams also placed second at the Minnechaug Invite.

Minnechaug also brought five girls to the heptathlon, with seniors Maliha Daubon and Lyric Nelson placing 10th and 11th.

Individual successes for the girls team certainly showed the immense success of Minnechaug track, especially for the recently graduated senior class: In jumping, Maliha Daubon broke the school record, along with being a leader in scoring points for the team along with Lyric Nelson. Sprinter Natalia Clarke placed second in the 100m at the Western Mass Championship. Thrower Quincie Wilson had an incredible first and last track season winning Western Mass in the javelin throw.

Senior Maggie Joyce, who plans to continue her track and cross-country career at Seton Hall University, spoke about the team over the past four years she's been at Minnechaug.

"Our team has gotten so much stronger over the past four years. It's been incredible to see how everyone has progressed, I also know there's a ton of potential on this team that I'm confident they will continue to progress in this season," Joyce said. "One of my favorite things about Minnechaug Track is how supportive everyone is.



Photos courtesy of Evan Fitzgerald

The Minnechaug Girls team holds up their trophy from the Minnechaug Invite.



The Minnechaug Boys team holds up their trophy from the Minnechaug Invite.

No matter where we go we're going to be one of the loudest teams and everyone is always cheering. Even if it's kids I don't really know if I run by during a race they're almost always cheering and I think that's really special. I just really hope that everyone continues to uplift each other and push themselves and their teammates to be the best version of themselves. I know I wouldn't be where I am without my teammates and coaches helping to push me to be my best."

Speaking on behalf of the boys team is junior and rising senior Tyler Supczak, who

was selected for all league.

"Over the past few years I've seen a lot of growth in ability and participation, which I find very important. I've also seen a lot of collaborative work growing, there are a lot of kids pushing each other to get better every day, and a lot of inclusivity with the whole team," Supczak said. "Something that I enjoyed about track was the sense of togetherness that had grown through my friends and my relay teammates altogether. I've enjoyed trying new things, cheering on my teammates to get new personal bests, and of course improv-

ing my times every race...For next year I hope to continue that fun togetherness at every practice. Sometimes people see running as grueling but when friends come together and make jokes that they can talk about or figure something out to look forward to every day, it molds the sport into a community. I just hope that people continue to join and make memories together as track is very collaborative and social."

After their successful season, Minnechaug looks forward to another track season for the 2026-2027 school year.

ANNIE from page 1

"Humans are imperfect, and young students are obviously no exception, so musical theater actors rely on the musicians' ability to listen and adapt as needed. Dialogue is not always spoken at the exact same tempo. Sometimes someone misses a line. Sometimes a scene change takes longer than expected. Sometimes the actors can't hear the music and aren't sure if they're singing in time. It's up to the musicians and the conductor to make the music work for the actors," Cuoco said.

Annie – the show's lead – was played by two talented fifth graders: Violet Christensen (Green Cast) and Rylee Balicki (Gray Cast).

When asked how she became involved in the Musical, the Green Cast's lead described her inspiration sparking from her older sisters who had been involved in Drama Productions within the District in the past, as well as her own personal enjoyment in acting.

Another student who displayed great enthusiasm towards "Annie" and Soule Road's Drama Club in general was Macy Feit, who played Ms. Hannigan in the Green Cast.

"It was really fun being part of this production. I was super excited I got Ms. Hannigan and immediately started working on memorizing my lines," Feit said. "By doing theater with Soule Road Drama Club, I was able to have rehearsals right after school and not have conflicts with my sport practices, I was able to be involved in more activities."

Sarah Christensen, moth-

er of Violet Christensen and a substantial parent-helper to the production, expressed great gratitude in Soule Road's Drama Program.

"This experience will be something I think Violet remembers forever," Christensen said, "I think she made friends that she'll keep forever that weren't as close before and I think she'll remember Ms. Canedi forever. It's just something that will stick with her and she's super grateful, so I'm grateful."

Another dedicated music teacher involved in the show was Cara Canedi, Soule Road's Drama Club Director, who expressed a sense of pride towards the Production and the children's involvement.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see all the students working together to produce a Broadway style show. In just under three months' time, they were able to memorize all their lines, sing their songs, dance their choreography to create a really wonderful performance. The students from both casts did an amazing job. The audience absolutely loved the show. Providing musical performance opportunities of any kind, whether it be theater, band, chorus or strings is incredibly important to a child's educational and social development. It allows students to be creative in a completely different way than traditional education practices. With being the last theatrical production of the academic school year, Soule Road has proved again how significant and unifying having theatre and music in the Wilbraham-Hampden School District truly is," Canedi said.

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Wilbraham residents: Vote by mail notice

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office would like to inform Wilbraham Voters that per M.G.L. c. 54, § 25B paragraph (7) (i), the State Secretary must send vote-by mail applications to every registered voter in Mas-

sachusetts prior to state primaries and state elections.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own SS benefit?

Dear Rusty:
I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits.
I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits.

Signed: Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering:
If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced.
And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse.
If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early.
All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.
Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount.
Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.
Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to consider are these:

Are you still working?
If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly).
If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.
Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less.
Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.
What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.
So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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

An endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants.
The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen windowsill.
In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance.
It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow.
Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.

Deadhead

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.
You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.
If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.
By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.
Petunias, marigolds, zin-



nias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.
Shear them back to encourage new growth
Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.
Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.
Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.
Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.
Cultivate gently and water in.
You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!
Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket

filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can.
Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.
Water, water, water
If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.
If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.
Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation.
Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.
Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.
Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months or more – well worth the effort for vases of flowers on the windowsill!

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

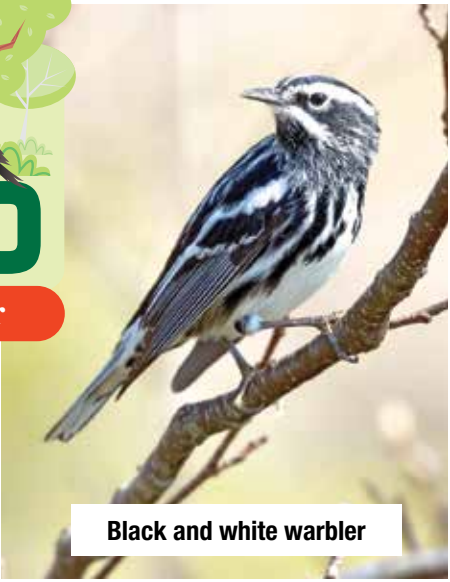


in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.
The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees seeking insects in the bark

crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground.
This warbler inhabits forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Florida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Moun-



tains, southeast, southwest, Texas and Western Canada.
Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period

in both spring and fall.
The sexes are similar and are about 4.3 to 5.1 inches long. The black and white warbler feather pattern is stripes, white central crown stripe and black streaks on back and sides.
The adult male has black throat and cheeks and the female and young paler or whitish there.
Their song is a thin, high-pitched, monotonous "weezy-weezy-weezy-weezy" like a squeaky wheelbarrow. The call is a chirp or chip.
The black and white warbler breeds in mature or second-growth forests, deciduous and mixed. Males arrive on breeding grounds in late April, before the females.
During courtship, a male chases female, with much singing and fluttering. The female lays five creamy white

eggs flecked with brown in a cup shaped nest on the ground or less than two feet above under dead leaves or limbs or against a shrub or tree. They are commonly parasitized by cowbirds.
Both parents feed the young and the young leave the nest in eight to 12 days after hatching. The young are able to fly well.
Adapted to creeping along limbs and on tree trunks to feed, they forage on dormant insects from tree trunks and branches in early spring. They switch body from side to side at each hop while foraging. Sometimes, they fly out after insects in the air.
They eats primarily insects. It feeds on a wide variety of caterpillars including those of spongy moth, beetles

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8

The Wilbraham-Hampden

TIMES

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Correction Policy

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-8458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

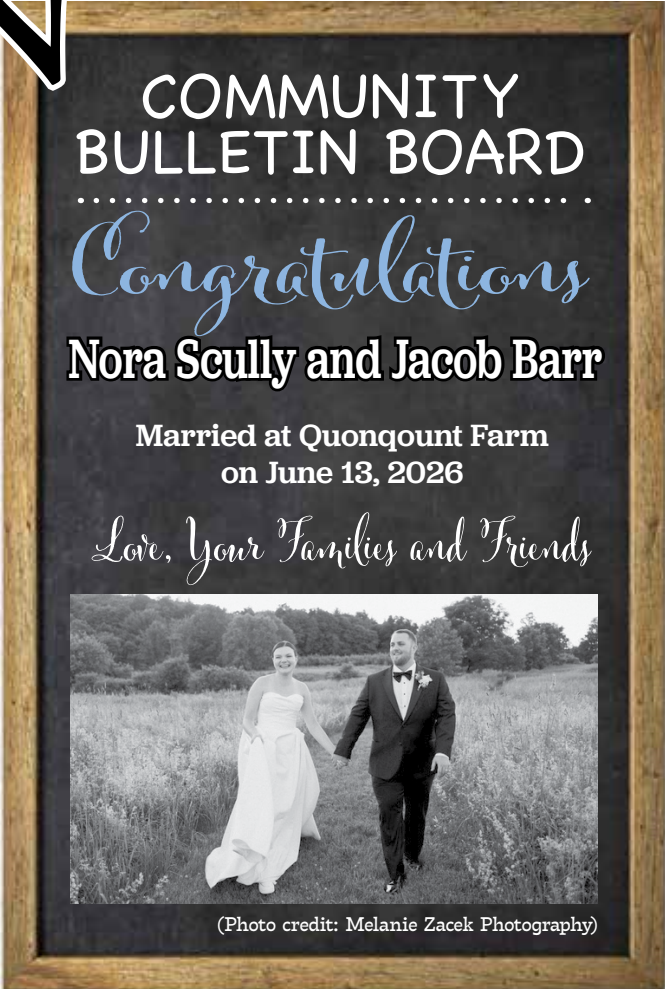
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Wilbraham Fire Department holds defibrillator training at The Gardens of Wilbraham

A basic instructional presentation on the use of defibrillators was conducted at the Gardens of Wilbraham by the Wilbraham Fire Department on June 23, 2026. About 40 residents of The Gardens attended the training which included the basic critical steps in aiding a person who may be experiencing cardiac arrest. The Gardens recently purchased and installed a AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for use in the event of an emergency situation.

Captain, Fire Prevention Patrick Farrow and Jeffrey Witek - EMS Coordinator and Senior FF/Paramedic visited The Gardens to a packed and

appreciative audience. Bart Barthelmes and The Gardens Board of Trustees arranged to have the information and demonstration session in order ensure the community is aware of the newly purchased AED and how to properly use the device. The half-hour session was followed by an additional 45 minutes of questions that were professionally responded to by the Wilbraham Fire Department officers.

Captain Farrow and Paramedic Witek concluded the information session discussing the various methods of applying CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) depending on the age and condition of the patient. They also chron-

icled "real life" examples of the practices resulting in the saving of several local residents.

In Massachusetts, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are required in certain public and private settings to ensure rapid response to cardiac emergencies. These include schools, health clubs, dental offices, long term care facilities and Sporting/Recreational Facilities. Although not required by Massachusetts Law; The Gardens chose to purchase and train their community in this level of first aid. The Gardens thanks the Wilbraham Fire Department for their assistance in this program.



Submitted photos and caption Rich Moore



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Major traffic impacts this summer

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

The project includes several improvements including:

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

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

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

Tonya Capparello, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer said, ““Thanks to grant funding from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund and MassDOT’s Complete Streets Program, along with local support from the Wilbraham tax payers and local boards and committees we are able to deliver meaningful upgrades that will improve traffic flow, in-

crease pedestrian safety, and enhance accessibility for residents, students, and visitors. The new sidewalk connection between Town Hall, the Senior Center and the Stony Hill Road Grammar School is especially significant providing a safer route for pedestrians while strengthening connectivity within our community. I would also like to recognize the residents and property owners who will be affected by this project. They have been terrific to work with throughout the planning process, and their cooperation, patience, and constructive feedback have helped us move this project forward.”

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

Wilbraham Public Library hosts Springfield Symphony Orchestra’s Musical Petting Zoo

WILBRAHAM – The library will be hosting the Springfield Symphony Orchestra’s Musical Petting Zoo on Thursday, July 23 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Space is limited, register today!

The Musical Petting Zoo is a fun and informative

hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments for children entering grades PreK-5. After an introduction to the instruments, participants get a chance to bow a violin, blow a horn or tap out a rhythm on a drum. Here’s your chance to discover an instrument in

a judgment-free zone that encourages exploration and excitement!

This event is made possible by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Semiquincentennial Quilt Project through July 30

WILBRAHAM - The Semiquincentennial Quilt Project is pleased to announce that they will exhibit their quilted wall hangings at the Wilbraham Public Library July 2 through 30.

A reception will be held

in the Brooks Room on July 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each quilter was asked to create a quilt depicting a place or reason that they loved living in the USA.

The quilts are varied in technique and theme. The

public are invited to view the quilts during the library opening hours.

If you would like more information, please contact Karen or Valerie at semiquincentennialquilt-project@gmail.com.

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including bark beetles, click beetles, and wood borers, ants, flies, bugs, leafhoppers, aphids and other insects, spiders and daddy longlegs.

Massachusetts Audubon sightings

Unusual bird sightings reported in late June to the Massachusetts Audubon Society included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich and a Franklin’s gull and two royal terns in Provincetown.

Central Massachusetts sightings in the Ware River

watershed included: a great blue heron, belted kingfisher, yellow-bellied sapsucker, two northern flickers, two eastern wood pewees, two alder flycatchers, two least flycatchers, three eastern Phoebe, four great crested flycatchers and two eastern kingbirds, a yellow-throated vireo, a blue-headed vireo, six warbling vireos, 110 red-eyed vireos, a common raven, two red-breasted nuthatches, two house wrens an eastern bluebird, 43 veery, a hermit thrush, a wood thrush, 34 gray catbirds and four cedar waxwings.

Also reported were a blue-winged warbler, four

yellow warblers, seven chestnut sided warblers,, three black-throated warblers, three green warblers, a Blackburnian warbler, seven pine warbles, on prairie warbler, three black and white warblers; two redstarts, 56 ovenbirds, 28 yellow-throated warblers, a Canada warbler, nine scarlet tanagers, six eastern towhees, a field sparrow, three swamp sparrow, a rose-breasted grosbeak, four indigo buntings, two bobolinks and three red crossbills..

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



Bill and Trish Decoteau, along with their grandson Oliver Godon-Decoteau, represent Live Like Scott at the butterfly program.

BUTTERFLIES from page 1

thing home with them too.”

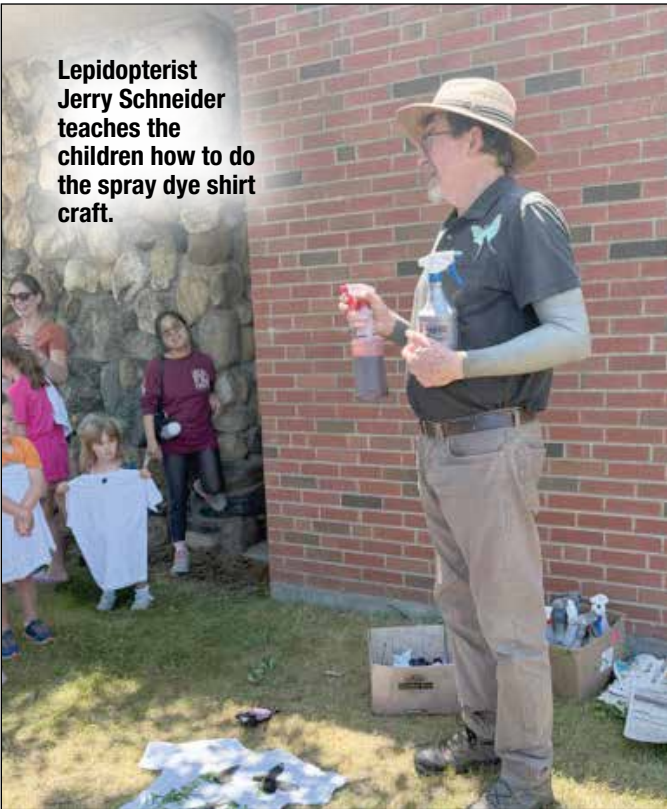
The program was sponsored by Live Like Scott: a local nonprofit honoring the life of Scott Decoteau. They frequently sponsor events every year, especially those that reflect Scott’s character.

The theme for Live Like Scott this year is literacy.

Speaking on behalf of Live Like Scott is Trish Decoteau.

“Our annual theme this year is literacy, and how readers are leaders. So I contacted Kate at the library to see if there was something that our foundation could support, and she gave us this option, and I grabbed it,” Decoteau said.

Live Like Scott will also be hosting their Eighth Annual Event to remember Scott on Sept. 19 at Memorial Park.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen



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Hampden Historical Society Talk set for July 23

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Historical Society at Academy Hall presents Rich Howell speaking on “South Wilbraham and the American Revolutionary War: A Study of the Involvement of the Citizens of Hampden.”

Pizza served first. July 23 at 6:30 p.m. All welcome.

Questions, call Linda Krawiec at 566-8447.

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BBB Tip: Major Sporting Events bring economic opportunities-and increased scam risks

Paula Fleming
pffleming@boston.bbb.org

BOSTON - As excitement builds around upcoming FIFA matches and related events across North America, BBB is encouraging both consumers and businesses to prepare for increased activity, heightened demand, and the rise in scams that too often accompany major global sporting events.

Millions of fans are expected to purchase tickets, book travel, reserve lodging, buy merchandise, and attend watch parties and related events across North America. While these activities create significant economic opportunities for businesses, they also attract scammers seeking to exploit enthusiastic fans.

“Major international sporting events like FIFA create tremendous excitement and economic benefits for local communities and businesses, but they also provide opportunities for scammers looking to take advantage of consumers,” said Paula Fleming, CMO & Chief Spokesperson of BBB Eastern New England. “We encourage fans to take their time before making purchases, verify ticket sellers and travel providers, and use secure payment methods. Businesses should also remain vigilant against fraud attempts targeting event-related promotions, reservations, and payment transactions.”

Common FIFA-Related Scams Consumers Should

Watch For Ticket Scams
Fraudsters often create fake ticket websites, counterfeit tickets, and fraudulent social media listings. Consumers should purchase tickets only through official FIFA channels or verified ticket marketplaces.

Vacation Rental and Lodging Scams
Scammers may advertise non-existent hotels, short-term rentals, or vacation properties near event venues. Research accommodations carefully, verify addresses, and pay with a credit card whenever possible.

Travel Booking Fraud
Fake travel packages

promising discounted airfare, hotel stays, and match tickets frequently emerge around major sporting events. Verify travel agencies and booking providers before paying.

Merchandise Scams
Counterfeit jerseys, memorabilia, and event merchandise are common. Purchase products from reputable retailers and authorized sellers.

Phishing and Impersonation Scams
Consumers may receive emails, texts, or social media messages claiming to be from FIFA, sponsors, airlines, hotels, or ticket providers. Never click suspicious links or provide personal information without independently verifying the source.

Social Media Marketplace Fraud
Scammers often use social media platforms to advertise tickets, accommodations, and merchandise that do not exist or are never delivered.

Advice for Businesses
Businesses can also become targets during high-profile events.

BBB recommends businesses:
Verify large or unusual orders before fulfillment.
Be cautious of requests for wire transfers or alternative payment methods.
Train employees to recognize phishing emails and business impersonation attempts.

Monitor online reviews and social media accounts for fraudulent activity.
Ensure websites and payment systems are secure and functioning properly during periods of increased traffic.
Review cybersecurity protections and incident response plans.
Be alert to vendor fraud and fake sponsorship opportunities.

Before You Buy BBB recommends consumers:
Research businesses at BBB.com before making purchases.
Read reviews from multiple sources.
Please see **BBB**, page 12

SHREK from page 1

tributes and how they fit into that world.” Trimble said. “I do have to give a shout-out to several of our adult volunteers who are consistently at rehearsals, building sets and props and managing the production side of things. Without them, it wouldn’t be possible to support 42 kids in this endeavor. As a director, I am very grateful to have all of them as a part of the team.”

Speaking on behalf of the cast is Minnechaug sophomore Eva Gagliarducci, who plays the role of Princess Fiona in Shrek Jr.

“Shrek Jr. is filled with supportive and talented people and it is one of the best communities I have ever been a part of,” Gagliarducci said.

After the previous success of “Seussical Jr.,” the Young United Players name started spreading across Western Mass including Chicopee, Ludlow and South Hadley to name just a few.

Making her Wilbraham United Players stage manager debut is Wagner College junior and Chicopee resident Tori Poutre.

“It is, in fact, my first time working with WUP and the Youth WUP members, and I am beyond grateful and excited for this opportunity,” Poutre said. “I have a soft spot for summer youth theater, as I grew up participating in all the ways within the theater



The Duloc Citizens (Lily Harrigan, Zoe Harrigan, Eva Kellogg, Ava McNally, Khaleesi Melero, Michaela Panascian, Israela Rose-Quintana, Emerson Shea, Tovah Woldorf) in Shrek Jr. welcome everyone to their town of Duloc.

community, and as I have grown up, I find it important to give back and help give the youth a memorable summer and opportunities I was given. WUP truly focuses and works with the youth all summer, not just working on the production, but also educating them all about musical theater in such innovative and engaging ways. Through the short time I have spent with WUP, I would like to acknowledge their openness and the comfortable environment they provide for all involved in the process. And I would just like to thank the board of directors and production team for trusting me to join this amazing team and I am so beyond proud of all of these kids!”

The “Shrek Jr.” cast and crew look forward to their highly anticipated run, celebrating another successful year for summer youth theater in Wilbraham.

APPOINTED from page 1

employees-operate according to our regulations to ensure public health and safety. We oversee both adult-use and medical marijuana businesses,” Albán DeLobato said. “The agency also has an equity mandate. We operate the Social Equity Program to offer opportunities for people harmed by marijuana prohibition to enter the cannabis industry-as business owners, employees, and other roles in the industry. Our mission is to encourage full participation in the cannabis industry by communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement.”

Structurally, she added, three Commissioners oversee the agency, with one serving as chair.

“Under the new law, Chair Chris Harding is the head of the agency working with the Executive Director to oversee staff and all operations of the Commission,” Albán DeLobato said. “Many residents

might think we collect all the tax revenue generated by cannabis sales, but that’s one thing we do not do. All the money from taxes, fees, and fines goes back into the state to support various programs ranging from substance abuse recovery to municipal police training.”

As for her goals, Albán DeLobato noted several.

“Foremost, I want to be a good steward for an industry that includes nearly 1,000 businesses, close to 20,000 employees and that generated \$1.65 billion in gross sales last year. The Commissioners are also getting ready to begin work on a large regulatory package that touches on many important areas, like cannabis testing and the Medical Use of Marijuana Program,” Albán DeLobato said. “Just over a month into my term, I am centering my work on areas that can meaningfully expand economic accessibility and generate long-term opportunity within the cannabis industry, particularly for historically marginalized communities and for anyone seeking to participate in this growing sector. Beyond social equity, a significant part of my expertise is identifying areas of opportunity that strengthen the industry’s overall economic health and open pathways for sustainable revenue generation.”

She added, “thinking proactively about the future is essential.”

“We must forecast effectively and position Massachusetts to remain competitive, innovative, and responsive as the cannabis industry continues to evolve nationally and globally. I’m also leading the Commission’s work on social consumption implementation, which is a key component of that future growth. Staff are currently building the new license type, which will exclusively serve participants in our equity programs and represents an important step toward expanding access

and broadening economic participation,” Albán DeLobato said.

Also, partnerships.

“I also see this new chapter as an important moment for partnership. I’m focused on working closely with our business owners and municipal leaders as the industry continues to grow and evolve. I lead with economic innovation in mind, and I’m eager to collaborate with stakeholders as we move toward implementation of social consumption and as we work together to scale the industry into a major economic driver for the Commonwealth,” Albán DeLobato said.

Reflecting on her Commonwealth Heroine recognition, Albán DeLobato expressed her gratitude at being among this year’s class of honorees.

“This recognition is deeply meaningful to me because it reflects the people and communities who have shaped my journey. No one achieves their goals alone. I am incredibly fortunate to have a supportive family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and sponsors who have challenged me, encouraged me, and given me the space to grow both professionally and personally,” Albán DeLobato said. “To me, this honor symbolizes that positive impact is possible and that it can look different for each of us. I carry that with a great sense of responsibility. I remain committed to being a thoughtful steward and dedicated leader for the constituents of our great state, and to continuing the work that uplifts communities and expands opportunity.”

Her message was this.

“I’m honored to have been selected as a commissioner, and I take this work and my social equity mandate very seriously. Not everyone consumes cannabis, and certainly many residents still may not support it. But no matter where people stand, I want the public to know that my colleagues and I work diligently to ensure the industry operates safely, continues to be an economic engine, and gives back to the people of the Commonwealth,” Albán DeLobato said. “These recent recognitions also remind me that there is still important work ahead and that meaningful progress is never achieved alone. Massachusetts is, in my view, the greatest state in the nation because of the people who call it home and the way our communities show up for one another. Any positive change we make, whether in this industry or beyond, takes collaboration, coalition, and a shared commitment to lifting each other up. I see these honors not as a personal achievement, but as a reflection of what we can accomplish together, and they reinforce my dedication to continuing this work in partnership with communities across the Commonwealth.”

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Pioneer Valley Financial Charitable Fund

donates \$10,000 to support TJO Animal Shelter’s

response to parvovirus and panleukopenia

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Foundation for TJO Animals is pleased to announce a generous \$10,000 donation from Pioneer Valley Financial Charitable Fund to support the Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center (TJO) as it responds to recent cases of parvovirus and panleukopenia that temporarily disrupted shelter operations.

The gift will provide critical funding to help the shelter recover from the outbreak and ensure it has the supplies needed to continue providing lifesaving care to animals. Funds will be used to replenish personal protective equipment (PPE) and parvovirus vaccines for the veterinary clinic, as well as purchase diagnostic tests, treatment supplies, cleaning and disinfecting products, and food for the animals currently in the shelter’s care.

“An outbreak like this, places an enormous strain on shelter resources,” said Janna Brown, Executive Director of the Foundation for TJO Animals. “Every day, the veterinary and animal care teams are working tirelessly to protect

the health of the animals while preventing further spread of disease. This generous donation from Pioneer Valley Financial Group allows the clinic to replace critical supplies and continue providing the highest level of care during a very challenging time.”

Parvovirus and panleukopenia are highly contagious viral diseases that primarily affect puppies and kittens, as well as unvaccinated animals. Managing these illnesses requires strict isolation protocols, enhanced sanitation procedures, additional personal protective equipment, specialized medical treatment, and increased vaccination efforts, all of which significantly increase operating costs for the shelter.

“This contribution is about more than replacing supplies,” Brown added. “It’s about ensuring that every animal who comes through the doors has access to the medical care, protection, and nutrition they need while their team works to safely navigate this situation.”

The Foundation for TJO Animals serves as the nonprofit fundraising part-

ner for the Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, providing financial support for veterinary care, medical equipment, shelter improvements, enrichment programs, and emergency treatment for thousands of animals each year.

The Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to Pioneer Valley Financial Group for stepping forward when the need was greatest. Their generosity will have an immediate impact on the health and well-being of the animals in TJO’s care.

For more information about the Foundation for TJO Animals or to support its mission, visit the Foundation’s website or contact the Foundation office.

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SCHOOL

Wilbraham Middle School announces Term 3 Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM - The following students received Honor Roll status for the Term 3 marking period at Wilbraham Middle School. Distinguished Honors is all A's in all subjects; Honors is all A's and/or B's in all subjects.

Distinguished Honors Grade 8

Cassandra Alvarez, Aubrey Appleby, Aria Balwa, Molly Baroni, Reid Blanchard, Madeline Britt, Brenna Bryan, Rose Christensen, Jacob DeGray, Emery Dyer, Peyton Eusebio, Gavin Hisgen, Jasper Hulseberg, McKinley Jaeger, Brynn Kennedy, Bree Kiernan, Andrew Kmelius, Julia Magee, Therese Mathias, Sophia Mazzaferro, Vivian McIntyre, Calla Minahan, Joseph Montano, Maeghan Morris, Andrew Mullen, Mia Newman, Desmond O'Brien, Summi Oh, Luiza Paiva, Abigail Patterson, William Roberts, Jaxson Rogers, Grace Romano, Greta Rust, Epi Sanchez, Jackson Shanley, Katelyn Sheehan, Madelyn Smith, Harper Spring, Cole Thomas, Samuel Webster, Caitlin Weichselbaumer, Ashley Wetherbe, Kylie Zamorski.

Honors – Grade 8

Mason Axiotis, Alaina Bailey, Kegan Bailey, Dylan Bean, Madelyn Boudreau, Alianna Brandoli, Abigail Britton, Jack Christofori, Cieanna Cromartie, Leo Deziel, Ivan Dong, Madelynn Easton, Timothy Euber, Cody

Feit, Nora Fontaine, Ryenne Fountain, Alaina Giombetti, Lukas Gregson, Oliver Hart, Jacob Johnson, Delaney Kinsman, Aiden Larson, Emma Lewis, Camila Long, Siobhan Mahoney, Logan Mangar, Zahra Minhaj, Ryan Minns, Sebasti Morales-Garcia, Emily Moraru, Ryan Nichols, Riya O'Connor, Shana Oguku, Michelle Ohemeng, Mya Pafumi, Joshua Pelletier, Ryleigh Picard, Logan Pryor, Kennady Raymond, Kaylie Ritchotte, David Roberts, Garrett Roberts, Alexan Robles-Blasenak, Christopher Romano, Jake Salemi, Natalia Savlick, Oskar Schmidt, Jamie Scliopou, Gianni Senecal, Sonhae Senez, Louise Shaughnessey, Violet Strattiff, Arianna Sundheim, Maxwell Sylvester, Lucas Tassinari, Devdutt Vijay, Jaxson Walker, Brenna Woytowicz, Owen Wright.

Distinguished Honors Grade 7

Amber Antunes, Tia As-saf, Owen Benninger, Oliver Bergeron, Olivia Beston, Matthew Brogle, Emily Burke, Angelica Capatina, Sadie Casella, Nathaniel Choinski, Philip Costello, Rea DeNardo, Audriana Desousa, Honora Farrell, Natalie Fol, Quinn Folli, John Guerin, Taleya Gunn, Zoe Harrigan, Sawyer Haugh, Nora Hegarty, Emma Howland, Enzo Imbriglio, Emily Jourdain, Grace Keith, Hayden Kelley, Eva Kellogg, Gavin Kern, Brooke Kmelius, Jessica Kwajewski, Anthony

Lapomardo, Claire Lareau, Jayden Lewis, Jayden Lopez, Katherine Lotterer, Ella Luszcz, Molly MacEachern, Caroline Maziarz, Savannah McNabb, Cole Michael, Lucas Morrow, Betty Pagoga, Austin Piquette, Taesha Rowe-Singleton, Mia Santos, Sophia Schott, Audrey Scott, Nicolas Siciliano, Paige Smith, Anna Steele, Samantha Strange, Vivian Stromwall, Connor Sullivan, Kayla Vanderleeden, Camdyn Vazquez, Allie Whittier, Cairra Williams, Evianna Wright, Samuel Zanetti

Honors – Grade 7

Logan Abdelmaseh, Alexis Adames, Amalia Baltazar, Daniel Bernardes, Jackson Bourke, Margaret Brannigan, Cole Cantalini, Sophia Cantalini, Jackson Chappel, Olivia Chen, Mya Conselino, Mary Dos Santos, Jack Ford, Maxwell Gawron, John Gralia, Sophia Haygood, Preston Hebert, Brennan Hoey, Lucas Inguagiato, Chelsea Krusiewicz, Helena Kudryk, Michael Lafield, Rylee Lopes, Zara Lotterer, Caroline Maserati, Adriana Monteleone, Justin Nowicki, Nora O'Connor, Adriana Pafumi, Colin Paige, Austen Paterno, Stella Petit, Axel Reed, Ava Ricketts, Madison Riker, Audrey Roach, Jua Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Summer Saleh, Cecelia Salerno, Anthony Soto-Tovar, Micaela Stremel, Malaysia Tessier, Juliany Torres, Kayson Twarog-DeJura, Carter Verteramo, Ella Wrisley.

Distinguished Honors Grade 6

Olivia Adams, Emma Althen, Mary Catherine Babbs, Gabriella Barroso, Alaina Bertelli, Samuel Castellano, Ethan Chalero, Maya Chaciek, Violet Chiarizio, Carson Childress, Callen Coffey, Emerson Conway, Brooke Dean, Ryan Deziel, Liam Downey, Louis Duong, Parker Ence, Lincoln Eusebio, Gavin Fallon, Elise Falzone, Genette Fanning, Madelyn Fontaine, Jack Fulton, Genevieve Gaudreau, Sofia Gonzalez, Aria Gouin, Emma Griffith, Maximilian Guberow, Lily Harrigan, Harper Hatch, Colton Hersman, Davida Ingman, Jacob Kearns, Cynthia Keen, Alexander Keeping, Caden Knowles, Nolan Krupka, Reed Libbey, Henry Luttrell, Evelyn Magill, Caitlin Mastroianni, Veronica Metzger, Alex Monteleone, Natalie Moretti, Arabella Nunes, Emma Pafumi, Mark Pafumi, Nora Parastatidis, Harold Patterson, Jackson Pelletier, Evangeline Perkins, Kailey Proulx, Harmony Rioux, Makenna Rodrigues, Charlotte Rust, Weston Salvador, Emma Sheehan, Ryleigh Shepard, Autumn Sheridan, Katherine Souza, Aubrey Stephen, Robin Straitiff, Sophia Sutter, Macie Taylor, Ashlen Thomas, Eli Thomas, Mila Tsim, Sadia Vasta, Jordan Wong-Vallejo, Kennedy Wright, Daniel Zhou

Honors – Grade 6

Breydan Ackley, Made-

line Alvarez, Ethan Appleby, Logan Arbour, Charles Babbs, Jonathan Balaur, Claire Barriault, Aaryn Bartle, Sophia Bennett, Logan Bernardes, Caleb Bosworth, Peter Bouchard, Bryan Bracey, Alena Brown, Colton Burzenski, Drake Cafarelli, Savannah Coelho, Emerson Couture, Logan Cruz, Adeline Cunha, Dylan DaCruz, Liam Devine, Cora Doolley, Gabriella Dos Santos, Raymond Downey, Daniel Duah, Reed Edgar, Joshua Ekong, Brady Engel, Zenovia Fils-Aime, Emersyn Frisk, Brittany Gerace, Andrew Griguoli, Mason Hall, Peter Harrington, Ella Hart, Jackson Hearn, Hunter Houle, Liam Jurkowski, Elijah Kwajewski, Grace Langone, Layla Lynch, Olive Madrid, Liam Mahoney, Parker Majka, Declan Maloney, Vincent McIntyre, Sheamus Miller, Evie Minahan, Gavin Morales, Cameron Moran, Wyatt Morin, Lucas Nascimento, Ethan Noonan, Brynn O'Brien, Jax O'Brien, Finlay Oguku, Aria Osorio, Cameron O'Sullivan, Hudson O'Sullivan, Etienne Pelletier, Riley Pelloso, Vincent Pitzer, Jack Powers, Savannah Pryor, Emma Queiroga, Sophia Quinn, Adrianna Raymond, Noah Rochford, Fernando Rodrigues, Brittny Rogers, Drew Salemi, Lilly Sample, Eddie Santiago, Sophia Sikorski, Jaxon Smith, Kylie Smith, Jack Swain, Nolan Witek, Lucas Zheng.

Kertenis named to SUNY Potsdam President's List

POTSDAM, NY - Jaidan Kertenis of Hampden, MA, was recently named to the President's List at The State University of New York at Potsdam.

Kertenis, whose major is Business Administration, was among 682 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Spring 2026 semester.

SUNY Potsdam President Dr. Suzanne Smith recognized the students for earning top marks.

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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Falcons battle to draw with Palmer

RIGHT: Julia Magee sends a quick pass away.

TOP ROW, CENTER: Molly Baron is pursued by the opposing defense.

TOP ROW, FAR RIGHT: Kristina Monteiro plays the ball off the side of her foot.



Haley Dziadosz advances up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Caitlin Weichselbaumer tries to stop a loose ball.



Maeghan Morris dribbles on the Falcons end of the field.

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday night, Palmer and Wilbraham battled in B Division action at Minnechaug Regional High School. The two teams would end with a 2-2 draw. The Panthers are 1-5-2 on the season while Wilbraham is 2-4-2, but still in good shape with a sixth place standing for the B Division playoffs as regular season play enters its final week.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Santiago Blasco hustles with the ball.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regular-season finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night. Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green's long unbeaten streak. The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.

“We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight’s game,” said Baafi, who led

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

“We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and we’re trying to win the championship title.”

St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

“We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.

runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.

Peoples, who fired a 6-0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

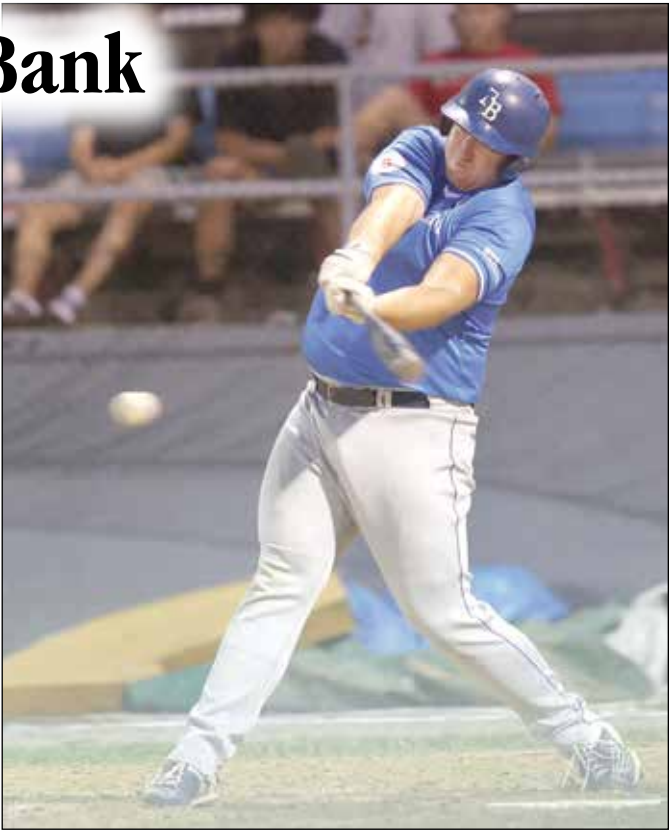
The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouras, who’s

the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play playing the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one



Johnny Gegestkas connects on a base hit.

season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error.”

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs, and his older brother were teammates on the Ware varsity baseball team for a couple of years.

Peoples first baseman Cam Rivest, who’s the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, led off the bottom of the second with a line-drive single into left field before scoring on a wild pitch.

With two outs in the top of the fourth inning, third baseman Joey DeMichele (3-for-4) delivered a two-run

single into centerfield, which increased St. Joe’s lead to 5-1.

St. Joe’s scored five more runs in the following frame with the benefit of only one base hit.

Right fielder Brian Hayes, who was hit-by-a-pitch, and Dillon Slattery (Walk) both scored on wild pitches.

Centerfielder Jacob Hayes drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. Another sacrifice fly by leftfielder Mark Jodoin scored two more runs.

PeoplesBank battled back against righty relief pitcher Jack Feltovic, who wound up as the winning pitcher, during the final three innings.

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 12



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.

This week in recreation



Alex Soares
Administrative Clerk

WILBRAHAM - Sun's out, school's out, and summer is in full swing! That means Spec Pond Beach and Amy's Splash Park are open and ready for you to enjoy. Come down to Spec Pond to cool off on these hot summer days and enjoy the happy squeals of children having fun at the splash park.

If you're still looking for ways to keep your kids active, engaged, and entertained this summer, look no further! Wilbraham Parks and Recreation still has openings in many of our summer sports clinics and enrichment programs, including baseball, basketball, futsal, karate, and LEGO Engineering. Be sure to register soon—we

don't want you to miss out if a program fills up.

Looking ahead to the fall, registration is open for Fall Soccer (Grades K–8) and Fall Field Hockey (Grades 3–8). Register early before the summer gets too busy!

Also coming up this month, registration for our Flag Football program (Grades K–4) opens on July 21. This non-contact program teaches the fundamentals of football, including running, passing, blocking techniques, punting, and kicking, in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. It's a great opportunity for young athletes to learn the game while building confidence and having fun!

Notes: Register online at WilbrahamRec.com

T-Birds unveil 2026-2027 regular season schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2026-27 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th playing season as an AHL member club, as well as their sixth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in four of its past five seasons, coming off a run to within one win of the Eastern Conference Finals.

For the first time in seven seasons, the Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on the road, on Saturday, Oct. 3, in Wilkes-Barre against the Penguins in a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals. The T-Birds will kick off their home ice season at the Thunderdome against the Laval Rocket on Saturday, Oct. 10 on Opening Night. Puck drop is set for 6:05 p.m.

Fans are advised that, for a second straight season, all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will start at 6:05 p.m.

The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2026-27 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters and Toronto Marlies. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 52

games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 26 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bruins, who will visit the Thunderdome seven times. The first meeting between the longtime foes will be on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:05 p.m., with other home-ice meetings scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 (7:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 16 (7:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 27 (3:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 2 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Jan. 13 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, March 6 (6:05 p.m.).

The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome. It marks the first of six meetings in Springfield, as the familiar rivals will also meet at the MassMutual Center on Tuesday, Nov. 10 (10:35 a.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 30 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 16 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Feb. 17 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, April 3 (6:05 p.m.).

With the Atlantic Division trimmed to seven teams for the 2026-27 season, the Thunderbirds will see each of their division opponents from Pennsylvania six times in the regular season, including three head-to-head matchups each at the Thunderdome. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins visit on Sunday, Jan. 3 (3:05 p.m.), as well as Friday, Jan. 29 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 30 (6:05 p.m.).

PIONEERS from page 11

the Pioneers with four assists. "It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team."

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

"This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and I love this place," Gomez said. "We've made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience. It's disappointing not making it this year. I'm hoping to play here again next year."

Gomez, who's from Albora-rache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men's soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who finished their season with an 8-3-3 overall record, haven't beaten their archrivals from Burlington since a 1-0 road win on June 17, 2023.

Vermont Green, who are hosting the first two rounds of the playoffs this weekend, now holds a 4-3-2 edge in the series against the Western Mass. squad.

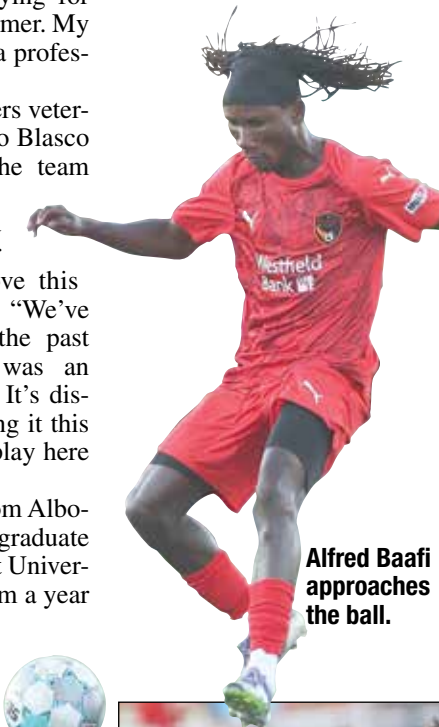
Vermont Green took the lead when Samson Kpardeh sent a pass from the left side into the box where Jeremy Fancou fired a shot into the right corner past Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander during the 24th minute of the opening half.

Fancou scored his second goal seven minutes later, which was assisted by Ryan

Zellefrow.

The score was 2-0 at intermission.

Nine minutes into the second half, the Pioneers sliced their deficit in half following



Alfred Baafi approaches the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.

a corner kick goal.

Ronan O'Brien booted the ball into the box from the left corner. After the ball

was headed by Dylan Hunston, Riley Priddy put another header into the left corner past Vermont Green back-up goalie Seth Wilson.

During the 59th minute, Martin Echarren booted a free kick into the right corner tying the score at 2-2. It was also his team leading seventh goal of the season.

Vermont Green retook the lead following a goal by Kpardeh during the 74th minute.

Another goal by William Sawin during stoppage time sent the Vermont Green rowdy supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the league playoffs, and they'll also be looking to celebrate a victory against the Vermont Green during the summer of 2027.

AT LEFT: Martin Echarren goes for the goal.



Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.

TRI-COUNTY from page 11

Feltovic replaced lefty starter Jackson Hayes on the mound with two outs in the fourth inning. He allowed four runs on eight hits.

With two-outs in the bottom of the fifth, third baseman Cam McDonald drew a bases loaded walk cutting Peoples deficit to 10-2.

After scoring another run in the sixth, Peoples catcher Pete Hogan knocked home two runs with two outs in the

seventh.

The home team couldn't get any closer than five runs, as Feltovic ended the game with a groundball out.

Fueled by a complete game performance from Monson's Trey Yesu, St. Joe's posted an 8-5 home victory in last Friday's contest against the Bankers.

Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff the past couple of years, allowed five runs on 12 hits with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He threw 108 pitches.

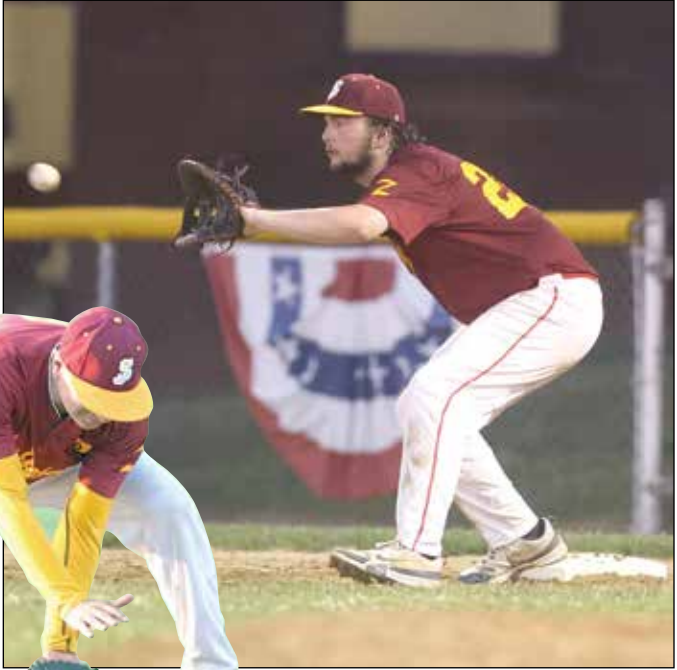
The two rivals are scheduled to face each other again in a make-up game before the end of the regular season.

Greg Vouros fields a grounder.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

BBB from page 9

Use credit cards whenever possible for added purchase protections.

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SOFTBALL from page 1

open up some of those dialogues. It's easier sometimes when you put a face with what it is that you're trying to do,"

He reported the committee had dealt with some recent turnover the last season, which resulted in his latest position.

Formerly the vice president, Fletcher took on the presidential role after the past president "was looking to move on."

"So, I took on a lot of responsibilities all at once and got my feet wet, and coming into this season, we really kind of expanded the things that we were offering, and one of the main focuses that I brought to the table, I made very clear to people that it wasn't just about softball for me," Fletcher said. "I think that softball offers up a unique opportunity to sort of bring more of a community feel to sports and that was one of the sort of the pillars that I kind of ran on and one of the things that I was focused on."

Fletcher stated there has been "a lot of momentum and interest" in softball in recent years and, with the recent development of a professional league and people watching

the college-level games, he's seen an uptick of community support, excitement and interest.

He stressed his goal as committee president was to use the developing popularity of the sport to build within the softball community a feel and sense of "community spirit."

"I myself feel very strongly that when it comes to sports, competition is a big portion of that, but I think a renewed focus needs to be brought on team spirit and sportsmanship and feeling like you are representing your community in town. We both represent Wilbraham and Hampden. Obviously, we're here tonight with you guys," Fletcher said. "But we are looking to try to find better ways to bring all of our resources and kind of streamline them to increase our program and opportunities for the girls."

The president mentioned there were three active teams this season; one for children under the age of eight, a U-10 category for 10 years and younger, a U-12 category and two teams who operate at the "U-14 level."

"In each one of those cas-

es, we typically have sort of an older group and then a younger group," Fletcher said. "So, we have a nice sort of progression plan going on, and some of our U-14 girls have now gone through our system for a few seasons and are graduating on and will be, hopefully, trying out for the JV Varsity Team next year."

He applauded the girls' efforts within their respective divisions and called them "on par" with many regional contenders. He also shared the committee also chartered a local Little League team and have been working with them in the background.

"We took kind of a leadership role," Fletcher said. "We're trying to bring sort of a summer season to our play this year too. So, things are looking pretty good with that too. So, we're really trying to find ways to bridge gaps and give opportunity to all of the girls that are out there."

Fletcher also announced they were looking to recruit more girls for the local teams and took time to praise the local coaches.

"If you want to play," Fletcher said. "We have a

place for you. And if you want to grow, we have a place for you and emphasizing having good coaches and training our coaches and safe play and, like I said, sportsmanship and, ultimately, a good feeling of community."

MacInnes added the committee has been "very, very aggressive in the fields of trying to make sure we standardize some of our practices as well as training some of our coaches and get them on board and get them into a team ship type of a way so they feel that they have some backing."

"So, we've got a lot of the families involved, we've got a lot of the students involved. Both Scott and I have also coached some of the teams that we have available. We also coached for the JV at the high school and our goals are to be able to formulate and provide for the high school a level of players that exceed but we've been able to seed lately so that they can produce and provide a better outcome for the season. We feel that we've been able to do that this season with the JV and Varsity," MacInnes said.

MacInnes also said how

"we got a lot of other things on our burner that we're looking forward to doing" including getting involved in the town and help raise money for things such as field preparation and field maintenance. Doing this would require establishing relationships with other entities or sponsorships in town.

He added the committee helped bring back the old fields at Mile Tree.

"So, we're looking to be able to help as much as we can in terms of that as well as push our goals in terms of bringing these girls up," MacInnes said.

MacInnis said the committee also received support from the Parks & Rec Department.

"We had their blessing and we have a good rapport with the Rec Department and working very much in tandem in both Wilbraham and in Hampden to do that and get these fields up to date," MacInnis said.

MacInnes hopes the committee puts Wilbraham on the map in terms of tournament games, which can bring monetary aspects and interest into the town. Also, bringing the idea of dugouts to Spec Pond.

"We're excited, I'm excited. We took this—and I have to give it more credit to Scott—he took this from something that was really very minimum and brought it," MacInnes said. "We usually had one or two teams at each level. Now we've got three teams this year alone. We had three teams in each. We've gotten some really nice people on the board, very talented people, very talented coaches. We had a ragbag team of girls that had never played with each other. Some of them didn't play and we had some coaches that we implemented and we brought them up to the playoffs and it was nice to see and they enjoyed it, and that's the one thing that we like is that level of sportsmanship. So, we're proud of that. I can go on and on and on, but thank you for this opportunity that we could present ourselves and we want to be able to work with you in that particular case in terms of networking and stuff for us and for you."

The conversation wrapped up when Fletcher and MacInnes took questions from the board.



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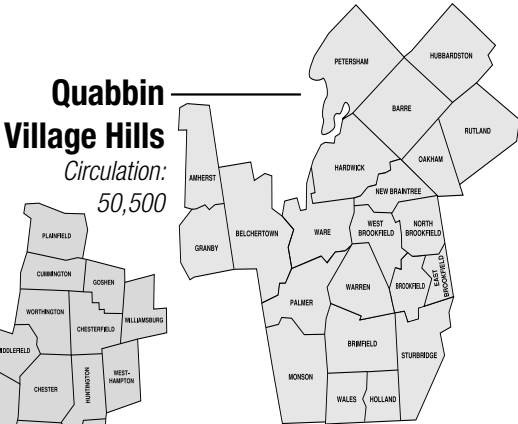
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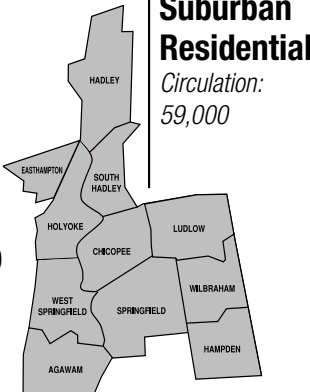
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PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD
The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Jennifer Moor and Ryan Tomanocy for a Special Permit (SP26-02) to exceed the size, height and garage door limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,800 square foot detached accessory building (barn), 26’ in height, with two garage doors on property owned by the applicants located at 218 Mountain Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).
James Rooney, Chair
07/16, 07/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1457EA Estate of: David M. Amsden Also known as: David Merrill Amsden Date of Death: 09/25/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Martha S. Amsden of Springfield, 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 **Martha S. Amsden of Springfield, 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 08/06/2026. 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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1457EA Estate of: David M. Amsden Also known as: David Merrill Amsden Date of Death: 09/25/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1460EA Estate of: Joan H Butler Also known as: Joan M Butler Date of Death: 05/15/2026 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, 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 08/03/2026. 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.
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P0734EA Estate of: Danielle Garrett Paige Also Known As: Dani Paige Date of Death: 02/03/2026
Bids must be addressed to Michael Messier, Director of Facilities & Operations, Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District -621 Main Street, Wilbraham Ma. 01095, securely sealed, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked **“Boiler Replacement at to the Minnechaug Regional High School”** on the outside of the envelope.
Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted under any conditions.
The Project involves the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School.
The estimated cost of the work is \$125,000.
Bids shall be accompanied by a proposal guaranty in the form of a bid bond, cash, or a certified check or a treasurers check issued by a responsible bank or trust company having offices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The proposal guarantee shall be in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid made payable to the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District.
Contract Documents are available from the Engineer after 2:00 PM on July 15, 2026. Each Bidder may obtain sets of bidding documents from Robt. W. Hall Consulting Engineers by emailing Richard Willoughby (rwilloughby@rwhall.com)
A **Prebid Conference will be held on Monday July 27, 2:00 PM at the School. The meeting place will be outside the Loading Dock on the east side of the school.**
A Payment Bond will be required of the successful bidder.
Attorney-in-fact who signs Payment Bonds must file with each Bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney. Prevailing Wage rates have been established for this project by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
The Hamden Wilbraham Regional School District reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, and to take whatever action it believes to be in the best interest of the School District.
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P0734EA Estate of: Danielle Garrett Paige Also Known As: Dani Paige Date of Death: 02/03/2026
Bids must be addressed to Michael Messier, Director of Facilities & Operations, Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District -621 Main Street, Wilbraham Ma. 01095, securely sealed, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked **“Boiler Replacement at to the Minnechaug Regional High School**
Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted under any conditions.
The Project consists of the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street Wilbraham MA.
HVAC GC Bid will be due, publicly opened and read on Monday, August 3rd at 2:00 p.m. in the Superintendents Conference Room, at Minnechaug Regional High School. 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1497EA Estate of: Eugenie M Garman Date of Death: 04/04/2026 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 **Scott C Garman of Amherst, 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 **Scott C Garman of Amherst, 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 08/07/2026. 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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1497EA Estate of: Eugenie M Garman Date of Death: 04/04/2026 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 **Scott C Garman of Amherst, 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 **Scott C Garman of Amherst, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1460EA Estate of: Joan H Butler Also known as: Joan M Butler Date of Death: 05/15/2026 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, 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 08/03/2026. 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.
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 09, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1460EA Estate of: Joan H Butler Also known as: Joan M Butler Date of Death: 05/15/2026 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, 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 **Robert Butler of Hampden, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 09, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P0734EA Estate of: Danielle Garrett Paige Also Known As: Dani Paige Date of Death: 02/03/2026
Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **July 24, 2026** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
2005 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP52K25U276668
Alfred Dimauro
4 Colony Drive
Hampden, MA 01036
07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1497EA Estate of: Eugenie M Garman Date of Death: 04/04/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
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The Petitioner requests that **Scott C Garman of Amherst, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
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Register of Probate
07/16/2026

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07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1460EA Estate of: Joan H Butler Also known as: Joan M Butler Date of Death: 05/15/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
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The Petitioner requests that **Robert Butler of Hampden, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 09, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P0734EA Estate of: Danielle Garrett Paige Also Known As: Dani Paige Date of Death: 02/03/2026
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07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michele G Coffey of Westfield, MA**.
Michele G Coffey of Westfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
07/16/2026

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81Q, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 6:00PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Subdivision Regulations that regulate the division of land and construction of subdivision roadways. The proposed amendments are as follows:
1. Acceptance of renumbering and recodification the Wilbraham Subdivision Regulations as Chapter 300 of the Code of the Town of Wilbraham
2. Reaffirmation of the existing provisions of the 2025 Subdivision Regulations
3. Changes to the previously adopted regulations:
a. References to the Massachusetts General Laws are standardized to the following format: MGL c. __, § __.
b. References to the “Building Inspector” are amended to read “Building Official.”
c. Section 300-4.3C(14) is amended as indicated: “Land subject to protection/permitting under the Wetlands Protection

Act MGL c. 131, §40).”
d. Section 300-4.6C is amended as indicated: The as-built plan must be stamped by the engineer and surveyor, and a certificate of compliance stating that all features were built according to the specifications of the definitive plan shall be provided.
The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk’s Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).
James Rooney, Chair
07/16, 07/23/2026

Town of Wilbraham Notice of Herbicide Application
Town of Wilbraham contracted TruGreen to apply herbicide for right-of-way vegetation control along road ways.
Dates: 08/10/2026 and 08/12/2026
Products: Finale XL and Pendulum Aqua Cap
Application method: Liquid spray
Locations: Stoney Hill Rd., Dipping Hill Rd., Maynard St., Monson Rd., Faculty St., Springfield St., Main St., Crane Hill Rd., and the intersection of Glendale and Monson Rd.
Wilbraham DPW: (413)596-2800
TruGreen: AndrewMickna@trugreenmail.com
07/16/2026

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM** on the application of YMCA of Greater Springfield, for a special permit (ZBA26-02) under section 3.4.5.11 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of a 60’ x 60’ fully fenced pickleball court and reduction of 16 parking spaces on the north-western side of the building located at 45 Post Office Park as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).
Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
07/09, 07/16/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of July 31, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle: 2000 Triumph Daytona VIN#: SMT502FK3YJ105150 LKO: Antonio Pepper 397 Main St. Indian Orchard, MA 01151 R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374
07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Tire pressure measurement
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007’s creator
11. Adult male
12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
13. Cloths spread over a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Earl’s jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Withdrew from a union
30. Woman’s cloak
34. Spanish river

CLUES DOWN
35. Prohibit
36. Something you can take
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
47. Makes somber
50. Discuss again
54. A tool to inject
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. High resolution microscope
64. Pitching statistic
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN
1. Indoor plant
2. Marketable
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish hip-hop trio
7. Ageless
8. Course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV channel
14. They ___
17. Cooking material
18. Investment account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Small coin (French)
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms

CLUES DOWN
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Item to be addressed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place for ships
44. One who sings holiday songs
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Scottish town
49. The most worthless parts
51. Sticky
52. Put to work
53. Precursor to the EU
58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

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Your kitchen is where life happens—where recipes are shared and memories are made. As the Pioneer Valley’s leader in Kitchen Design, we don’t just swap cabinets; we reimagine your space. From custom layouts to our in-house countertop fabrication, we ensure your kitchen is as functional as it is beautiful.

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