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JULY 27, 2023

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(L to R) Jayleena, Jordyn, Genesis, Gianna, Yelissa and Scott enjoyed playing basketball during the field day at LifeStream Church on July 22.

Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

Christina's House, LifeStream Church team up for field day

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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HAMPDEN -- On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, Christina's House and LifeStream Church hosted a "fun field day" featuring exciting outdoor activities at the church on Allen Street.

Christina's House, a Springfield-based nonprofit, was established in 2012 to offer housing to women and their children in Hampden County and Greater Springfield

who are homeless or near homeless. Carolyn Martinez, executive director of Christina's House, explained the purpose of the field day on July 22.

"Christina's House partnered up with LifeStream Church to do a field day for families in the community; kind of a way to give back," she said. "It's a field day where the families are here having fun, playing games, enjoying food and enjoying fellowship time with one another... We are faith-based so we just wanted to give back somehow and we said what a

better way to do it than to put smiles on peoples' faces."

Martinez said the event was an ideal opportunity to bring awareness to the program and further awareness to the fact that there are women and their children who are struggling with homelessness locally.

Martinez described the event as a family picnic. She expressed why the work done by Christina's House is so important.

"Homelessness is a crisis hap-

Please see **CHRISTINA'S**, page 4

Children enjoy Craft & Play at Wilbraham Library

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM -- Families visited the library from 10 - 11:45 a.m. on July 15 for a Craft & Play event with stations for creating bubbles.

The program was supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Rachel Smythe, assistant children's librarian, explained Craft & Play events take place once a month on Saturdays, adding they typically include different crafts.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

The Carpenter Family, consisting of Brooke, her husband Rich and their children Margo and Vera enjoy bubble blowing fun during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.

"These events are great because it helps us get to know the families in the area that come in and make contacts and introduce them to some of our other programs," Smythe said.

Smythe especially loves the kids. "They bring such great energy and it's always fun to talk to them and to hear their perspective on things. My job involves a lot of play with them, so that's fun, I love crafting with them," Smythe said. "It's fun to meet the parents too and talk to them and encourage

Please see **CRAFT & PLAY**, page 5

Museum speaker to discuss arts of the Victorian Era

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a production error the "Historical Wilbraham" column on page one of last week's Times was incorrect. There is no meeting at the Old Meeting House Museum Aug. 7. The correct information appears below and describes the correct Open House on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM -- The United States in the late nineteenth century was a beehive of activity. The next guest speaker, Guy McLain, director of the Westfield Athenaeum, will be at the Old Meeting House Museum Open House, Sunday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel to explore its effect on the Victorian Era.

The chapel and the museum

building are located in the center of Wilbraham. Following McLain's talk, refreshments will be served on the back porch of the Museum. The Museum, operated by the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham on behalf of the town, is free and open to the public.

According to McLain, tapping into the abundant natural resources the country had to offer back then, and utilizing the innovations brought about by the Industrial Revolution, Americans expanded from coast to coast, built huge factory complexes, laid thousands of miles of railroad tracks, built cities teeming with activity, and attracted millions of immigrants from around the world.

McLain will present an overview of the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century and discuss changes in the Wilbraham-Springfield area

and how they mirror trends seen across the country.

Lagging Behind?

How did that affect the presentation of art in the Victorian Era? McLain's talk is called "The Dilemma of American Culture: the Advent of Art in the United States in the Victorian Era."

At the same time, as the wealth of the country grew exponentially, America's elite worked to build cultural institutions and foster the arts, said McLain.

It was generally felt, he said, that the country lagged far behind Europe in the cultural realm, and that it was the duty of the nation's wealthy to utilize their newfound wealth in the service of supporting the arts. And since Europe already possessed well-established cultural institutions, Americans naturally turned to Europeans for

Please see **MUSEUM**, page 19



Photo courtesy of Guy McLain

Guy McLain, director of the Westfield Athenaeum will be the featured speaker at the Old Meeting House Museum Open House at 2 p.m. Aug. 6 in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel.

Volunteers help revitalize shrine at Saint Mary's Parish

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN -- Outside of Saint Mary's Church is the parish's greatest attraction; a shrine inspired by Our Lady of Fátima that was built in 1954 before the current church itself was dedicated.

The shrine sits in a small structure facing Somers Road. Blessed on Oct. 30, 1954, it was built by parishioners who sought to recreate the original hillside where it is believed the Blessed Mother appeared to three children in Fátima in 1917.

The shrine features just shy of 500 candles, the Stations of the Cross, artwork and statute of Mary, Our Lady of Fátima, and smaller statues of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, the children who interacted with Mary on that hillside.

"You can almost never go by here without a car being outside," Deacon Leo Coughlin said.

Earlier this summer, a team of volunteers cleaned each individual candle holder by hand. They also tended to the space itself.

"We closed down for three days, they painted all the background with the mountains and put a sun in the back to brighten the place up," Coughlin said.

The volunteers also cleaned the Stations of the Cross and the pictures on the wall and added new lighting.

Coughlin said the glass candle holders hadn't been cleaned in many years, and considerable smoke and wax residue had built up inside them.

"So, I took 100 home on that Sunday, and it was a bigger job than I thought," Coughlin said. "So, the next day, I came in for the nine o'clock Mass, and the ladies asked if they could help. I had about eight or nine ladies taking 12 or 15 or 20 of them so we got them all cleaned for Thursday. They look great. It was amazing what happened in three days. It really went very, very smoothly."

Coughlin thanked Laurie and Dan Isham, a local contractor, for cleaning and painting the space. He also shared the history of the site and its caretakers.

"Sheila Flynn and Beth Burger, they took care of this for over 40 years. Every Memorial Day and Labor Day, they cleaned it all up," he said. "After Sheila was called home to



The Shrine at Saint Mary's Parish features nearly 500 candles.



In addition to artwork, the Shrine at Saint Mary's Parish includes the church's original Stations of the Cross.

the Lord, the Flynn family again stepped up and has continued to tend to the flower bed and to the nativity cribs that we have. The Flynn family has taken care of this for a long time, obviously from the beginning, but so many people have assisted."



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

The Shrine at Saint Mary's Parish was dedicated approximately six years before the church itself; Deacon Leo Coughlin estimated.

When asked why the shrine is visited so often, Coughlin pointed out that a lot of people have crises in their lives. He said that visiting the shrine and offering a prayer to Our Lady of Fátima can be an uplifting experience.

"They may not talk about (their problems) every day, but when that time comes, they revert to prayer, and I think that's what does it," he said. "They come in and pray and have so much faith that everything is going to be okay. Whatever it is, it's the power of prayer. There's no other explanation, is there?"

Commissioner offers update on housing market and 'lithium battery banks'

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN -- Building Commissioner Wendel Hulbert joined the July 24 meeting of the Board of Selectmen after completing three hours of Laserfiche training earlier that day.

"For a semi-retired carpenter, I think I can get it," he said, of the new computer technology being implemented in Town Hall.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn asked Hulbert if there are any homes being built in town. Hulbert said construction is occurring

on Chapin Road, Thresher Road and at other locations.

"We have a bunch on the board. There's another additional four or five on Highland (Circle). There's a couple guys building houses right now on Ames Road. It seems like any little piece of property that comes with a swamp or not."

Flynn relayed a message he heard regarding the market in Hampden and Wilbraham.

"You do see that Hampden is still attractive. Talking to a realtor last week, only 10 homes are on the market in Hampden and 16 in Wilbraham," Flynn said.

Hulbert said that people want to build in town. His office receives calls inquiring

about land that "has been vacant for years for a reason."

"You try to point them to the GIS and let them learn how to use the wetland map, if at all possible, but building is still going on," he said. "People move to Hampden, houses go on the market, and they go off the market in two weeks, or some of them sit, but they're just waiting for the right (offer)."

Hulbert said rising interest rates and other obstacles haven't stopped people from building.

"The cost of material has gone up a little bit, but it hasn't stopped people. People still want to have their own houses, and Hampden's a great town to live in. We know that," Hulbert said.

When asked what else is on his radar, Hulbert said he was contacted by an energy company that wants to install energy storage systems in town.

"We don't have anything in our bylaws that covers that. It has to be ancillary to a solar project so we don't have that yet. A lot of communities in the commonwealth have that bylaw so now they're just testing the water from town to town to see who bites," Hulbert said.

Hulbert described the storage systems as "big lithium battery banks."

"It's to even out the flow of electricity during the peaks and valleys because now everybody's working at home so they're just using power. They're really big money installations, but fire has to be completely trained," he said.

Hulbert said the company offers to train the fire departments where the storage systems exist.

"Those lithium batteries, once they start, you really have to know how to deal with them," Hulbert said.

Flynn said that without "it being in zoning" the technology wouldn't be initially allowed. He asked what the effect would be of not having a bylaw specific to the technology.

"I don't think it hurts us. I just think it's something that the Planning Board or your board is going to have to explore," Hulbert said. "I don't feel this stuff is going away, and Hampden is one of those great spots where they have transmission lines running all through the place."

Before he stepped aside, Hulbert said his department will be inspecting local restaurants and bars. Inspections of local churches were recently completed.

"We're in a good spot," he said.

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School Committee addresses concerns around Minnechaug Booster Club

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM -- The School Committee heard from two representatives on July 20 regarding concerns about Minnechaug Regional High School's Booster Club.

Ron DeCurzio and Mike Flynn provided a history and background on the current issues.

Flynn explained the club was restarted in the mid-1980s "because there were a lot of problems occurring at that time."

"We had five major booster clubs who were hitting residents about every week for money, the same people, the same time and the community was getting awful upset," Flynn said.

Many of the issues, Flynn added, included illegal actions such as embezzlement. In response, the School Committee and others decided to have one organization fundraise for the booster club.

Flynn said the key issue is "what happened back in the '80s is happening again today."

"We have organizations that are not working together. We have organizations that are not bringing the money they collected actually under the name of Minnechaug High School back to the organization that it belongs there, and that causes a lot of problems. It causes a lot of hard feelings and it hurts the community itself," Flynn said.

DeCurzio explained how each team has a spirit account, with a representative for each sport.

"My goal has always been to subsidize if you will - it might be too strong of a word - the Athletic Department budgets, and that's through what I call the proper use of those funds that are collected to enhance, if you will, the athletic budget for equipment and infrastructure," DeCurzio said.

He added each sport has its own sports ledger account with a balance. The booster club has \$88,000 in its balance, smaller than accounts for other sports.

"The way the booster club works and what we tell the folks is that we match dollar for dollar,

so we have to keep that balance at that level," DeCurzio said.

Sherrill Caruana said the committee "received a lot of emails from our sports families."

"It seems to me that the comments read in those emails was that the families who worked hard with their children to raise money, money went in and then no one knew what it was used for," Caruana said.

She later asked if parents got receipts for their donations.

Secretary/Clerk Sean Kennedy asked who currently serves on the committee for the Booster Club.

DeCurzio said if the School Committee accepts the letter he read into the record, "There are currently no members of the booster club."

The letter, read at the May 11 meeting, explained his resignation as president of the booster club.

The board also had stepped down at that same meeting, citing a need for new ideas.

During Kennedy's questions, it was discovered the School Committee had authority over the booster club and the committee itself was not mentioned in the bylaws.

Chair Michal Boudreau referred these items to the committee's legal counsel for research.

Kennedy added how the committee for the booster club includes a quorum of seven people, which is referenced in their bylaws.

"We need to have a quorum of seven people, and the seven people have to nominate who is going to come afterward and it doesn't say anything here if there are no officers, what happens to that money? It doesn't say anywhere," Kennedy said.

Boudreau also requested the committee for the booster club "follow their own established bylaws."

"Just to ensure that officers will exist and directors duly authorized to act on the booster club in order to work through any issues involving the ownership of funds, deposition of funds and ensuring that all accounts of the books is possible and then that way you can have the vote for the next quarter to come forward," Boudreau said.

When Kennedy asked how much money the hockey team raised, DeCurzio said they raised \$15,662, adding he had texts showing he was looking for the check.

"I think there's been some innuendos that I held on to the check, that I didn't deposit it right. Well, I have an email screen seeking out this organization to where the heck is the check," DeCurzio said.

The check, he said, was misplaced in one of the mail slots.

"As soon as we had it, it got deposited into their ledger account," DeCurzio said. "The check was for \$12,186.30."

A hockey mom who also spoke at the June 26 meeting said communication is an issue.

"I know I've communicated with Mr. DeCurzio twice requesting that he provide either (provide) the names of the people who serve on the board and who the officers are at the booster club. I did not receive a reply to those two requests requesting a name for about a month, so I'm interested to hear tonight who these people are," she said. "But I think that's an example of why us parents are distressed and concerned that we can't get responses to simple questions like that."

She added hockey parents would be reimbursed for sums that were expended.

"I did send one to Mr. DeCurzio a few days ago. I asked him to confirm receipt. I have not received a response to that either," she said.

Diane Diehl said she feels the issue is "the parents feel cut out of the booster club," citing the May 11 meeting that she was not aware of.

"It would have been wonderful for parents to attend that. Apparently, as a member we should be able to attend that, and as a parent of an athlete I am a member, and I think that's really what we're asking for is openness, transparency and more involvement of the parents," Diehl said.

Diehl added she's part of the Minnechaug Music Association Booster Club and "we do things a lot differently" in terms of their organization and process, hoping that organization can come to the booster club.

"We have in fact raised our hands and asked to be considered and have not been considered and don't know why," Diehl said.

Boudreau said the matter will be referred to their legal counsel for further research, with the School Committee awaiting further opinion.



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OSJL announces return of "Buy-Give-Get" Backpack Program for students

Region's premier closeout retailer announces incentives to help benefit students for the upcoming school year

North Kingstown, RI – Ocean State Job Lot, a leading discount closeout retailer headquartered in Rhode Island with stores throughout New England, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce the return of its "Buy-Give-Get" backpack program to help students prepare for the upcoming school year.

"Students of all ages in underserved communities return to school each year without the resources needed to have a successful academic experience," said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. "We are thrilled to support those students and provide them with the tools and supplies they need for the 2023-2024 school year."

Through the promotion, any customer who buys a select backpack at OSJL for \$15 and gives it back to the store as a donation to children in need, will get a \$15 "Crazy Deal" Gift Card to be used for a future purchase. 34,000 backpacks are available to purchase as part of the program and will be distributed to students in need across the region in partnership with the USA Veterans and Military Support Foundation as well as various support agencies and state police across the region.

Since its inception six years ago, the Buy-Give-Get Backpack program has supplied over 250,000 backpacks to students in need, including children of military families.

Car Show: Aug. 19 at Fountain Park

WILBRAHAM — Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 10195 with Body Works Unlimited Inc., a car show will occur at Fountain Park on Aug. 19. The first 200 cars will receive a dashboard plaque and swag bag. There will be 15 trophy classes; three trophies for each class. \$20 entry fee.

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The Hampden Police Department showed its support at the field day event on July 22.



Natalia Serrano helped hand out pizza last Saturday at the field day at LifeStream Church.



Carolyn Martinez, executive director of Christina's House, described the field day as a "family picnic."



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski
Carolyn Martinez, executive director of Christina's House, stands behind Linda Lagares and Yaralize Serrano.

CHRISTINA'S from page 1

pening all around the world so we just want to be a beacon of hope," she said. "If we can bring that to the people and show them that there is a community that cares about them, to me it doesn't matter if we help 10 people or 100, as long as we can bring hope and healing and some love, it's beneficial all the way the around."

Diane Gunn, and her husband Skip, are the pastors at LifeStream Church. They recently renovated a home on the property to house mothers from Christina's House who are transitioning into their own homes after coming out of homelessness.

Gunn said that planning ahead of the event began months ago. She noted that she is on the Board of Directors for Christina's House and has written a curriculum for them.

Christina's House and LifeStream Church have been joining their ministries together so when Christina's House expressed it wanted to have an outreach event, LifeStream Church stepped up.

"This was an obvious place to house that because of our relationship and because of the grounds that we have so that was our heart; to be able to bring more understanding of who Christina's House is to the community as well as just provide a place for people getting together and bringing their children out here and having a great time, showing our working relationship together as two different ministries," Gunn said.

Gunn's favorite part about the event was seeing the children enjoy it alongside their parents.

She noted that parents' "lives are very busy so to just have time to let down and be with your family and enjoy them is for us a real joy to our heart to bring that to this community."

Natalia Serrano helped hand out pizza last Saturday. She was also thrilled to see so many children enjoy the festivities.

"It's amazing because look at all the children. They're just laughing, playing, having a grand old time, and it's really about sharing the love. We have a spirit of freedom, love, peace and joy," she said.

Learn more about Christina's House at christinas-house.org. Learn more about LifeStream Church on Facebook at "LifeStream Church Hampden, MA."

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Brooke McClain creates a bubble during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Hunter McClain watches his bubble creations during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Adalyn Hyszczak holds bubbles in her hand as her brother, Callum, dances around with a bubble during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Rachel Smythe, assistant children's librarian at Wilbraham Public Library, creates bubbles at one of the play stations during the Craft & Play event.



Jen DeForest and her son, Cameron, have family fun creating bubbles during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Callum Hyszczak creates many little bubbles with her sister, Adalyn, during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Rachel Smythe, assistant children's librarian at Wilbraham Public Library, teaches Hunter and Brooke McClain how to create bubbles during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

CRAFT & PLAY from page 1

them."

Ashley McClain came with her children, Brooke and Hunter, sharing it was their first time visiting the library.

"We are on a mission this summer to check out all the local libraries to find out which one we like the best," McClain said.

McClain said library events provide social interaction opportunities for her children.

"They get to have social interaction, especially during the summer when classmates are away and we don't get to see all our regular friends during the rest of the school year,

so it's good for them to have that social interaction and just get out of the house and find something fun to do that not's breaking the bank," McClain said.

Jen DeForest found out about the event while bringing her kids, Cameron and Brynn, for the school district's One Book One Community scavenger hunt.

"We happened to see the bubbles here, so that was kind of a bonus," DeForest said.

DeForest said her kids had fun trying out different ways to make bubbles, expressing appreciation for the library's activities.

"The henna was nice for her to do, and they have activities for his age group to enjoy and explore, so it gets them out and to see some of their friends that they may bump into over the summer so that's always fun," DeForest said.

Marissa Hyszczak and her children, Callum and Adalyn, also saw the event while doing the scavenger hunt.

"My kids are definitely water babies, so they're very excited about participating with bubbles," Hyszczak said.

Hyszczak explained her children are avid readers and the library offers a lot.

"There are so many different resources, I think. I feel

like there's just an activity for everyone, which is great. The selection of opportunities is truly endless," Hyszczak said.

Hyszczak encouraged residents to visit the library and participate in the activities.

"There's always some kind of fun. Be a tourist in your own community, having a staycation if you will. There's always things that you can do in different communities, but I think knowing what you have available next door is wonderful. You can have so many opportunities, I think, just to know what you have available within your surrounding community," Hyszczak said.

Smythe wants the community to know play and art also help kids learn skills including dexterity and coordination.

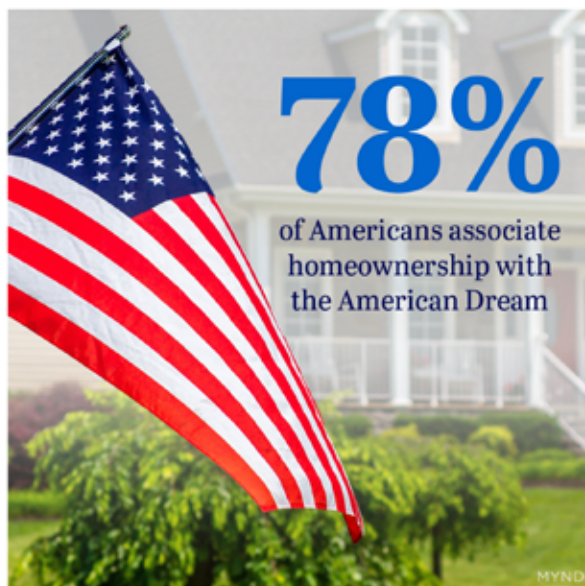
"Play is such a great way for kids to learn and art is such a great way for kids to learn. These are great opportunities for parents to come in and bring their kids and know that their kids are having fun but also learning some great things that will help them in school and in all areas of their lives," Smythe said.

To learn more, visit <http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org>.

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VIEWPOINTS



My state pension eliminated my Social Security survivor benefit

Dear Rusty: My husband of 21 years died in January 2022 at the age of 70. We were both retired at the time of his death and they immediately stopped his Social Security payments. After many calls to Social Security asking why I was not receiving his benefits, I was finally told since I have my own pension from the State of Ohio that I would receive none of my husband's Social Security.

I cannot see why my Ohio retirement has anything to do with my husband's Social Security. I do get a small payment from SS based on my past earnings before I worked for the State of Ohio. Is there any chance of fighting this since we were married when they took money from his earnings for SS? If I wanted to write to an elected official to see if these rules could be changed, who would I write to or call?

Signed: Upset Widow

Dear Upset Widow: Unfortunately, your entitlement to a Social Security survivor benefit from your husband is affected by a provision known as the Government Pension Offset, which affects any surviving spouse with a federal, state or local government pension earned without contributing to the Social Security program. Ohio is one of 26 states, which have opted not to participate in Social Security, thus exempting state employees from paying Social Security taxes on their earnings. The Ohio state pension, which resulted from your state employment, means that any Social Security benefits earned outside of your state employment are reduced. The GPO reduction to your

survivor benefit is severe, a reduction by 2/3 of the amount of your Ohio state pension, which can and often does completely eliminate any SS survivor benefit you might otherwise be entitled to.

For clarity, the monthly SS payment your husband was receiving at his death stops automatically. At that point, your eligibility for additional SS benefits from your husband was assessed and because of the GPO, Social Security offset your potential survivor benefit from your husband by 2/3 of your Ohio state pension, which apparently eliminated your survivor benefit. As unfair as this may seem to you, note that the same thing happens to any surviving spouse, who also has their own earned SS retirement benefit, their personal SS retirement benefit offsets their SS survivor benefit, so a spouse with a regular SS retirement benefit higher than their deceased spouse's benefit gets no surviving spouse benefit.

FYI, the State of Ohio has an obligation to make clear that by not paying into Social Security your future SS spousal/survivor benefits are affected. Without knowing how that was presented to you during your Ohio state employment, here's a quote from Ohio's Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) website: "If you are eligible for Social Security benefits and are receiving a retirement benefit from OPERS, your Social Security benefits may be affected by the Government Pension Offset or the Windfall Elimination Provision. The Government Pension Offset may also affect you if you are eligible for Social Security

benefits through your spouse. The Windfall Elimination Provision may affect you if you qualify for Social Security benefits due to your own work history."

In any case, you are certainly not alone in your feelings about how your Social Security benefits have been affected by the GPO. This provision was enacted in 1983 and has been challenged in just about every Congressional session since that time, without success. In fact, there is a legislative bill active in the current Congress - H.R. 82 - The Social Security Fairness Act - which was introduced on the House floor in January and "referred to committee" for consideration. Like all preceding WEP/GPO reform bills, this one sits idle in Committee. If you wish to add your voice to those who oppose the GPO, you should contact your Congressional Representative to solicit action on H.R. 82.

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.



The saying goes like this: "If you can't handle the heat, stay out of the kitchen!"

I'd like to switch it up to say "garden" in place of "kitchen" in light of the fact that I really can't handle the summer heat as well as I used to. These last few weeks, gardening has been accomplished early in the day or during the evening hours instead of midday.

What does a gardening fanatic do if they aren't actually gardening? Read about gardening, of course!

Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer books over online text. I like to see and hold my books, curl the pages and even write in the margins.

Sometimes, just for fun, I'll pick a book and flip the pages to see where my finger will land. What interesting topic will I read about?

Today I'll choose three books and end up with the topics for today's column that way. Maybe we can all learn something new or at least refresh our skills.

The first pick is from one of my favorite herb books, "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press). I flip the pages and end up on Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*).

Timely, because Feverfew is blooming in my yard right now.

Feverfew is from the Latin word febrifuge thanks to its past use as a fever reducer. Both its single and its double form (*Flora pleno*) lend themselves to admission into the perennial border; often they bloom the first year from seed.

The plants thrive in both light shade and full sun, with the single flower type resowing itself to almost nuisance status if given the opportu-

Get out of the garden with a few good books

nity. The flowering span seems to go on and on, the white daisy flowers lending themselves to use in the vase alongside bee balm, summer phlox, veronicas and more.

I especially like the double flowers, and had great luck drying them, their off-white color the perfect addition to a wreath of hydrangea and dried roses.

Second year plants will return with some winter-kill that will need addressing. After blooming plants will likely not return for year three.

Still, feverfew is a must have for those of us who love herbs in the flower garden. Keep volunteers at bay by deadheading all but a few of the flowers.

The second pick is ironic, considering the rain we've been getting.

On page 138 of "Secrets to Great Soil" by Elizabeth P. Stell (Storey Books), we learn

about improving soggy or poorly drained soils, first by mentioning the use of raised beds.

My stone edged raised beds that usually demand a daily watering in the summer heat are handling all the rain in stride. Unlike the corner of my vegetable garden that was literally under water after the 3.5" we received on Friday.

In addition to that mention on raised beds, a number of perennials are cited as thriving in moist soil. You'd be surprised to learn that Astilbe (*Astilbe spp.*) falls into this category, as do the more familiar native wetland plants: Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and its cousin Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*), the three of which bloom later in the summer.

Candalaria primrose (*Primula japonica*) was also mentioned. I have purchased this

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7



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Correction Policy

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

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By Barb Turcotte

I'm always amazed how some people give of themselves without ever expecting anything in return, those are truly Random Acts of Kindness! Kellie LaVoie is definitely one of those people.

Kellie and her husband are currently residents of Ludlow, where they raised their now adult daughter and son, and are enjoying the special delights of grand parenting. Unfortunately, when both kids were younger, they faced separate medical issues. Her son needed heart surgery and was referred to Boston's Children's hospital. Kellie said friends would make meals for the family, offer rides and gave them gas cards to help with the traveling expenses. That's when the idea of a 'Family Fun Day' hatched with something for kids and adults too! It was her way to give back to those who had helped at the same time of creating a fundraiser so she could give back for the exceptional care her son and family was given at the hospital. It was a huge success allowing them to give a sizable donation.

Years later when their daughter needed help, they were referred to the Shriner's Children's Hospital and because of the outstanding medical help; she wanted to give back to them as well. So once again Kellie orchestrated another fundraiser with remarkable results and was also able to make a very generous donation to honor her daughter's caregivers and the medical treatment she was given.

When Kellie hears about anyone needing help, she is the first in line, rallying help from her friends who are always readily on board. She is a frequent customer of Pan'e Dolci Bakery and Coffee Shop in Wilbraham, where she grew up, and when she heard about the cancer diagnosis of the young owner, she was right there helping with the GoFundMe along with its creator to initiate a successful fundraiser.

Kellie has worked as an Administrative Coordinator at Springfield College for six years and is known to the students as the "American Mom". She's definitely an inspiration to these students and they frequently stop by just to say hi knowing she's always there for them. Often, she hands out business size cards with a meaningful message printed on them. A couple examples she shared were, "You make the world a better place just by being in it." and another, "Thank you. You made my day happier!" What beautiful messages these students walk away with.

Kellie said she learned well from her parents, her mother was very humble, but always giving back. And her dad, well he was the creator of the Polish picnic held annually in Indian Orchard with fun for every one!

Kellie told me how she befriended

a janitor at one of her jobs who didn't have any family and how he quickly became part of hers, spending every holiday with them. How they were there for him when he became ill and departed this life. She welled up as she explained the special bond that had formed between him and her family and how much he will be missed.

Here are another couple of examples of her unselfishness. When she saw a woman on the side of the road with a disabled car, she stopped to help her. The woman recognized her from years ago when Kellie had helped her when she was sick. Kellie was amazed the woman remembered her. She also helps at Christ Church in West Springfield by making meals for the homeless. She has one pup already trained as a therapy dog and her second pup is in training to bring to colleges and nursing homes, such a wonderful thing to do!

Kellie's childhood friend Lori Malloy said Kellie's just always there as she remembered the time, she had a medical scare and Kellie stayed right by her side in the emergency room. She also shared how Kellie had rosary beads blessed and gave them to Lori along with a note to pass along to one of Lori's co-worker, whom Kellie didn't even know, but knew she was going through a difficult medical diagnosis. And then the unbelievable trip Kellie made from Ludlow, MA to NH, just to give Lori a hug before the funeral service of her 23-year-old cousin. Lori said it was like an angel standing there when she looked up and saw her. I was in awe of such an amazing gesture!

Kellie's belief is 'time' is the most precious gift of all. She said, "Just doing one thing of kindness will inspire others to continue to pass it forward as well."

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

Nominations sought for Healthcare Heroes Class of 2023

SPRINGFIELD — In the spring of 2017, BusinessWest and its sister publication, the Healthcare News, created a new and exciting recognition program called Healthcare Heroes.

It was launched with the theory that there are heroes working all across this region's wide, deep, and all-important healthcare sector, and that there was no shortage of fascinating stories to tell and individuals and groups to honor. That theory has certainly been validated.

But there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of heroes whose stories we still need to tell. And that's where you come in.

Nominations for the class of 2023 are due Saturday, July 29, and we encourage you to get involved and help recognize someone you consider to be a hero in

the community we call Western Mass. in one (or more) of these seven categories:

- Patient/Resident/Client Care Provider;
- Health/Wellness Administrator/Administration;
- Emerging Leader;
- Community Health;
- Innovation in Health/Wellness;
- Collaboration in Health/Wellness;
- Lifetime Achievement.

Nominations can be submitted at businesswest.com/healthcare-heroes/nominations.

For more information, call Melissa Hallock, Marketing and Events Director, at (413) 781-8600, ext. 100, or email hallock@businesswest.com.

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plant two years in a row and it never thrives; now I know the reason: it needs moister soil.

The plants growing under the tree canopy at Positively Perennials are a sight worthy of mention in mid-May when they are in full multi-tiered bloom. Next year, check it out!

We seem to be on a flower theme, so let's see what "The Flower Gardener's Bible" by Lewis and Nancy Hill (Storey Books) has in store. Alas, pick three does not disappoint.

I landed on a page devoted to both the native Coneflowers (Echinacea species) and the Globe Thistles (Echinops species). Right now, my new border, devoted to our pollinators, is striking with Purple Coneflower as one of the stars.

This plant too, has seemed to enjoy the rain, gaining some height after the shock of being divided and replanted early in May. If you leave the spent flowers in place, self-sown seedlings will emerge next spring, begging to be moved about the landscape or shared with friends and family.

Like Feverfew, from our first pick, Echinacea has history as a healing plant and continues to be

used today for immune support.

Globe Thistle, with its steel blue globes and deeply cut, silver gray foliage, as stiff as it is, also deserves a place in the garden. It is a true bee magnet!

Stems can be harvested as everlasting once flowers color up but before the individual florets, aka "pickers" on each plant open. Clip and dry them upside down for use in wreaths and arrangements.

Well, it's been fun escaping the heat with you! Read any good books lately?

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

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to



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HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

A summer in the life of Wilbraham 60 years ago

The first draft of history

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

The summer of 1963 got off to a literary start in July when Charlie Merrick announced that there would be 20 chapters to his new history book celebrating the town's Bicentennial.

It was 200 years since the town was incorporated in June of 1763 and Merrick rounded up contributing writers who delved into the history of the town in order to bring order to many topics; from the first settler in town, Nathaniel Hitchcock, to the tragic 1799 drownings in Nine Mile pond, which included young Merrick ancestors.

Merrick had formed a History Committee to oversee the book. They included well-known names: Henry Edson, Raymond Gurney, Harry Jeffrey, Ralph Kilcourse and John Lyons. Mrs. A. D. (Bea) Becker, who was a mover and shaker in town, was put in charge of photography and publicity.

Since publicity was a key part of putting together and selling a history book my mother, Ethel Bennett, the Springfield Morning Union's Wilbraham reporter was asked to help and Merrick filled her in on who would be writing various chapters that she included in a July 1963 Morning Union news article. She believed in and taught me, that newspaper articles are "the first draft of history".

Early Minnechaug

Early this summer I looked through her news clippings from July of 1963 to see how life was here 60 years ago and compared events to what was going on in the outside world.

Since Minnechaug Regional High School was still new, graduating the first three classes, 1961, 1962 and 1963, news about its recent graduates were front and center.

Minnechaug graduate Sidney Low, son of Wilbraham Selectman Sidney Low of Glendale Road, a junior at Bates College, was spending his summer in Germany working for the Muller Eisenwerk plant near the French border. He wrote

60 Years Ago

Cuban Refugee Family Arrives

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From the July 25, 1963 edition: "The second refugee family from Cuba to be sponsored by the World Fellowship Committee of Wilbraham United Church spent their first day in their new home Wednesday after arriving in Wilbraham Tuesday night where they were dinner guests of the committeeman chairman James L. Wallace of Colonial Road.

Lincoln Dexter met the Cuban family at Logan International Airport and transported the family to the Wallace home."

home, and my mother put it in the newspaper, that he would be visiting Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Austria, traveling around the Tirol where it was snowing on the mountain peaks and watching folk dancing in a local village. Sid wrote, "Living abroad is the fastest way to improve one's skill with a foreign language." This summer Sid will travel back to Wilbraham for our 60th Minnechaug Class Reunion at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

When Sid was exploring those German villages, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer resigned and was succeeded by Ludwig Erhard. Barbara Tuchman

received the nonfiction Pulitzer Prize for "The Guns of August". Jack Nicklaus won his first Masters' Tournament and Arnold Palmer was the top money winner in golf.

The parents of Geraldine Steup, who worked at Friendly's, announced that she would be marrying her Minnechaug high school sweetheart and star gymnast Tim Maxfield who had recently joined the 82nd Airborne Division of the U. S. Army.

That July Maxfield was host at a Wilbraham party for 20 members of the Massachusetts State Champion Gymnastics Team from Minnechaug to honor their former coach Emerson Dunton at a farewell party at the Maxfield home. Dunton was leaving town and was presented with a golf bag as an appreciation gift. My memories of the hardline Dunton were that either you loved him or you hated him. Although he led the team to a championship, many townies were glad to see him go.



The cover of July 1963 Annual Town Report, on file at the Wilbraham Public Library. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

One of the members of that gymnastic team was Peter Grosso who lived on Old Boston Road. He was in the news for being the first Minnechaug graduate to win the George R. Barker Scholarship to the University of Massachusetts. Grosso was a member of the Junior Honor Society, the Student Council, Leaders Corps and the school's soccer and baseball teams. Like Sid Low, he will be returning to town for the Class Reunion in September.

Peter Murray, whom I grew up with in the center of town, didn't go to Minnechaug. He went to Wilbraham Academy instead. He took the summer off from majoring in German at Harvard to go sightseeing in Germany exploring south of Hamburg and the Rhine. He wrote home to his parents, Sam and Jo Murray, and his brother Paul Murray, that he had spoken English only four times, once acting as an interpreter. In his travels on a motorcycle, he stopped at a youth camp near Bonn and was asked to work there for a few hours; then the camp officials offered him a job. He told his parents the German people were very friendly and eager to hear about America although it had only been 18 years since the Allies had liberated Europe from the Nazis.

4th of July

More than 400 persons attended the 14th Annual Fourth of July field day at the Edward Pease American Legion Post corner of Main Street and Tinkham Road (now the Children's Museum). In honor of the Bicentennial Year, a 34-star American flag was presented to the Legion by town historian Henry Edson on behalf of the Glendale Memorial Society.

The tattered and torn, but very cherished, flag had flown at the 150th anniversary of the town in 1913 when the Glendale Memorial Boulder at Glendale Cemetery was dedicated. The boulder, still there today, carries the names of Wilbraham men who fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

Softball Game

On a warm Tuesday night, a softball game was held at Grassy Hollow Playground (where the town transfer station was located and now is home to solar panels). The Wilbraham Firemen played a group representing Sturm Development,



A photo of the front of the original Minnechaug building. The classes of 1961, 1962 and 1963, the first three classes to graduate, will be holding their 60th Reunion this September. (Dave Miles file photo)

20 Chapters Are Planned In Bicentennial History

WILBRAHAM -- In order to acquaint townspeople and the public with progress of the Bicentennial and History Committees and to alert all who have knowledge of such material which would be of value in writing a new history to be published in 1963 on the town's 200th anniversary, Charles L. Merrick, chairman and editor, announced the contents to date as follows.

Among Chapters
The planned 20 chapters include the narrative, churches, agriculture, the wolf and the hills, town government, highways, transportation, public schools, private schools, libraries, antiquities, communications and power, catastrophes and tragedies, military services and cemeteries.

The History Directory Committee consists of Henry I. Edson, Raymond F. Gurney, Harry R. Jeffrey, Ralph M. Kilcourse, John J. Lyons, and Merrick. Assisting in its organization is Kilcourse as clerk and Mrs. A. D. Becker as director of photography and publicity.

The chronological story of the settling, growth and physical features of the town without detail in the subject matter of the other chapters will be in Chapter 1, written by Merrick and James Miss MacLean, 288 Main St., Wilbraham. The stories of churches now non-existent, together with the parishes, camp-grounds, etc., are in care of Carl E. Ainsing, Congregational, Rev. Howard W. Orr, Bridgeport, Conn.; Methodist, Carlton R. Reid; Grace Union, Mrs. C. R. Seaton; St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Miss Teresa C. Boylan; Glendale Methodist, Roland H. Bennett; and H. I. Edson; Wilbraham United, Mrs. Harold J. Wetland, and Josiah Dearborn; Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Miss S. Alberta Stutsman.

Chapter On Farms
In Chapter 3 on agriculture, Mr. and Mrs. S. Edward Ronk will include material on grain, cattle, fruit and cider, poultry, xen to tractors, lumber and sawmills.

Under Chapter 4, "The Howl of the Wolf" or "Consider the Hills" the following are in charge: Halmond S. Putnam, Jr., Mrs. Robert L. Miller, Mrs. Richard I. Hyde, Mrs. Gordon Cameron, Richard D. Brooks, Albert E. Seale and Edward C. Sheldon. His chapter indicates how the people earned a living, except by agricultural pursuits, and includes business, industry, the professions, etc.

George Milo Green, 399 Main St. and Frederick B. Reidy, 11 Cottage Ave., are in charge of town government.

The story of the town's roads together with period maps is in charge of Arthur C. Preston, 489 Main St.

The various methods of transportation used in town and some of the occasions on which they were used is to be written by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur I. Macdonald, 792 Stony Hill Rd.

"Everything worth knowing about the public schools" will be Chapter 8, Merrick said, with Harry R. Jeffrey in charge.

Chapter 9 on private schools, Mrs. Howe S. Newell, Louis C. Flocken and William Eaton are in charge of the Wilbraham Academy, the old schools and modern kindergartens.

Chapter 10 on libraries at Mrs. Leo E. Kuehn, 256 Main St. Miss Ruth T. Abbott and Miss James B. Logan.

Under "antiquities" Mrs. C. Nelson, Mrs. Charles E. Dore, Mrs. Joseph J. Crespi and Robert W. Maynard will be in charge of material on the physical evidence of life a century or more ago. A. I. Macdonald will write an article explaining what makes an old house "old" and Ralph K. course will write one on "bar raising."

The postal service, telephon radio, TV, telegraph, water electric, gasoline and diesel power will be by Allen R. Kay, not.

Mrs. A. William Coaker is in charge of "Catastrophes and Tragedies" which will include the snake-bite, drowning, murder of Marcus Lyon, fires and hurricanes.

Military Services
Warner B. Sturtevant is in charge of military services, including the Daniel Shays affair and soldiers' memorials as well as the combat matters, but not including war rationing and Civil Defense.

Mrs. David S. Plumb, now of Missouri, Mrs. William E. Wies and Mrs. Raymond H. Beach Jr., are in charge of cemeteries.

Dr. and Mrs. Gordon C. MacKay, 11 Ridge Rd., are in charge of "what young folks did when they were not in church or school, mostly for fun."

The various things adults did when they were not in church or working, and activities no connected with the schools or churches or agriculture as a livelihood will be under "projects for growers," by Mrs. Sidney Low, Mrs. Richard L. Danforth and Mrs. Earl H. Paine. Mrs. Paine is writing the story of the Wilbraham Women's Club.

"Some People" is by Mr. and Mrs. Victor W. Weidman and will include sketches of some people not now living in Wilbraham.

Mrs. Samuel E. Murray, Mrs. Edwin C. Harrington and Mrs. Clifford W. Burgess are in charge of "Miscellany," with Mrs. Edward W. Szezbak handling the coming of the Polish people to Wilbraham.

"The texts of some significant documents will be found in Chapter 20 in 'present day spelling,' Merrick concluded.

WILBRAHAM

LIBRARY HOURS
WILBRAHAM -- Mrs. Gerald F. Dingman, head librarian at Wilbraham Public Library, announced Monday that regular hours at the library will be resumed Sept. 5. The library will be open 2 to 9 Monday through Friday and 9 to 6 Saturdays.

Wilbraham Briefs
The Women's Guild of Wilbraham United Church will hold a

first two weeks students were to be bussed to Spec Pond for swimming.

No doubt residents of Wilbraham laid on the beach of Spec Pond reading books that summer. Bestsellers included "The Shoes of the Fisherman" by Morris L. West and "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" by John Le Carre.

Grangers Take a Ride

Members of the Wilbraham Grange scheduled their annual Mystery Ride starting at 7 p.m. on a recent July night. All Grangers were asked to wear hobo costumes with patched up attire to the summer fun event. The destination was kept secret with the motorcade following the leader Mitchell Kowynia, chairman of the event.

My mother reported a few days later that the mystery destination turned out to be the Westfield Grange Meeting with 30 people attending. She wrote, "Dressed as hobos, the carefree men of the world, the Grange members carried grain bags and padded broomsticks to augment their hobo costumes." They were greeted by the Westfield Grange members in the same kind of costumes.

Two days after an announcement in The Springfield Union that spraying would take place in town the following day, an irate resident called the Selectmen to complain that his horse was ill.

When asked why, the man told the Selectman that he had every reason to believe that the town's pest control spraying was responsible.

The Selectman didn't say what the horse owner's reply was when the resident was told that the spray program had suddenly been cancelled and would be held later.

Meanwhile, out in the world U. S. astronaut Gordon Cooper completes 22 orbits in an Atlas Rocket. Folk singers Joan Baez and Bob Dylan, who were having a love affair at the time, were at the zenith of their popularity. A Buddhist-led military coup overthrows the government of S. Vietnam; U.S. sends financial and economic aid.

July 1963 ended with the largest outing of its kind in the Lion's Club history that took place at Spec Pond said club spokesman Anthony Mascaro, describing the Lions' Clambake. More than 150 reservations had been made. Included in the festivities were sporting events and "special stunts."

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "The Timetables of History" by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster.

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

Board of Selectmen holds public hearing with 413 Local

Highlights of the FY22 audit review

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing on July 24 with 413 Local for a name change and the establishment of hours for a liquor license.

413 Local is located on Boston Road.

Christopher Arillotta, the business's contact, laid out his proposal to the board.

"The DBA I want it to be just The Local Table and Tap. I don't want 413 Local, so I just wanted to change the DBA name to The Local Table and Tap," Arillotta said.

Regarding why hours needed to be established, Town Administrator Nick Breault explained when the license was initially approved, "the hours were not specified."

"We did look back and see what the previous hours were awarded for that location and for locations that were in and around for other establishments," Breault said.

Breault added the board had options for the hours.

"The board has options to limit the hours from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sundays no later than noon. But the board could also go with what would be the maximum hours which would basically be from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. except for Sundays which would be from noon to 2 a.m.," Breault said.

Arillotta was open to the options.

"I would just want every hour that's possible that everyone else has," Arillotta said.

After further discussion on hours for locations nearby and what the state allows or limits, Chairman Theresa Goodrich proposed 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

"Unless there's some issue, I think we could start that," Goodrich said.

There were no public comments presented during the hearing.

The motion for the amended license passed 3-0 for a name change to The Local Table and Tap and with the established liquor license hours of 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 2 a.m. on Sundays.

Another topic of interest was highlights from the Fiscal Year 2022 audit review.

In her presentation to the board, Tanya Campbell of Marcum LLP explained the audit process, including the roles and responsibilities, and concluded the town "is in compliance and generally accepted."

Some of the highlights included reviews of balances in comparison to the prior year trending in healthy and positive directions.

One example involved general funding.

"At the end of fiscal year '22, that balance is just over \$4 million, which represents about 8.5% of the town's annual operating budget. So that's a very healthy balance that's in there. That is up from about 7.9% of the operating budget from the prior year," Campbell said.

Another example: Campbell said the stabilization fund balance was at \$150 million, up 2.5% for the town's operating budget.

"Very similar to the prior trend. That's also, you know, very healthy," Campbell said.

Liabilities and assets were also discussed, with Campbell explaining the town "represents 7.4% of the system itself."

"At the end of fiscal year '22, the liability was about \$25.7 million, a .5% increase of about \$3 million from the prior year. The main reason for the increase was good market results," Campbell said.

Sue Bunnell had asked for clarification on the Net Pension Liability amount.

"So, with the \$24,543 million in change, we are 60% funded or 60% unfunded?" Bunnell said.

Campbell clarified it was 60% funded.

"The system as a whole is," Campbell said.

Campbell added "there were no major issues" found throughout the audit review.

She concluded her presentation by providing some minor suggestions to the board, including taking a look to make sure "that things are where they needed to be."

"So, getting on a schedule, so start looking at those once a year," Campbell said.

The review was approved 3-0.

John Roberson named Chief Program Officer at Center for Human Development

SPRINGFIELD— John Roberson has joined the Center for Human Development as Chief Program Officer, bringing to the agency an extensive background in leadership and operations for community-based residential programs and a passion for helping the community's most vulnerable members. He will begin his duties on Aug. 14.

He will be responsible for the overall leadership and development of a multi-faceted delivery system with CHD's contract-based social welfare programs in mental health, youth mentoring, family stabilization, foster care, elder care, intellectual and physical disabilities, homelessness prevention, cancer support, substance use, and juvenile justice.

Roberson was most recently Executive Director/CEO of Pathlight, an organization serving people in western Massachusetts with developmental and intellectual disabili-

ties.

Prior to that, for 15 years, he was Vice President of Children and Families for CHD, a division that provides housing, stabilization, child development, behavioral health, and court-guided support services. He was responsible for expansion of all services and managing relationships with local, state and federal agencies. Before becoming a vice president at CHD, he served in a variety of capacities there, including managing two large residential facilities as Director of Juvenile Justice Programs. Previously, he was a lead treatment supervisor for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, where he supervised treatment staff and developed treatment programs for inmates housed in the pre-release center.

"It is very exciting to be back with CHD and be a part of such an amazing team," said Roberson. "CHD is an innovative organization

that is always growing and further developing its service models to meet the needs of the populations it serves. I'm honored to take on my new role with this agency."

CHD President and CEO Jim Goodwin said that Roberson has a proven record of success in operations and planning. "John is a resourceful and strategic non-profit executive who has clearly demonstrated his strong leadership skills over the years," he said. "I've seen his ability to get things done firsthand. He is well-poised to build on CHD's commitment to providing exceptional, quality care to the underserved." Roberson has served as a board member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, the Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence, the Springfield College Social Work Advisory Board, and the Bay Path University Advisory Board. He earned a master's degree in Business Management/Organizational Leadership from Cambridge College in Springfield.



John Roberson

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Life in & WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN

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



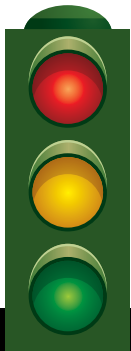
Outdoor Yoga & Farm Animal Interactions at Oakie's Acres



Oakie's Acres Interactive Farm partnered with The Yoga Shop of Ludlow to host yoga on the farm on Saturday, July 22. Yogis enjoyed a yoga flow surrounded by the sights and sounds of the farm and then spent some time visiting with the animals. The animals of the interactive farm are Oakie (horse), Moe (donkey), Pumpkin and Patty the pigs and April, May and June (goats).

Jess Noonan at Oakie's Acres offers a one hour LivFree Yoga on the lawn followed by interactions with farm animals. Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Aug. 12 and 19.

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



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

Portraits of Nature



Correction:
Richard Bates of Wilbraham captured these two fawns on camera grazing in his backyard.



Submitted photo
WILBRAHAM – A collection of paintings by Carol Adamski-Maggi will be on display in the Wilbraham Public Library's Brooks Room from Aug. 2-30. The opening reception will occur on Wednesday, Aug. 2 from 5-7 p.m. in the Brooks Room.



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SCHOOLS

Minnechaug Regional High School Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug Regional High School recently named the fourth term Honor and High Honor Roll.

Grade 9 Honors:

Lucas Akers, Victoria Ambrose, Ian Angelica, Adam Arce, Ali Awkal, Emma Balog, Kelly Balog, Maxwell Baroni, Elaina Bergeron, Alec Boilard, Bella Brault, Corinne Brewer, Luke Bruno, Trinity Burgmyer, Alyssa Capen, Isabella Carlin, Alexis Carreira, Cameron Cayo, Desyree Charles, Nicholas Cianflone, Logan Clark, Jonathan Correa, Ava Croteau, Alexander Danio, Caden Duke, Samuel Eaton, Landyn Eldridge, Meghan Elmasian, Cody Erskine, Jacob Fahay, Domenic Fantone, Miles Fergus, Lucas Fyntrilakis, Khaliyah Gagner, Yong Ming Gao, Anthony Garib, Madyson Giroux, Carina Gonnello, Andrew Grasso, Isabella Gusev, Brody Harrison, Chase Henderson, Zeirra Hernandez, Laya Ibrahim, Lana Johnson, Mason Jones, Maeghan Joyce, John Kavanagh, Addison Kelley, Kathryn Kennedy, Molly Kinsman, Zachariah Kozub, Brady Laliberte, Mai Le, Kaitlyn Lopez Pham, Benjamin Lopez, Christian Lowe, Jack Lucarelle, Avery Lucas, Hannah Luff, Ava Luszc, Kai Ly, Natalie Madison, Nylie Maldonado, Austin Marques, Max Mayuski, Michael Mazzaferro, Nolah McConnell, Madeline McDonald, Sean McSwain, Jordan Miller, Alyssa Mitchell, Jacob Moore, Arianna Morales, Ava Moretti, Morgan Morrow, Elijah Moskvitch, Lyric Nelson, Hao-nam Nguyen, Vinh Nguyen, Alexandra Nichols, Stephen Nowicki, Cailin O'Brien, Michael O'Connor, Cora Pace, Alexander Parent, Zachary Parent, Mia Peck, Sarah Perkins, Jackson Pouliot, David Preston, Kameah Pryce, Chloe Robins, Maisen Rosado, Lauren Rucki, Patrick Ryan, Andreas Saabye, Mostaffa Saleh, Shawnee Santiago, Sara Schutt, Aubrey Stachowicz, Biaunca Stewart, Lincoln Stiles, Lilliana Sullivan, Owen Sullivan, Ava Thompson, Abigail Tredo, Thatcher Trumbull, Holly Tu, Matthew VanDerBeken, Dylan Walker, Celena Williams

Grade 9 High Honors:

Angelina Acevedo, Logan Barcome, Callan Blanchard, Mia Bolduc, Kennedy Burgmyer, Hayden Carlotto, Irene Chen, Anthony Cianflone, Natalia Clarke, Steven Cocchi, Caleigh Conboy, Kelly Cronin, Maliha Daubon, Allison Demetri, Madeline Dos Santos, Aidan Dzierwinski, Noemi Fraga, Margaret Fulton, Mateo Garcia, Giselle Harris, Laila Hosnander, Tyler Jaslanek, Savannah Loubier, Ava Manning, Jaymiel Martinez, Riley McLeod, Alina Narvaez, Alyssa Nogueira, Cambria Norval, Luke O'Connor, Anna O'Toole, Caydence Pellerin, Grayson Placzek, Katelynn Pronovost, Natalie Proulx, Hannah Przechocki, Aezlin Rost, Annabella Rostek, Gwyndolyn Roszko, Connor Seymour, Colin Sheehan, Alexa Sherman, Linda Stanco, Isabella Strand, Ella Trosky, Madisyn Vazquez, Elijah Webster, Elizabeth Woytowicz, Josiah Zayas, Nicholas Zayas

Grade 10 Honors: Alexsa Abeid, Emmamarie Annear, Kyle Atkin, Lilliana Barkyoumb, Bryce Barlow, Mackenzie Barlow, Matthew Beaudin, Mason Belcamino, Nicholas Benninger, John Bermudez, Derek Beston, Sadie Blair, Evan Bowler, Noah Brathwaite, Bryanna Brown, Joseph Butts, Jeremiah Campbell, Noah Caress, Jayme Cerasuolo, Kayla Coolbeth, Saniyah Dawkins, Jason

DeGray, Tyler Donovan, Lukas Dzierzgowski, Nicholas Fopp, Aaron Foy, Molly Gallagher, Wen Xi Gao, Aaron Gasteyer, Kendall Gates, Noelle Giombetti, Hunter Gormally, Alexander Gormley, McKenna Hale, Noelle Hisgen, Ryan Ice, Audrey Izzo, Kalli Joyce, Lila Keegan, Nora Kennedy, Ava Knox, Andrew Lang, Alayna Lucas, Alison Mackie, Isabelle Manning, Cailin McEwan, Collin Meunier, Taylor Meunier, Alyah Nogueira, Thomas O'Toole, Nathan Pace, Makenzi Pastreck, Parth Patel, Owen Perry, Nicole Pollard, Mallory Poulin, Kamaria Pryce, Gus Przybyl, Sophia Rachele, Ciara Reilly, Alexander Rice, Dawson Rice, Cierra Roberson-Barron, Ayden Sackrider, Christopher Salvi, Amaderis Santiago, Ella Sarno, Corey Smith, Joseph Smith, Sheyenne Smith, Landon Smith-Devenitch, Chloe Sullivan, Brady Suomala, Thomas Tetrault, Isabella Tirabassi, Aaron Treat, Vanessa Turmenne, Sofia Villanueva, Gabriella Viruet, Ian Wall, Rylee Welch, Caeli Whitcomb, Alexander Wietecha

Grade 10 High Honors

Hannah Alves, William Bao, Bryan Beckel, Audrey Bernard, Marissa Bontempi, Alani Botas, Samantha Burnham, Margaret Capuano, Mackenzie DaFonseca, Paul Diehl, Joshua Disa, Lucie Dones, Samuel Ey, Grace Fallon, Nina Gallagher, Victoria Gonzalez, Renee Goulet, Giana Hall, Jaiana Hall, Taylor Labadorf, Arthur Lam, Morgan Lape, Jeremiah Martin, Antonia Mascaro, Mackenzie McEwan, Alexander Melluzzo, Margaret Michels, Tiffany Nguyen, Ava Ofcarcik, Kelvin Ohemeng, Ava Peabody, Laura Pecoy, Ethan Purcell, Hayden Richard, Gabriella Robinson, Rafa Rodriguez Alvarez, Madeleine Rooney, Matthew Ryan, Gianna Siciliano, Leah Sullivan, Quinn Symington, Leah Tassinari, Skylar Weinberg, Domenic Yacovone

Grade 11 Honors

Alexander Barthelette, Jonathan Barton-Cimino, Alexander Bernat, Mackenzie Blair, Ian Bonsant, Brent Botas, Jacob Bottass, Rose Caltabiano, Zoey Cardano, Serina Chan, Lillian Christensen, Paitan Closser, Jayla Comes, Morgan Conchinha, Ava Connors, David Cordova, Samuel Dean, Jackson Derosia, Lilliana DiGrande, Nicolas Disa, David Duah, Keegan Duke, Ryan Eldridge, Bianca Facchetti, John Finnegan, Kaliana Gagnon, Daniel Gardner, Aedan Gierlich, Jacob Gordon, Gavin Grout, Sydnee Hartin, Mary Heindold, Jonas Kefalas, Kayleigh Kinsman, Evelyn Labbe, Hunter LaDouceur, Damon Lafreniere, Sophie Laird, Aidan Lang, Gavin Lee, Parker LeTendre, Sawyer Lisowski, Lauren Lomascolo, Julia Long, Anna Lucarelle, Alexander Maurer, Brendan McDonald, Aviana Mitchell, Hector Mojica, Billy Montoya, Ava Murray, McKenzie Murray, Trinity Mutti, Matthew Nordstrom, Kate O'Connor, Matthew O'Keefe, Adison Oliveras, Owen Ordynowicz, Veera Patel, Erika Przewdziecki, Max Raschi, Ethan Ray, Jayme Ray, Jonah Rost, Cameron Roy, Michael Roy, Daniel Ryzewicz, Jonas Saabye, Gabriella Salvador, Olivia Salvi, Javien Santiago, Jessica Santos, Derek Semanie, Ainsley Sheehan, Brenna Slatery, Alexander Sleeper, Carl Socha, Saje Stewart, Jack Straut, Andrew Szpakowski, Cassidy Trask, Katherine Tzoumas, Zachary Vigneault, Alina Wawrzzonek, Ailsa Wilson

Grade 11 High Honors

Makayla Acevedo, Timothy Arndt, Ryan Atkin, Anissa Barnes, Aren

Brubach, Christopher Capen, Vince Chiarizio, Siena Dansereau, Sofia DiGrande, Danielle Dulude, Norah Dumala, Amy Dunklee, Madison Duperre, Christian Erskine, Emily Esteves, Mia Figueroa Rodriguez, John Fitzgerald, Marina Ford, Mia Fraga, Isabella Gahres, Abyssinia Haile, Virginia Hale, Victoria Harrington, Chase Harrison, Paige Hebert, Mia Hickson, Elliott Humphries, Lylah Jeannotte, Lauren Kasper, Lindsay Labadorf, Benjamin Langone, Olivia Lee, Samantha Long, Taylah Lopez, Grace Maloni, Diella Martell, Victoria Miller, Presley Mish, Caitlyn Osmani, Abigail Pastore, Vyan Patel, Allison Patrick, Kylie Ray, Olivia Rucki, Gianna Sakowski, Chad Santos, Aiden Sergienko, Georgia Serra, Ava Sheehan, Lilian Smith, Jack Tassinari, Benjamin Wilson, Mary Woytowicz, Katja Wurm

Grade 12 Honors

Evan Arce, Amir Ardolino, Gage Barkyoumb, Abigail Beaudry, Sydney Beebe, Stephanie Bergman, Abigail Bessette, David Borawski, Nicholas Boudreau, Timothy Boudreau, Molly Brewer, Valerie Campsie, Andrew Carmichael, Aidan Colon, Eli Comeau, Abigail Conselino, Connor Coolbeth, Aiden Daniels, Jenna Danio, Kayleigh Delamarter, Hallie Dones, Dominic Dos Santos, Ian Dzierwinski, Rose Eldridge, Daniela Flores, Juliette Goulet, Cameron Gray, Taryn Grozio, Joseph Hale, Jordan Hall, Cameron Ice, Kyler Ittner, Reese Jordan, Emma Kennedy, Anya Khan, Isaiah Kozub, Derek Laddue, Jared Laliberte, Audrey LaPre, Miranda Lavoie, Anh Le, Morgan Leary, Emma Lemek, Justin Lewis, Bella Loddo, Ryan Lucarelle, James Ma, Samuel Manteria, Maroun Matta, William Meeker, Charlotte Mirisis, Michael Moriarty, Collin Murphy, Madeline Murphy, Benjamin O'Brien, Moira O'Brien, Andrew O'Toole, Demetrios Patrakis, Christopher Paul, Hayden Paydos, Alyssa Penna, Stephen Putnam, Kaitlyn Radway, Lilliana Ramos, Shea Rice, Allyson Santos, Gabri Santos-Rodriguez, Sophia Seibold, William St John, Emily Stark, Audrey Streeter, Matthew Tillberry, Alexander Tirabassi, Emma Tougas, Kacey Tranghese, Vivian Tranghese, Marena Valiton, Hayden Vreeland, Caleigh Wall, Connor Wesloski, Jayden Westbrook, Michael Westbrook, Matthew Wurszt

Grade 12 High Honors

Kristina Aguilar, Madelyn Bartolucci, Megan Beaudry, Kaelin Cerasuolo, Seth Chaffee, Aidan Cordis, Patrick Cowles, Sarah Crouser, John DaFonseca, Reighan Demers, Olivia DePace, William Donahue, Norah Doyle, Olivia Dragon, Ella Edwards, Colin Elliott, Catriona Ferreira, Nicole Foley, Eve Freitas, Owen Gasteyer, Jenna Gleason, Ellah Goodrow, Franklin Graziano, Cameron Hanks, Sean Holden, Patrick Jahn, Kyle Jodoin, Grace Johnson, Lily Kane, Matthew Kumpulianian, Aidan Lewis, Sydney Liquori, Christopher MacPhail, Brodie Martin, Anabella Matos, George Matta, Maeve McConnell, Ryann Meunier, Samantha Moore, David Noel, Molly Olsen, Olivia Pelletier, Abigail Pronovost, Eva Przewdziecki, Cassidy Richard, Gabriella Rita, Olivia Ryan, Dominick Seymour, Anthony Siniscalchi, Alice Sleboda, Alexa Stone, Nikolas Supczak, Lauren Tomala, Cassandra Toth, Zavier Villanueva, Marissa Warren

Bryant University students named to Spring 2023 Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, RI -- Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the spring 2023 Dean's List. To earn a place on the Dean's List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement: Dylan Baker and Carly Sleboda of Wilbraham, Christopher DeMarey and Victoria Velazquez of Hampden.

Local students graduate from Elms College

CHICOPEE -- More than 440 students graduated from College of Our Lady of the Elms during its 92nd Commencement held on May 20, 2023 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. The following local students earned degrees:

Rachel Dane of Wilbraham graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Dominic Colucci of Hampden graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Rheanna Lannon of Hampden graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Melecio Tan of Wilbraham graduated with a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Adult Gerontology Acute Care

Lauren Wilson of Hampden graduated with a Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis

Eyvazzadeh graduates from Tufts University

MEDFORD -- Tufts University awarded more than 2,800 degrees across all schools during its ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2023.

Johnny Eyvazzadeh of Wilbraham graduated with a degree in Biology (BS) from Tufts University.

Local students who made the UMass Amherst Dean's List

AMHERST, Mass. – Below is a list of local students who were named to the Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the spring 2023 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

WILBRAHAM	HAMPDEN
Michelle Gabriella Alexander	Jillian Noell Long
Ava Margaret Barton	Jaclyn Lee Maller
Jackson Ari Bloomfield	Thomas Angelo Manning
Alison R Boudreau	Jillian Paige Mawaka
Julia Grace Britton	Jeet Patel
Caroline Elizabeth Campbell	Madison R Poisson
Ji Cao	Katherine J Russell
Jing Li Chen	Lydia Ann Ryan
Ani Joyce Diefenderfer	Cally Hays Seyler
Jeremy David Diehl	Ava Marie Sirois
Lily Grace Elkhay	Franchellee Zoe Torres Garrafa
Isabelle Nicole Fergus	Megan Angela Youmell
Olivia Ashley Ferreira	Joe Zebian
Amy Catherine Footit	Nicholas John Zeimbekakis
Christian Patrick Fuehr	
Maximus G George	
Cameron Mathew Gilrein	
Kathryn Calvanese Gormally	
Mitchell Fagan Guzzo	
Kylie Hope Kane	
Jennifer Marie Kovarik	
Joelle Nicole Kovarik	
Jonah Kozub	
Ryann Maria Kuhn	
Filip Stanislaw Kumięga	
Nicholas Shoga Lang	
Michelle M Leckey	
Willy Li	

Events & announcements schedule

100 Books for 100 Kids

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WILBRAHAM - Local author Kelly Partridge will be signing her book "How Owls Become Wise" during an author signing and free book event at the GRATI Shop at 2440 Boston Road, Unit C on Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by Unify Against Bullying and will raise awareness and open up conversation around the issue of bullying.

A child must be present to receive a book.

The Summer Program Car Wash

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

Senior Center to host Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance Aug. 5

HAMPDEN - Join the Hampden Senior Center for a fundraiser dinner dance on Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment provided by Off The Record.

Cost is \$30 prepaid, per person. Includes Appetizers, Chicken Parmesan and Pasta, Complimentary Cocktail and Dessert. More details will follow. Cash Bar & Raffle Prizes! Reserve and purchase your tickets today by calling 566-5588. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens. All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Main Street Farmers Market

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

Hartsprings Bin to be located at senior center through the fall

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

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

Amended instructions for Adult Summer Reading Challenge

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

follow the prompts to the Adult Summer Reading Challenge.

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

Contact tsymington@wilbrahamlibrary.org for information.

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

Vacation Bible Camp Registration

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

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

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

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

Volunteer opportunities available!

Cornhole Tournament sign-ups

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

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

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

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

Hampden Senior Trips

HAMPDEN - Below are the upcoming Hampden Senior Trips. For more information, call Bobbi at 413-566-8271 or email bobbijg2@charter.net

The Aqua Turf Club Tuesday, Aug. 15: "Come Fly with Me". Dance to music from Sinatra, Kenny Rogers, Tim McGraw & more; coffee/donuts, free drink, family-style lunch, show & door prizes, \$119/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 1.

Boston's Duck Boats Tuesday, Sept. 12: with lunch @ Maggiano's Little Italy, Duck tour, Quincy Market; \$140/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 29.

Newport Playhouse Thursday, Sept. 28: All-You-Can-Eat Buffet, Hilarious Show "Ghost of a Chance" & Cabaret, NEW LOWER PRICE \$132/pp. Payment deadline Sept 14.

Atlantic City Tuesday - Thursday, Oct. 10 - 12: Caesars Resort Hotel, two shows, \$50 food & slot bonuses; \$295/pp double, \$285/pp triple, \$395/pp single; \$50 deposit due @ sign-up. Payment deadline Sept. 8. Cancellation Ins. Avail.

The Aqua Turf Club - ELVIS ISIN THE BUILDING! on Wednesday, Nov. 8; coffee/donuts, free drink, family-style lunch, show & door prizes, \$119/pp. Payment deadline Oct. 18.

Communication group meets Fridays from 1-2:30 p.m.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships? We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more. This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential and free. Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

Falcetti School of Music introduces two new teachers

SPRINGFIELD - The Falcetti School of Music is pleased to introduce two new teachers at its Springfield school.

Beckett Koch

Beckett teaches all levels of both Violin and Viola, and as well beginner Cello. He focuses on Classical, Contemporary, and Pop styles of music.

Beckett Koch, originally from Billings, Montana, received his Bachelor's degree in violin performance at the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut, studying under the tutelage of Anton Miller. Other orchestral engagements include playing with the Helena Symphony Orchestra, Billings Symphony Orchestra, Battlecreek Symphony Orchestra, Rimrock Opera Orchestra, Hartt Symphony Orchestra, New Britain Symphony



Orchestra, and Connecticut Lyric Opera. Most recently, he began performing with the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, where he has performed at the Bushnell Theatre in Hartford, as well as Carnegie Hall in New York City. Beckett has also worked in masterclasses and chamber coachings with Peter Winograd of the American String Quartet, and Grammy nominated cellist Terry King. Awards include the 2016 Daniel Hartman Chair Memorial Scholarship, Hartt Performing Arts Scholarship, as well as the Hartt Promise Award.

Dr. Jason Bouchard

Dr. Bouchard joins us as a teacher of Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, French Horn, Trumpet, and beginner woodwinds and begin-



ner piano. He focuses on Classical, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Pop, and Sacred styles of music and teaches all levels of students.

Music has been a part of Jason's life since an early age. He gravitated to the tuba and has performed in thousands of performances from the Bushnell to marching on Main Street: all fun and unique musical experiences. In high school, Jason studied privately at the Hartt School of Music and performed with the Connecticut Youth Symphony and Greater Hartford Youth Wind Ensemble, all while performing in his high school concert band, jazz band, jazz combo, and marching band. He is a music educator, teaching instrumental music to students of all ages. Jason regularly conducts and leads many different ensembles. He has also taught private lessons throughout his career while teach-

ing music at the secondary level. Jason continues to perform with several instrumental groups of various styles and sizes. He currently serves as the Principal Tuba with the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and is a first-call sub with the Connecticut Valley Civic, Holyoke, Old Post Road, and Pioneer Valley Symphonies. Private students consistently placed in the top positions in bands and orchestras within the state and college music programs across the country. Jason received his Bachelor of Music Education from Keene State College, a Master's Degree in education with a specialization in Curriculum Writing in the Creative Arts from Lesley University, a Sixth Year in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University, and a Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Teaching was conferred from Northcentral University. Dr. Bouchard has studied tuba with Karl Kramer, Douglas

Nelson, and Dan Johnson.

Falcetti School of Music provides individual and group music lessons as well as community programming for the public through libraries, independent and assisted living facilities, recreation departments, senior citizen centers, and many other organizations. For over 65 years, the school's mission has been to share the joy of music through teaching lessons to students of all ages and skill levels, to provide live music performance opportunities for musicians, and to help the public enjoy live music.

Falcetti School of Music is located at 1755 Boston Road in Springfield and features teaching studios, performance spaces, and an intimate recital hall. For more information please contact: Jennifer Brevik, Director of Education at 413-543-1002 ext. 2 or through email Jenniferbrevik@falcettimusic.com.

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Wilbraham #2 falls to Belchertown in Legion playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The Belchertown Senior Legion team captured the 2022 District 3 Chairman Cup.

The Post 239 squad was one of the eight baseball teams that participated in this year's state tournament.

Belchertown remained alive in the single elimination Western Mass. playoffs after squeaking out a 7-5 victory over Wilbraham (#2) Post 286 at South Hadley High School on July 17.

"We did all of the little things which made a big difference in tonight's game," said Belchertown manager Todd McDonald. "There are a lot of very good Legion teams in Western Mass. this year, and you have to play well to beat them."

Belchertown (11-3) defeated Longmeadow, 9-1, in their first playoff game.

Wilbraham (#2), who made a couple of costly mistakes against Belchertown, finished their season with a 5-10 record.

"I thought it was a very good learning season for us. We had the opportunity to play a couple of playoff games," said Wilbraham (#2) manager Don Laware. "The Belchertown starting pitcher pitched a good game against us, which was the difference."

Belchertown lefthander Cody West was the winning pitcher against Wilbraham (#2). He allowed five runs (three earned) on nine base hits with just one walk and 10 strikeouts in six plus innings.



Bryce Barlow fields a grounder to short.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Wilbraham (#2) centerfielder Maurice Kearney had four base hits, which were all singles, from the leadoff spot. "Maurice just played a great game tonight," Laware said. "He also pitched in our playoff

pitcher against Wilbraham (#2). He allowed five runs (three earned) on nine base hits with just one walk and 10 strikeouts in six plus innings.

Wilbraham (#2) centerfielder Maurice Kearney had four base hits, which were all singles, from the leadoff spot.

"Maurice just played a great game tonight," Laware said. "He also pitched in our playoff

victory at North Adams.

Kearney, who attends Pope Francis, grounded the first pitch of the game up the middle into centerfield. He advanced to third base on another single by shortstop Bryce Barlow, who rounded first base too far. He was tagged out by first baseman Brady Perkins. The next batter

Please see **LEGION**, page 16

Hall takes win in Granite State series

HERMON, ME – The Granite State Pro Stock Series returned to "Vacationland" for the first time since 2021 with Saturday night's Go FAS Racing 100 at Speedway 95. And against a tough field, Garrett Hall captured his second career GSPSS win in the series' debut at the Hermon, Maine speedplant.

Seventeen drivers, all but one from the state of Maine, turned out for the GSPSS' rain-delayed debut at the historic oval just outside Bangor. Wiscasset Speedway regular Josh St. Clair topped the charts in time trials, splitting the heats with home-track ace Mike Hopkins.

But in race trim, it was Hall who prevailed. With reigning GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in the pits, Hall worked the inside line around the third-mile oval en route to victory.

Hall won in his GSPSS debut in 2017, claiming the series' only trip to Oxford Plains Speedway. With Saturday's win, the Scarborough native is the first series driver to win twice in the Pine Tree State.

Hopkins, a road warrior with two wins in the Southeast earlier this season, came up short of victory in his second-ever GSPSS appearance, finishing second at his hometown track. St. Clair held on for third in his series debut.

Points leader Travis Benjamin extended his advantage with a fourth-place finish, while Ben Ashline rounded out the top five.

Saturday's GSPSS showdown capped off a night of racing that included Speedway 95's local classes. Dalaney Dunn came out on top in the 25-lap Cage Runner feature. Scott Modery took the checkers in the Street Stocks, and Kris Foss won the evening's Sport 4 feature.

The next race for the Granite State Pro Stock Series is a return to Riverside Speedway on Saturday, August 12, where Travis Benjamin will try to back up his June performance with another win at "Grovetona." Details on the fifth race of the GSPSS' twelfth season will be released shortly.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit www.gspss.net or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

RESULTS, Go FAS Racing 100, July 22, 2023

1. (94) Garrett Hall

Please see **RACING**, page 16



Jordan Koduah makes a pass.



Tomas Duben makes his way toward the goal.



Alec Hughes shoots and scores for the Pioneers.



Connor Hicks, of Monson, attempts to run down the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pioneers take season finale, make playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The atmosphere at Lusitano Stadium is always a lot more festive whenever the Western Mass. Pioneers celebrates a victory.

The Pioneers faithful supporters were in no hurry to head

home following the July 15 5-1 win over AC Connecticut in the regular season finale.

The Pioneers 10th win locked up sole possession of second place in the USL-2 Northeast Division. They also clinched a playoff berth for the fourth time since 2019. The 2020 season was canceled due

to the COVID 19 pandemic.

"I think making the playoffs is a little more special for us this year," said Connor Hicks, who's one of the Pioneers' veteran players. "Our backs were against the wall a couple of weeks ago, but we were able to make the playoffs again.

Following a 2-1 home loss

against rival Seacoast United on June 23, the Pioneers (10-1-3) closed out the regular season with five consecutive victories.

"After we lost to Seacoast, most people thought we wouldn't be making the playoffs this year," said Pioneers head

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 16

West beats East in NECBL All-Star Game

LYNN - The West Division defeated the East Division 5-1 in the 2023 NECBL All-Star Game, presented by Metro Credit Union, behind eight scoreless innings thrown by nine different pitchers.

Catcher Kevin Bruggeman (Upper Valley, C, Hofstra) won the 2023 All-Star Game MVP after going 2-for-2 on the night with two hits including a two-out two-run single with the bases loaded in the fourth inning. Bruggeman was one of two West All-Stars with multi-hit performances, joined by Anthony Livermore (Keene, 3B, Northwestern).

The West Division struck first with a leadoff single by T.J. Williams (Vermont, OF, Notre Dame) on a full count in the top of the first inning. Williams stole second base and later scored from second on an RBI single by Greg Bozzo (Keene, C, Northeastern). East Division starter Santhosh Gottam (Newport, RHP, Brown) limited the damage to one run to keep the game close through the first inning.

Garrett Howe (Ocean State, 2B, Samford) hit a leadoff double with a bloop to left field for the East Division. Howe attempted to steal third, but was caught with a perfect throw by the catcher Greg Bozzo (Northeastern). West Division starter Nolan Sparks (Vermont, RHP, Rochester) escaped a first inning jam with a diving stop by Kyle Hannon (North Adams, 3B, Penn State) at third base

to leave two runners stranded for the East Division.

Alex Logusch (Ocean State, RHP, Winthrop) allowed three walks to load the bases in the fourth and a Ryan Cesarini (Upper Valley, DH, St. Joseph's) sacrifice fly scored Javon Hernandez (Danbury, SS, Auburn) to start the inning.

The West continued its rally when Williams reached base for a third time after his second hit-by-pitch to load the bases once again with two outs. Bruggeman's two-run single drove in Nighthawks teammate Adarius Myers (Upper Valley, OF, Louisiana Tech) along with Brandon Butterworth (Vermont, 2B, NC State) to give the West a commanding 4-0 lead.

Brent Francisco (Bristol, RHP, East Stroudsburg) recorded the first 1-2-3 inning of the evening after retiring three straight batters in the fifth inning, including strikeouts of Anthony DePino (Mystic, 3B, URI) and Mike Bello (Mystic, OF, Auburn).

Bruggeman reached base for a second time with a single to right field in the sixth inning, and later advanced to second on a Kyle Hannon two-out walk. Wyatt Lunsford-Shenkman (Ocean State, RHP, East Carolina) struck out the league's second-leading home run hitter Samuel Tackett (North Adams, OF, Virginia Tech) to escape the jam with a scoreless frame to keep the East within four.

Michael Weidinger (Valley, LHP,

William & Mary) retired the side in the sixth inning, including two fly outs and a strikeout of Nolan Nawrocki (Martha's Vineyard, SS, Clemson) to continue a dominant pitching performance by the West Division.

In the bottom half of the seventh inning, Anthony Livermore (Keene, 3B, Northwestern) showcased his speed with a diving attempt at first base to earn an infield single in his first plate appearance of the game. Livermore went on to steal second and third base before scoring on three straight walks allowed by East pitcher Jay Allmer (Mystic, RHP, Seton Hall), the league's leader in saves.

The East Division cut into the lead with a solo home run by Jake Berger (North Shore, 3B, Harvard) in the bottom of the eighth. Fellow Navigator Stan DeMartinis III (North Shore, OF, Bentley) followed with a single to left, but Week 2 Pitcher of the Week George Viebrock III (Danbury, LHP, Denison) retired the next three batters to maintain a 5-1 lead for the West heading into the ninth.

West Division Fan Vote winner Luis Misla (Upper Valley, LHP, SUNY Cortland) split the ninth inning with 2023 Home Run Derby champion and two-way player Anthony Steele (Danbury, LHP, Penn State) to seal a dominant 5-1 victory for the West Division.

PIONEERS from page 15

coach Federico Molinari. "There was a lot of pressure on us to win every match, but boys worked very hard. It's not very easy to qualify for the playoffs in this league."

The Pioneers, who'll begin their postseason journey this weekend, have posted an impressive 42-6-8 regular season record since the start of the 2019 campaign.

"We've changed a lot of players since 2019," Molinari said. "When the new players join us, they always play very hard, and they also have a good attitude. It has been an outstanding season so far."

Hicks, who's from Monson, and Khalid Rose are the only remaining players from the 2019 playoff team.

Hicks, who has been a defender for most of his Pioneers career, was an outside midfielder against AC Connecticut (4-7-3). He had a couple shots on goal, but has never scored a goal while wearing a Pioneers uniform.

"I did score a goal in my first game with the Pioneers four years ago, but it was disallowed because of offsides," said Hicks, who's planning to play for the Pioneers in 2024. "I was trying to score a goal in tonight's game."

Alec Hughes, who's a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, led the way offensively with two goals and a pair of assists.

"We really needed to win tonight's game to make the playoffs," Hughes said. "It has been a lot of fun playing for this soccer team this summer."

The home team, who scored five goals in a home match for the first time since a preseason friendly with KO Elites FC, took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the opening half.

The scoring play began with Gabriel Pacheco sending a pass from the left side of the box to Tomas Duben, who tapped the ball over the goal-line past AC Connecticut goalie Clayton Knibbs.

Less than ten minutes later, Duben was credited with the assist as Hughes fired a shot into the left corner for his first goal of the match.

Duben and Hughes hooked up again during the 32nd minute. A tap in by Hughes increased the Pioneers lead to 3-0, which was the halftime score.

"I always try to put myself in the right spot and let my teammates find me," Hughes said. "I just want to do anything to help my team win."

The Pioneers outshot AC Connecticut, 15-1, during the first 45 minutes of the match.

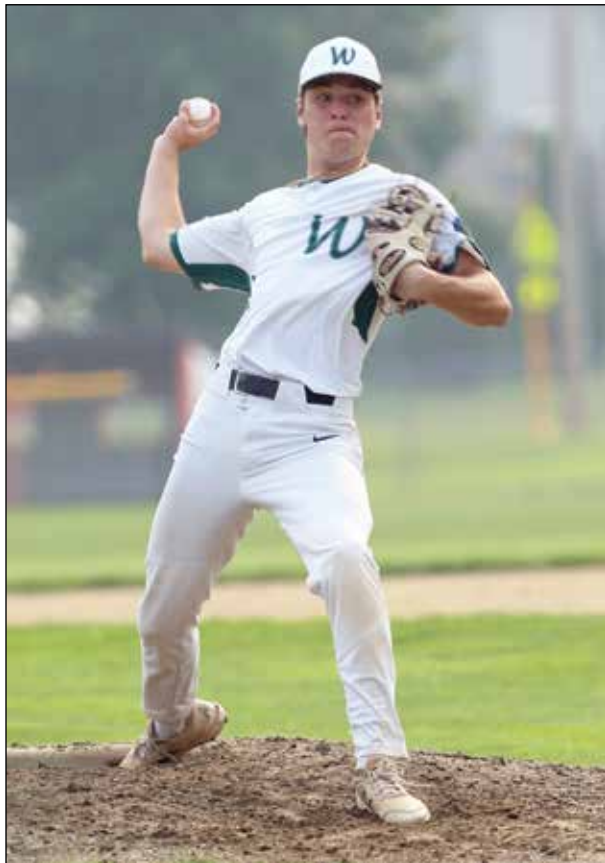
Any thoughts the AC Connecticut players might've had of making a second half comeback didn't last very long.

A goal by Lucio Berron, which was assisted by Hughes in the 58th minute, gave the Pioneers a commanding 4-0 advantage.

AC Connecticut, who also lost the first meeting to the Pioneers, 2-1, received an early Christmas gift following an own goal in the 73rd minute.

A couple of minutes later, Jordan Koduah scored the Pioneers final goal, which was assisted by Hughes.

It was a perfect way to wrap up the regular season for the Pioneers players and their supporters.



Ryan Atkin delivers a pitch against Belchertown.

LEGION from page 15

struck out swinging, but the ball got away from catcher Jacob Smith. Kearney came home when Smith threw the ball to Perkins completing the play.

Belchertown tied the score against righty Ryan Atkin with one-out in the second inning. Centerfielder Andrew Fijal hit a fly ball, which was dropped by the left fielder. Right fielder Cooper Beckwith drove home the go-ahead run with a line-drive single. West helped himself by hitting a two-run double down the right field line. Then a Perkins sacrifice fly gave Belchertown a 5-1 lead.

After the first two Wilbraham (#2) batters struck out in the top of the third, Kearney singled to left. He scored on another single by Barlow (2-for-3). The inning continued when third baseman Owen Gasteyer blasted a run scoring double to left field, which closed the gap to 5-3.

Wilbraham managed to tie the score two innings later.

Catcher Owen Ordynowicz, who

singled, scored on a wild pitch.

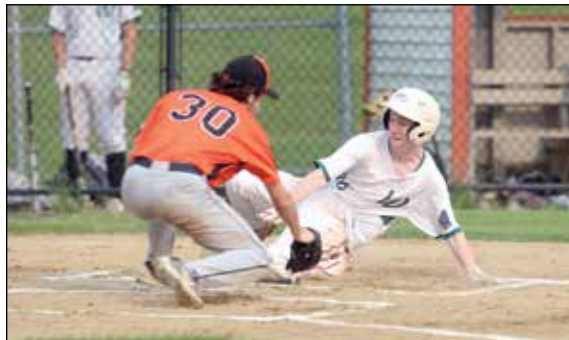
Following Kearney's third first-pitch single of the contest, he crossed the plate on the back end of a double steal play.

The game didn't remain tied for very long, as Belchertown retook the lead in the bottom of the fifth.

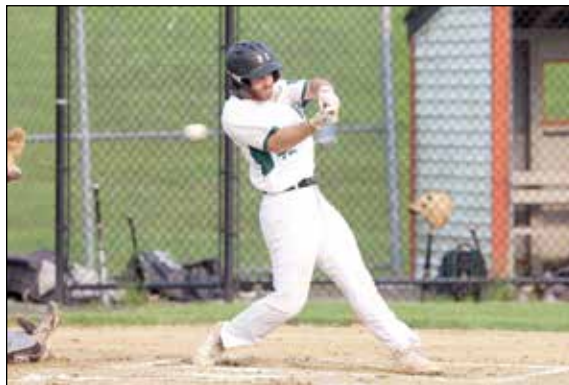
Marshall Ingram (2-for-4), who started the game at second base, doubled to left field leading off the frame. He scored when Smith bounced into a fielder's choice play.

Belchertown, who only had six base hits, added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth.

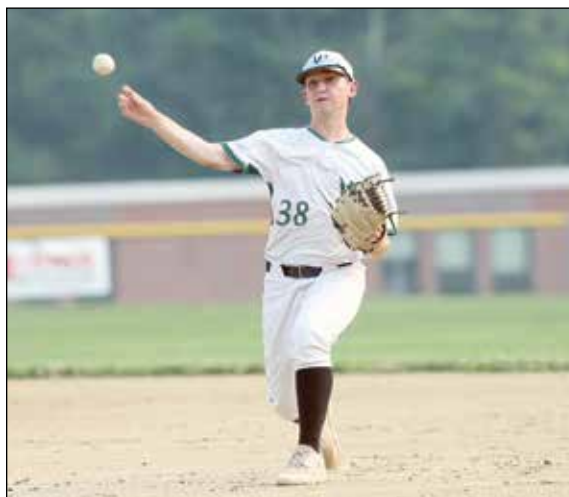
Wilbraham began the top of the seventh inning with back-to-back singles by Paul Diehl and Kearney.



Maurice Kearney slides home safely.



Aaron Gasteyer fouls off a pitch.



Frank Graziano makes the throw to first.

At that point, West was replaced on the mound by Ryan Schneider. The righthander retired the first batter he faced on a flyball out before ending the game with a double play.

Two days later, Belchertown defeated Wilbraham (#1), 4-3, in eight innings in the semifinals. They then posted a 9-3 victory over top-seeded Westfield Post 124 in the Western Mass. championship game.



Submitted photo

Garrett Hall was the winner up in Maine last Saturday.

RACING from page 15

2. (15ME) Mike Hopkins
3. (14) Josh St. Clair
4. (7B) Travis Benjamin
5. (99) Ben Ashline
6. (32) Brandon Barker
7. (75) Gary Smith
8. (32ME) Nick Jenkins
9. (28R) JR Robinson
10. (7CT) Cory Casagrande
11. (56) Evan Beaulieu
12. (21C) Shane Clark
13. (81) Bryan Lancaster
14. (28) James Doucette
15. (15) Trevor Krouse
16. (21ME) David Oliver
17. (01) Jet Decker

OBITUARIES

Madeleine Robidoux

STURBRIDGE/WILBRAHAM -- Madeleine R. (Cardinal) Robidoux, 88, died Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Bay State/ Wing Hospital in Palmer.

Her husband of 37 years was the late Roger R. Robidoux, who died March 8, 1997.

She is survived by her daughter Debra and her husband James Rooney of Wilbraham with whom she lived with, and three sons, Wayne Robidoux and his wife Sandra of Wales, MA; Kevin Robidoux and his wife Kathy of Portsmouth, NH; and Brian Robidoux and his wife Janice of Holland, MA.

She also leaves seven grandchildren: Kory Robidoux, Madeleine Rooney, Steven Warren, David Warren, Julia Jarvis, Matthew Ashe, John Rooney, and four great-grandchildren, and her brother Roger Cardinal and his wife Diane of West Dover, VT, many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Maurice Cardinal of Pawtucket, RI; and Gerard Cardinal, Jr of Yakima, WA, and her sister Jeanne Grenier of N. Grosvenordale, CT.

Mrs. Robidoux was born March 20, 1935, daughter of Gerard and Adrienne (Lafleur) Cardinal and has lived in Sturbridge for most of her life before moving to Wilbraham in 2021.

She retired in 1991 from the former Sheraton Hotel in Sturbridge where she worked as the Executive Housekeeper for 19 years. She later worked as a switchboard operator at the Publick House, and also was a clerk at CVS in Southbridge. She enjoyed spending time with friends at the Sturbridge Senior Citizens in Sturbridge, she enjoyed bowling in a Bowling League many years ago, reading, sewing, crocheting and she lovingly sewed numerous "memory bears" for many.

The funeral Mass for Madeleine will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 18 Main St., North Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow at 1 p.m. at North Cemetery, Maple Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis of Greater New England Chapter, 465 Waverly Oaks Road, Ste. 202, Waltham, MA 02452, or to EWTN, 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL 35210.

Death Notices

Madeleine Robidoux
March 20, 1935
July 15, 2023



Little Free Library coming to Wilbraham in early August

It will be installed outside LUSO Federal Credit Union

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- A little free library will be installed outside the LUSO Federal Credit Union on Crane Park Drive in early August.

Ana Parrelli, vice president of Business Development, explained they heard about the little free library after an Eagle Scout in Ludlow put one up as part of a project, with more popping up in other areas.

Parrelli shared that many of the staff read and enjoy books, with residents also giving books to them.

"We were like, 'What a great idea! Let's do that too!'" Parrelli said.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is about building community and inspiring readers by providing access to books through volunteer-led Little Free Library book exchange boxes.

They are found all over the country.

"Sometimes they're at schools, sometimes they're at businesses like ours, sometimes they're just in neighborhoods. Sometimes people have them at their house out front and stock them with books," Parrelli said.

Parrelli said when one was put up at the Ludlow branch, it was "full of books."

"We started with some books, but it is just full now, and people have been coming. Taking books, leaving books, so it's pretty cool," Parrelli said.

Parrelli added LUSO sponsors the One Book One Community program the school district runs during the summer.

"We do so much with our schools and we're such big readers that it just made sense to kind of offer that as a community thing," Parrelli said.

Parrelli said offering a little free library "is who we are, it's what we do" as a credit union.

"We are very involved in the community. Any time we can help, especially with the kids but just in general, we love just being out in the community and giving back," Parrelli said. "We saw it as an opportunity to be able to give back and we took it. It tied in nicely with our core values, it tied in nicely with just our staff and what they are passionate about and it made sense."

Parrelli looks forward to "seeing people coming and using it" after the Wilbraham branch puts it up, adding she "gets a thrill out of" people coming by and using it.

"The one at Ludlow we have right it by the front door too, so you kind of see people. When they're coming in, they're stopping and looking or even people that are just walking by on the street that come, they're not there to go to LUSO, but they are there for the little free library," Parrelli said.

She added one of their staff members follows Little Free Library and "always looks for them" in whatever community she's in.

"So, there are people that are followers of the Little Free Library and it's just cool to be a stop on the map for those people," Parrelli said.

Parrelli and her family have used the little free libraries too.

"I've used a ton of them. I'm rotating books out every day for them, so it's really great," Parrelli said.

Parrelli said residents can learn more about Little Free Library by visiting the organization's website.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Little Free Library at the FUSO Federal Credit Union branch in Ludlow. A little free library will be coming to the Wilbraham branch in early August.

"There's a ton of information. If they want to build one there are blueprints that tell you how to build them, so that's what we did," Parrelli said.

Parrelli wants the community to know they're here to support them.

"We are a part of the community and we want people to know we're part of the community. We work here, we live here, our kids go to school here so we all have a vested interest in our local community," Parrelli said.

To learn more about Little Free Library, visit littlefreelibrary.org.

This Week in Rec

Dan Beauregard
Program Coordinator

Reminder About, Wilbraham Rec Fall Soccer Registration

At Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department we try to stay one season ahead, which means for us it is on to the fall and recreation soccer. So this is your last minute reminder that recreation soccer registration for the fall season is ending soon, Sunday, July 30th. Please call or stop by the office after the 30th for any late registrations.

During the fall Wilbraham Parks & Rec offers soccer to Wilbraham and Wilbraham school choice students (ages 4 through grade 8) who are not playing in a competitive soccer league.

Our soccer offerings start with Just For Kicks, which is coed soccer for ages 4 and 5 not in Kindergarten. This program runs for six weeks on Saturday mornings, the program is run by an instructor but a parent/caregiver works with their child during the practices.

Next up is First Kicks which is our coed instructional soccer for kids entering kindergarten in the fall of 2023. First Kicks meets twice a week,

one week night practice and Saturday morning games.

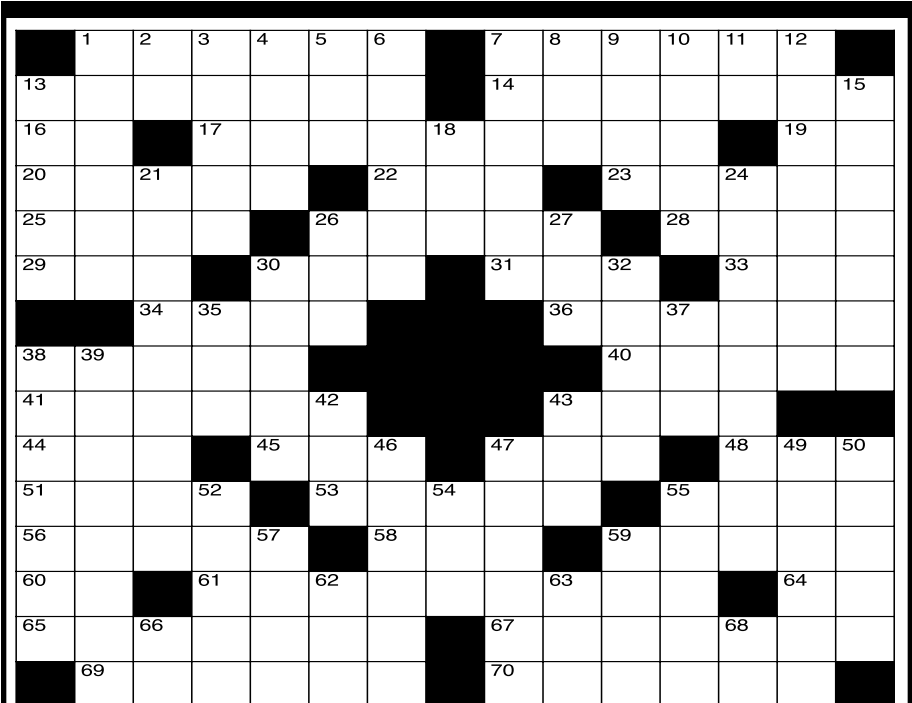
Youth Soccer follows which is for grades 1 and 2. This coed program is where kids learn the FUN-damentals and soccer basics. Youth Soccer will practice once during the week and have one or two games per weekend.

Grades 3-4 and Grades 5-6 soccer are usually no longer coed but it depends on enrollment. Both age groups usually practice twice a week while also having two games per week. All teams in these age groups play in the Quabbin Valley Soccer League!

Coed grade 7-8 soccer also plays in the Quabbin Valley Soccer League, Hampden residents are allowed to join this team. Coed grade 7-8 generally practices twice a week and has two games per week.

All skill levels are welcome to register for our teams and all teams K-8 need volunteer coaches, please note interest in coaching at time of registration. If you have any questions, please reach out to us, 413-596-2816!

NOTE: For more information on all of our programs and to register, please visit wilbrahamrec.com



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bonus materials
- 7. Formal names
- 13. Free from restraints
- 14. One who scrapes away
- 16. Type of device
- 17. Skin cancers
- 19. The Show Me State
- 20. Plate glasses
- 22. Red-brown sea bream
- 23. Small (Fr.)
- 25. Flightless Australian birds
- 26. High IQ group
- 28. Stiff structures
- 29. Revolutions per minute
- 30. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Licensed for Wall Street
- 33. A place to park
- 34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 36. An important creed in Catholic Church
- 38. 18-year astronomical period
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Noted child psychiatrist
- 44. Feline
- 45. High schoolers' test
- 47. Not happy
- 48. They ___
- 51. On top
- 53. Precious stones unit of weight
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Seagulls
- 58. A seed with hooks or teeth
- 59. Partner to "ooed"
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most unpleasant
- 64. Organization help service members
- 65. Type of cockatoo
- 67. Humorous criticisms
- 69. Went through and

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Settle in tents
- 2. Big
- 3. Books
- 4. Masses of eggs in fish
- 5. Language
- 6. Not standing
- 7. Chinese philosophy
- 8. Computer giant
- 9. A device to catch
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Actor O'Neill
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Not lower
- 15. Revolves
- 18. Leavened bread
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Cable
- 26. Adult male
- 27. Airborne (abbr.)
- 30. Bullfighting
- 70. Wakes up
- 32. Broadcast
- 35. ___ Angeles
- 37. Vehicle
- 38. Not religious
- 39. North American peoples
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Body art (slang)
- 46. Picked for a role
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former hoopster "Big Country"
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More pleasant
- 54. It can add flavor to meat
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. In reply (abbr.)

Classifieds

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GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,100/mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom **413-896-1555**

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

SENIORS



If these walls could talk.....well, they are brand new and wouldn't have much to say except: "Get ready Wilbraham...the long awaited Senior Center is taking shape!"

If you have not had the opportunity to see the new Senior Center, give yourself a treat and witness the progress. The OPM – owner's project manager that the town has hired provides us with regular updates of how the work is progressing. The latest communication from P-Three Inc is excerpted here:

Roofing

The roofer has started putting shingles on the upper roof, bringing us closer to the final stages of the roofing process. Simultaneously, the lower roof is undergoing insulation panel and trim installation.

Parking Lot

The parking lot is beginning to take shape with the installation of the gravel base. This foundational work is essential for creating a safe and functional parking area for our community.

Lighting and Electrical Infrastructure

The concrete bases for the parking lot light poles have been installed. In addition, the primary electrical service has been established, providing the necessary power for our building. The site contractor is currently working on the transformer pad and wiring, which will facilitate the distribution of electricity throughout the premises.

Building Walls and Exterior Cladding

The walls of the building are taking shape, with the installation of exterior cladding on most elevations. This signif-

icant milestone brings us closer to completing the envelope of our structure.

Interior Progress and MEP Work

Work on the interior of the building is progressing steadily. Metal framing is underway on the lower level, creating the framework for various interior spaces. The next focus will be the elevator shaft wall, where metal framing will commence soon. Meanwhile, the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) teams are onsite, carrying out rough installations. This critical stage ensures the proper functioning and efficiency of essential systems within the building.

Sprinkler Piping Installation

The installation of sprinkler piping has begun on the first floor. This crucial step will enhance the safety measures within our community, providing an additional layer of protection in case of fire emergencies.

As always, photos of the ongoing project are and will be available on the Town Website. We ask that you enjoy the construction of our new Senior Center from a safe distance. Please do not enter the construction site during or after work hours and be respectful of the workers, as we are asking that they be respectful as guests of our Community.

If you have questions or comments about the new Senior Center, please call the Senior Center information line at: 596-2800 extension 315 and leave a message, or emailSeniorInfo2021@gmail.com. Someone will get back to you.

Linda Cooper for the Wilbraham Senior Center Building Committee

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Francis and Carol Federico, for a Special Permit as required under sections 3.9.2.15 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of an addition to the existing Federico residence located at 2 Merrill Road to be used as an accessory apartment as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/919551733> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 919-551-733).

John McCloskey
Chair

07/27, 08/03/2023

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday,**

August 16, 2023 at 6:30PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on the following proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law:

A. Change "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" throughout the Zoning By-Law (Sections 1.3, 12.3.2, 12.10.1, 12.10.2, 13.6.2.1, 13.6.6.1.A, 15.1.1, 15.4.2.1 & 15.6)

B. Corrective Amendments related to Child Care Facilities and the Flood Plain Overlay District (Sections 1.3 & 2.3.2)

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.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/919551733> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 919-551-733).

John McCloskey, Chair
07/27, 08/03/2023

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:15 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Michael Lia to amend the Special Permit granted by the Planning Board on March 15, 1988 (as amended through 5/2023) for the existing Lia Toyota dealership located at 2145 Boston Road. The applicant is requesting modification of the previously approved plan to modify parking lot lighting under the provisions of Sections 3.4.5.20, 6.5 and 13.6.9 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/919551733> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 919-551-733).

John McCloskey
Chair

07/27, 08/03/2023

Monthly highlights at the Hampden Senior Center

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

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!

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

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

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

Senior Farmer's Market Coupons 2023

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

- 60 years of age or older, or
- Disabled and living in senior housing where congregate nutrition services are provided

• Your income must be lower than the income limits outlined below.

Coupons Income Guidelines:

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

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

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

Coupons will be available for distribution in July.

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

MUSEUM from page 1

inspiration.

McLain's lecture will recount the development of the arts in the United States in this pivotal period and will then explore the ramifications of this process on the practice of art in America up to the present day.

Guest Merchant

At every Open House a Guest Merchant is featured by the Gift Shop. The Guest Merchant for Aug. 6 will be hometown watercolorist Pam Adamski.

Adamski says she has always been inspired by nature. "Our small home in Wilbraham, surrounded by woods and small pond is where I get my inspiration for most of my wildlife paintings. Our yard is filled with plenty of muses – deer, bobcats, racoons, birds. The list goes on!" said Adamski.

She said her husband retired a few years ago and since then they have been fortunate enough to spend summers on the shores of New Hampshire and Maine. "The beautiful lighthouses and soul-soothing seas provide endless ideas to put to canvas," she said.

In addition to guest merchant Adamski, the gift shop also offers special candles by the Wilbraham Candle Co. inspired by the Old Meeting House

Calling all hidden

"Chair Volleyball Players!"

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

Beginning in the Fall. More details to follow.

Grab and Go Dinner,

Thursday, July 27

Pick up is 2-2:30 p.m.

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

Alzheimer's Fundraiser

Dinner Dance -

Saturday, Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fundraiser dinner dance with entertainment provided by Off The Record

The cost is \$30 prepaid, per person. Includes Appetizers, Chicken Parmesan and Pasta,

Complimentary Cocktail and Dessert.

More details will follow. Cash Bar & Raffle Prizes!

Reserve and purchase your tickets today by calling 566-5588.

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

All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

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

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

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

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

called "The Old Meeting House Candle", which has a warm and inviting fragrance. The candles will be stocked regularly in the gift shop. Ten percent of the proceeds of the special candle will go directly to the non-profit museum.

The museum is halfway through its current season and has offered various programs, from a presentation of Wilbraham historic photos collector Joe Roberts to the very busy Ice Cream social featuring Friendly's sundae cups and an art exhibit of the Wilbraham Art League this month. The next programs are as follows:

Sept. 10 – Folklorist Dennis Picard on "J. Loring Brooks, the founder of the Big E."

Oct. 8 – History Interpreter Rich Howell. Nov. 5 – Wilbraham Veterans Agent Jared Sasen, "A Veteran Looks at History." Christmas Tree Festival over two Sundays on Dec. 3 and 10, Mulled Cider served and Ice Carving Demonstration.

The museum has recently undergone a landscape revamping and a new accessible ramp made of bricks was added to the front of the building.

For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Atheneum society email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.



Submitted Photo

HWRSD Summer Band Concert is Aug. 9

WILBRAHAM -- It's the 2023 HWRSD Summer Band Concert, Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 1 p.m. in the Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium. This concert is the culmination of a two-week summer band program for grades 5-12 hosted at Minnechaug and taught by the district band directors, Richard Cuoco, Cara Canedi and Dave Morris.

Baystate Health offers free health fairs

Free health fairs as part of National Health Center Week Aug. 6-12

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Medical Center's three community health centers in Springfield will hold free health fairs during National Health Center Week, Aug. 6-12.

This year's theme is "The Roadmap to a Stronger America." The public is invited to share in the celebration of the health centers as Baystate shines a light on their rich history of community-centered care and partnerships made possible by their dedicated staff, providers, and patients.

Baystate's three health centers – Baystate Brightwood Health Center – Centro de Salud, Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center, and Baystate High Street Health Center Adult Medicine & Pe-

diatrics are anchors of public-health efforts in the neighborhoods they serve, working in partnership with community members and groups to address some of the more pressing health challenges facing the city of Springfield. Across the country, health centers like those operated by Baystate in Springfield improve access to care for millions of Americans regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. National Health Center week is a time for celebrating community health centers and their contributions to our national health.

The health fairs, including food, music, giveaways and community resource vendors, are free and open to all.

The health fairs begin on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from noon to 2 p.m. at Baystate Brightwood Health Center/Centro de Salud at 280 Plainfield St. The fairs continue on

Thursday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Baystate High Street Health Center – Adult and Pediatric at 140 High Street, upper-level parking lot, and end on Friday, Aug. 11, from noon to 4 p.m. at Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center at 11 Wilbraham Road.

For more information on Brightwood Day call Migdalia Vega at 413-794-8262 or email Migdalia.Vega@BaystateHealth.org; for more information of High Street Day call Caelin Hallgren for Pediatrics at 413-794-2318 or email Caelin.Hallgren@BaystateHealth.org or Jessenia Sanchez for Adult at 413-896-6110 or email Jessenia.Sanchez@BaystateHealth.org; and for more information of Mason Square Day call Edward (Cameron) Rice at 413-794-0281 or email Edward.Rice2@BaystateHealth.org or Andrea Conteh at 413-794-9947 or email Andrea.Conteh@BaystateHealth.org.

Baystate Health's Mobile Blood Donation Team is coming to Palmer

PALMER – The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive at Baystate Wing Hospital on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesdays throughout the year at Baystate Wing including on Oct. 4 and Dec. 6.

Nicole VanZandt, supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services shares, "When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities. Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program."

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17-years-old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card or a Big E ticket while supplies last.

Why is there a constant need for blood donations and why are they so important? Blood donations can be lifesaving for many people facing health conditions or problems that might require a transfusion, some of these reasons may include cancer, trauma or injuries, operations, blood disorders, pregnancy, and birth.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note Baystate Wing Hospital as the location you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment

NOTICE

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

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20 Years of Dance!*

The Dance Studio

**Classes Start
Sept. 11th!**

**Classes for Toddler
through Adult**

*Classical Ballet,
Jazz, Tap,
Musical Theater Dance,
Modern/Contemporary,
Pre-dance,
Ballet Fairy Tales,
Combo Classes,
Street Hip-Hop,
Break Dance and Funk,
Competition &
Performance Team
Toddler Class*

WHERE DANCE IS FOR EVERYONE!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CLASSES!

OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 7th 5-7pm

In person registration every Tuesday 5-7pm

*Family and Multi-class Discount
1 hour classes, 90 minute recitals
Professional Adult College Educated Instructors*



**Adult Fitness & Dance
Classes as low as
\$5 per class when you
pre-register monthly
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**We Offer
Birthday Parties
& Studio Rentals**

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