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Board of Selectmen votes not to appeal lawsuit ruling

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen voted on Aug. 7 to not appeal the ruling for the Garvey v. Hampden Lawsuit (Self-Storage).

The deadline to appeal--if the board had moved forward with an appeal--would have been Aug. 8.

Chair Don Davenport explained he sent the town attorney their questions and received responses, with one question he had focused on the potential for the appeals court to award damages to the plaintiff if the town loses the appeal.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Board of Selectmen will not move forward on an appeal to the Garvey v. Hampden Lawsuit (Self-Storage) after a meeting on Aug. 7.

“He said the standard for an award of double fees and costs is generally whether there was no reasonable basis for accepting a reversal under current well-settled law. It is high standard which courts are generally reluctant to apply, especially against the municipality,” Davenport said. “That being said, there is a legitimate risk and a near guarantee that any appeal process will involve extra costs of fighting about that issue, which will drive up legal costs in writing even if we prevail. I think it’s a 50/50 question of whether an appeals court would grant this relief here. It’s essentially left the appeals court with broad

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe and Ludlow Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Jeffrey Lavoie pose for a photo during Nothe's retirement celebration on Aug. 9. Nothe also served 36 years in the Monson Fire Department and also as a volunteer firefighter.

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe retires

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe officially retired from the fire department after 37 years of service to the town on Aug. 9.

Nothe also served for 36 years in the Monson Fire Department and also served as a volunteer firefighter.

In a retirement celebration at the fire department surrounded by family, friends and members and

retirees from Wilbraham and several neighboring fire departments including the towns of Monson, Ludlow, Palmer, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow, Nothe was honored for his many years of fire service and dedication to the community.

Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell reflected on Nothe's career, where he began working at Bill's Sonoco in Monson in June 1977 and then obtained his national certification as an emergency medical technician on May 24, 1978, becoming a firefighter/EMT for the Monson Fire Department in April 1979 and later

applying to become a firefighter in Wilbraham on January 8, 1987.

From there, Bunnell said Nothe was appointed by the Select Board--known then as the Board of Selectmen--in 1987 and reported for duty on November 9, working his way through the ranks and later becoming fire captain on July 1, 2008, and deputy fire chief on February 28, 2017, also serving as acting fire chief when called to do so.

She added how Nothe “has upheld his oath of serving the people

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Friends of Wilbraham Seniors hosts fundraiser

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors returned to Manny's on Boston Road on Aug. 10 for their \$500 worth of lottery tickets fundraiser event.

The Friends raised nearly \$500 during the two-day event, with proceeds going towards the senior center.

With a full lotto tower on display with last year's scratch-offs, the Friends connected with people as they stopped by, sharing about the fundraiser and what the Friends does to support the senior center.

The drawing for the \$500 lotto raffle prize takes place on Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. on the front porch of the senior center. The senior center itself will not be open that day.

Participants who may want to

take part the day of will have a chance when last-minute drawings for the raffle open at 1 p.m. the same day.

Dee Mitchell, the corresponding secretary for the Friends, said tickets for the raffle can be purchased at the senior center or mailed in, with a fundraising goal set at \$5,000.

“I’ve been very happy with the results and the towers seem to sell themselves and local businesses--the banks--have been very good about letting us display at Monson Savings and Country Bank and we appreciate that,” Mitchell said. “We meet a lot of nice people and we invite them to come to the new senior center if they haven’t attended.”

Mitchell expressed gratitude for the community support.

“It’s great. The community--and not just Wilbraham, but surrounding communities too--



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Lisa Coolidge, Kari Mongeau, store manager at Manny's, Chuck Pelouze and Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, pose for a group photo on Aug. 10.

--have been very supportive of that and many of our members at the senior center come from sur-

rounding communities and take part in the programs that we have to offer,” Mitchell said.

On what the Friends have been up to since the new senior center opened on April 20, Mitchell shared in addition to their current fundraiser, there have been dine-outs at Crazy Jake's.

She added another dine-out is planned at Uno's--date to be determined--and the Annual Holiday Bazaar is coming up on Nov. 23 at the senior center.

“We’ll have raffles, we’ll have bake sales, a light lunch that can be purchased. Santa will be there listening to Christmas wishes and Miss Deb is going to be reading holiday stories,” Mitchell said. “We also hope to have a couple of community representatives with different organizations--nonprofits and all that--will be there. We’re looking forward to it it’s always popular. We have between 25 and 30

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Dinner at Hampden Library wraps up Summer Reading



The set up of the Town House Auditorium for the Hampden Free Public Library's Summer Reading Finale Party for the kids.



Attendees wait in line for their dinner plates.



A list of sponsors for the Summer Reading Program. Donations include money but also supplies and things for events like prizes or food.

Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The library's Summer Reading Program finished strong with their finale dinner on Aug. 1, sponsored by the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library and starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Town House Auditorium.

On their way in, each child in attendance received a raffle ticket to write their name on so they could win some prizes being handed out at the end of the evening.

Kate Rumplik, the library's youth services librarian, was running the event and expressed gratitude for all their sponsors and the tradition they help carry. "We've been doing this party for so many years, it's a nice tradition at this point," Rumplik said.

The event began the way the best ones do: with food. Everyone got in line and chose from ziti with meat sauce or buttered ziti; with, of course, Parmesan

cheese as an optional topping.

Salad and bread were also served.

When most of the attendees finished, Rumplik got up to make a couple of announcements and to hand out prizes, thanking everyone for coming and for all the readers for their participation over the summer.

"We had over 100 kids sign up," Rumplik said. "With over 690 hours worth of reading."

Two readers, aged four and five years old, were asked what their favorite book from their summer reading was. Unicorns and fairies seemed to be the thing that drew them in the most.

"It's a unicorn search book, but she loves it," Christy said, mom of the incoming preschooler.

"We've been reading the Rainbow Magic series, and Am-



Prizes for the readers included one from the gray bin-- such as bouncy balls or hand-held puzzles-- and either a picture book or a chapter book depending on age.

ber the Orange Fairy is her favorite," Sarah said, mom of the incoming kindergartner.

Every child in attendance that participated in the summer reading program received a packet of gift certificates, their choice from a box of handheld toys and their choice of either a picture book or a chapter book. The gift certificates were donated by sponsors and included a round of golf at Fenway Golf in East Longmeadow, a free pizza

slice at Gio's and a free ice cream cone from Mountain View Restaurant.

After prizes were given out, the cake—that was made and donated by Village Food Mart—was cut and handed out. More prizes donated by sponsors were raffled off with the tickets each child filled out on their way in.

The first was a trip to the Holyoke Children's Museum, then a trip to the Eric Carle Museum, followed by the next prize as a coupon for Yankee Candle and the last prize was VIP admission to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

These prizes were not the main thing motivating these readers, however.

Continued participation in the summer reading program is encouraged by events held at the library throughout the summer, and Rumplik even started a motivator she calls 'Read and Beads'. For every 15 minutes or so of reading, participants get a bead and the goal is to build a whole necklace. Also, those who read above a certain number of hours get invited to Wilbraham's End of Summer Reading Party at Interskate 91.

Rumplik sent a thank you to the



The cake, also made and donated by Village Food Mart.

Hampden Cultural Council for their ongoing support and gave a special shoutout to Village Food Mart and the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library, both major contributors to the day's event.

"We have a long list of sponsors, and we couldn't do these types of events without them," Rumplik said. "This dinner is especially thanks to Village Food Mart. They donate a majority of the food, and the Friends cover the rest."

One of the members of the Friends was Catherine Mahoney. She was a teacher in Wilbraham for 34 years and has found similar fulfillment during retirement by volunteering with the Friends.

"It's incredibly important to cultivate a community of life-long readers," Mahoney said. "One goal of ours is to encourage kids of any age to be on-going learners. Watching them grow from year to year—there's just nothing else like it."

The library will continue to post information about upcoming events during the school year on their Facebook page.

To learn more, visit hampdepubliclibrary.org.

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Wilbraham In-Person Early Voting Hours

WILBRAHAM - The State Primary is being held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Registered voters in Massachusetts will be able to cast their ballots in-person before the State Primary. Registered voters in Wilbraham can come to Town Hall during scheduled business hours listed below to cast their ballot. In-person Early Voting

will take place at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., on the following dates/times:

Hours of Early Voting:
 Saturday, August 24, 2024
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Monday, August 26
 thru Friday, August 30, 2024
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Historical Society presents talk on USS Arizona survivor

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Historical Society at Academy Hall, 616 Main St. on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 6:30 p.m., presents Jason Burgener, veterans service officer, will talk on the last living survivor on a USS Battleship, Arizona: Attack on Pearl Harbor, who passed at 102 years old. All welcome. Questions, call Linda at 413-566-8447.

Selectmen revisit suggestions for Fall Town Meeting

Highlights include start time, electronic voting

By Kristin Rivers
 Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen revisited suggestions on how to improve Fall Town Meeting on Aug. 12.

This week, Selectman John Flynn suggested an alternative start time of 6:30 p.m., as opposed to 7 p.m.

"Would the board be amenable to thinking about 6:30? There's nothing in the bylaws about the Special Town Meeting start time. It's only the Annual Town Meeting," Flynn said.

Chair Don Davenport asked about the suggestion.

"Would earlier cause greater concerns for people with their supper?" Davenport said.

Flynn elaborated further.

"I know that our Annual Town Meeting has just as many issues, but again, we get back to the fact that the first ten of them are 'thank you, thank you and thank you.' Whereas, the ones here are all something that engenders some discussion and I think is a good possibility we could be out late," Flynn said. "And I think starting a little earlier especially when we want engagement with families and possible childcare would help. I submit it but we haven't posted yet and I throw it out there. I don't think it would be a bad idea to talk about 6:30 for a start time and see how it works out."

Selectman Craig Rivest said the 6:30 start time "could be feasible" but it would need to be publicized well because "people are going to be used to seven."

"And then if we consider using childcare, we need to get whoever's on board with that so we know that's an option if we're going to do that," Rivest said.

Flynn agreed on reaching out. "The Girl Scouts did a thing one time, Minnechaug has a thing with their early childhood and they get community credits for doing it too," Flynn said.

"I don't know if there's any waivers people need to sign or any legalities to it," Rivest added.

When Davenport asked if the board wanted to look into it further, Flynn said yes and Rivest added his support.

"I think it's a great idea," Rivest said.

On electronic voting, Flynn said he saw Town Moderator Richard Green the other day and "got a couple things

that he's worked out" and is in favor of the idea.

Davenport then said this. "I'm just thinking that there's several issues on there that might be controversial that people would rather not," Davenport said.

When Rivest asked if electronic voting should be tested out at Fall Town Meeting, Flynn replied yes.

After the board discussed possible ideas on obtaining the electronic voting items whether by buying or leasing them from other towns, Davenport wondered about the number to get.

"We say, 'Okay, we normally get 200 people at a town meeting, so we order 200 and then--say--400 show up,'" Davenport said.

Flynn said Green would check to see if there was an emergency borrow option.

"I can rent 250, but I can order an actual 200 whenever I need them," Flynn said.

Davenport agreed to have the board look into these ideas further and see where to go from there.



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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe, on his last day serving the Wilbraham Fire Department, watches as Fire Commissioner Ed Rigley provides remarks during Nothe's retirement celebration on Aug. 9.



Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe shakes hands with State Fire Marshal Jon Davine after being presented with a certificate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security recognizing his many years of service to the Wilbraham Fire Department.



Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe shakes hands with Select Board Sue Bunnell after being presented with a commendation from the Town of Wilbraham for his many years serving in the Wilbraham Fire Department.

NOTHE from page 1

of Wilbraham to the best of his ability" and dedicated his life to saving others and touching countless lives throughout his career.

"Whereas Deputy Fire Chief Nothe has accumulated a wealth of knowledge in the field of firefighting and emergency management--which is difficult to quantify and impossible to replace--and has generously shared this knowledge as a teacher to aspiring and experienced firefighters and paramedics alike, leaving a legacy of knowledge about Wilbraham Fire Department's history, culture, values, processes and practices," Bunnell said.

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine presented a certificate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, congratulating Nothe "on an amazing career."

"My 25 years in Northampton, I heard his name several, several times. I think everybody in Western Mass has met him and

knows him and he's very well-respected out there and had a fantastic career," Davine said.

Fire Commissioner Ed Rigney next presented a token of appreciation to Nothe.

"Pete, I think you have touched many, many of the people here. Young and old and there's probably no one more deserving of enjoying a retirement than you," Rigney said.

Fire Chief Michael Andrews presented an axe to Nothe on behalf of the fire department "for all his dedication and hard work he put into this department."

"He's somebody that truly cared about the department and that it was always at its best. He worried about the little details that we all need to worry about to keep the place running and it doesn't go unnoticed. The institutional knowledge he possesses is irreplaceable," Andrews said.

Andrews also thanked Nothe for his guidance and support when he became fire chief.



A photo of Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe in full uniform in a slideshow photo displayed during Nothe's retirement party from the Wilbraham Fire Department.



A slice of cake and photos from Deputy Fire Chief Peter Nothe's time serving with the Wilbraham Fire Department were on full display during his retirement celebration at the fire department on Aug. 9.

"He said to me, 'I'm going to give you my opinion on everything and no matter what the decision is, I'm going to support it 100%' and he held true to that from day one until today," Andrews said. "So, I'm very grateful for that and I wish you the best in your retirement."

David Bourcier, retired fire chief and 37-year veteran of the fire department, reflected on serving alongside Nothe and commended him for his commitment to the job.

"You are one of the most committed people I ever have known in the fire service and again, I'm really proud that you made it to this point," Bourcier said. "Congratulations on everything, I really loved working with you and it was great and--just as Chief Andrews said--you bring a lot to this department and when you were my deputy and stuff, it was fantastic. I was able to count on you for so many things and I just really appreciate it."

Nothe said he loved his job, inspired to become a firefighter after his brother, Francis, was fire chief in Wilbraham and served on the Volunteer Department in Monson.

He also credits his wife, Bonnie, for her support, adding his son, Andrew, now serves in the fire department and his nephew is too, serving at the Longmeadow Fire Department.

"I fell in love with it from day one. I eat, drink and sleep it, I really do. I've been blessed that my wife understood it from the get-go. She knew that there would be times I'm not there, I got to leave for something or work overtime. She understood it, she was always supportive of it. Never a complaint. I owe her a big debt of gratitude for this. I might not be where I am if it wasn't for her supporting me in this career," Nothe said.

Reflecting on his career, Nothe shared he enjoyed interacting with the community, being out on the job and moving up the ranks after receiving encouragement.

"I'm very blessed with the opportunities I've had. If I could rewrite my career or my career path, I honestly don't think I'd change a thing," Nothe said. "Things just fell into place when they were supposed to. I'm very grateful, very blessed for all of that stuff."

Nothe's advice to future and aspiring firefighters is to come in and learn the culture, with his greatest lessons focused on perspective.

"Once you learn it, once you understand it, you really come to love it," Nothe said. "It truly is a family. Learn the ways of your family here at the department and you will learn to love it completely."

Nothe's message to the community was this: "I'm leaving them in good hands."

"As I said before, I wouldn't hesitate to trust my life, my property, my family on anybody in this building right now. They're all great guys, they're very talented guys, they're dedicated. You're in good hands with this department," Nothe said. "I think the town's very lucky to have this group of guys and this department."



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VIEWPOINTS

I was self-employed and don't have enough credits for Social Security

Dear Rusty:

For a thirty-year period, I was making a living as an independent contractor and freelancer.

I was working on behalf of myself. Thus, I was only paying state and federal taxes when applied. Due to changes in the employment landscape, I wish to apply for benefits at age sixty-four, as receiving said SS benefits would serve as supplemental income to what I would be receiving from outside sources.

I recently discovered through the SSA that I do not have enough "points" to apply for Social Security benefits. What would be the method to obtain those required points in order to receive benefits? **Signed: Needing Points**

Dear Needing:

Social Security is an earned benefit and eligibility is attained by contributing to SS through FICA payroll taxes or Self-Employment tax on your net earnings from self-employment, over your lifetime. You must have at least 40 "quarters of credit" to be eligible for Social Security benefits essentially you must work one quarter of each year earning at least a specified amount during that quarter to earn one credit and you can earn a maximum of four credits for each year you work.

The amount of earnings per credit varies each year, but for 2024, work earnings of \$1,730 give you one credit (annual work earnings of \$6,920 earn four credits). Usually, you must contribute to Social Security for about ten years to be eligible for benefits.

You must have earned at least 40 quarter



credits to collect Social Security retirement benefits/ If you have less than 40 you are not eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For self-employed individuals, SECA SS tax is paid when you file your federal income tax return – you pay into Social Security when filing your annual Self-Employment income tax return (the self-employed must pay both the employee and the employer portion of Social Security tax).

If you did not file an income tax return for each year over your lifetime you were self-employed, you didn't earn any SS credits for that year. You pay SECA tax on your net earnings from self-employment (after all business expenses are deducted).

If you are just a few credits short of the 40 necessary to be eligible for benefits, you can still earn those extra credits needed by working and paying SS FICA or SECA taxes on your work earnings. For each \$1,730 earned this year, you will earn one SS credit, up to a maximum of four per year.

But you must contribute to Social Security from those earnings – if you work as a company employee you will have FICA taxes withheld from your earnings, and if you are still self-employed you would need to pay SECA taxes on net earnings over \$6,920 when you

file your self-employment income tax return. You would need to do that for as long as it takes for you to attain the minimum 40 quarter credits needed to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. (FYI: you cannot "buy" the extra points needed; you need to earn them by working and contributing to Social Security from your earnings).

One final point: whenever SS benefits are claimed before one's Full Retirement Age Social Security's "earnings test" applies. The earnings test limits how much you can earn from working before some of your SS benefits are taken away. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA and, if you turned 64 this year, your FRA is 67. Self-employed individuals are also subject to an hourly limit of 15 to 45 working hours per month in their first year of early retirement.

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

Tomato dreams and then there's reality

I always have such high hopes for my tomato plants.

They go into the ground so healthy and green and for the first few weeks manage to stay that way. Then the inevitable yellowing and dropping of some bottom leaves happens from early blight.

The plants are outgrowing their cages and this point, though, so I just accept this as a normal condition and get excited for the first harvest. Some tomatoes look OK, but others are exhibiting strange, less than perfect, symptoms.

Read on to learn which conditions are which and what that means for your harvest.

My paste tomatoes in particular seem to always be susceptible to blossom end rot. It looks exactly as it sounds and is characterized by leathery brown or black spots on the bottom of the fruit.

Usually, it is seen on the first few developing tomatoes and occurs when there is trouble with calcium absorption.

The plan of action for this year would be to regulate your watering, since calcium assimilation can get botched up when plants suffer from drought. Applying a layer of mulch will help to encourage the deep rooting that is essential for nutrient transmission.

In the meantime, send a sample of your soil off to the UMass Extension Service Soil Testing Lab and adjust calcium levels per their recommendation if need be. If by chance you are growing a new variety of tomato and are experiencing blossom end rot for the first time, consider switching to another variety; some are more susceptible to it than others.

In my garden it is habitually only the paste tomatoes that suffer.

Regarding harvest and use: if you cut the end of the tomato off and then cut into the seed cavity and there is no black area, feel free to use. Sometimes there will be sections of black within the cavity but not always.

This malady can also be seen on peppers and eggplants. Sometimes, though, sun scald can sort of look like blossom end rot in peppers. Planting peppers closer together so that foliage shields developing fruit can help with that issue.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in



rings or radiating downward is caused by over-watering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A little over a week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week. Adjust your irrigation to accommodate.

As mentioned above, mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often! If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven't begun to show mold, I use the fruit anyway.

Another problem many gardeners experience is a condition called yellow shoulders, in which tomatoes never ripen fully on the top or stem end. This is usually a genetic problem, but it can be lessened by allowing the fruit to ripen slowly under the cover of surrounding foliage rather than out in the open.

High organic matter content and a pH of 6.4 or lower is said to help with this condition – another good reason to have your soil tested and see where it stands.

You can still use these tomatoes. Simply cut that portion off or use it regardless.

These conditions don't have to mean the end of your harvest. By working around the issues, making some minor adjustments and choosing appropriate resistant varieties, tomato sauce is still in your future!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to dzberski@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

Correction Policy

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

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

CAMPUS NOTES

Cronin graduates from Fairfield University

Molly Cronin of Wilbraham graduated from Fairfield University, May 2024.

At the time of graduation, a student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits and completed at least 38 three- or four-credit courses, depending on the course of study, and have an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better at the conclusion of the senior year.

Memory Café at the Wilbraham Senior Center

WILBRAHAM – The senior center will be hosting a Memory Café the first Monday of every month at 11 a.m.

Memory Café is an informal social gathering where you can participate in activities that help retain and possibly improve memory skills. It is open to everyone who wants to work on their brain power. It is especially helpful to those suffering memory loss and their caregivers.

- Prevent social isolation
- Form new friendships
- Make the reality of memory loss less traumatic
- Stimulate happy memories through creative arts and music
- Give caregivers a chance to have fun with the mature adult
- Caregivers learn techniques to assist in their caregiver role

Call Barbara Harrington at 596-8379 to register and for more information.

Fall into Art Art Show

HAMPDEN – The Scantic River Artisans present the “Fall into Art Art Show” on Sept. 13 and 14 at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.

We invite you to experience, explore and purchase the diverse art on display.

The two-day show takes place from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 13, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 14, with a reception from Noon to 2 p.m.

The New England Mosaic will also be featured in the show!

The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 264 individual canvas “tiles” painted by over 200 area artists that capture the beauty and diversity of New England life. The tiles will be for sale and the proceeds will fund scholarships for area art students.

To learn more, email: info@scanticriverartisans.com or visit www.scanticriverartisans.com.

Fall Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM – A fall storytime session will be held at the Wilbraham Public Library starting on Thursday, September 19 and continuing weekly for six weeks. Children ages 3 1/2 - 5 are invited to join us at the library for a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and crafts. Kids must come in independently and parents/ caretaker must wait in the library. 10 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday Sept. 19, Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct. 17 and Oct. 24.

Registration is required and starts on August 19 at 9 a.m. Space is limited! Sign ups are for the six week session. To sign up, visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or contact the library at 413-596-6141. This programs is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Wilbraham Notice to Voters: Registration

WILBRAHAM – From the office of the Board of Registrars of Voters:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Registrars of Voters is in session.

**Dates Monday - Friday
Times 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Places Town Clerk's Office
Saturday August 24, 2024
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Town Clerk's Office

**(Last Day to Register and change party enrollment for State Primary)*

for the purpose of registering voters for the State Primary to be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 and to make any necessary corrections in the list of voters.

QUALIFICATIONS: An applicant for registration must be at least 18 years of age by the date of the election, a citizen of the United States and a resident of this city or town.

A registered voter who chooses to adopt a new name by decree of court or as a result of marriage shall continue to be registered in his/her former name until June first of the following year at which time the voter shall be registered in his/her new name; provided, however, that if such voter appears in person prior to the close of registration for any preliminary, primary, or election to notify the registrars of such adoption of a new name, the registrars shall correct the current annual register so that such voter shall be registered in his/her new name. (G.L. Chapter 51, sec 2 as amended)

If a qualified voter whose name was on the voter's list last year finds after close of registration that his/her name has been omitted from the current list by mistake or that there is a clerical error in the listing, he may apply to correct the omission or error.

If the application is made on Election Day, he/she may have a certificate to vote. Call the Board of Registrars' Office, 413-596-2800, ext. 200, for information:

- If you are unable because of physical disability to appear in person to register, or
- If you wish to verify your voting status.

Wilbraham Vote-By-Mail and Absentee Voting

WILBRAHAM - Vote-by-mail ballots and absentee ballots are now available for the upcoming

State Primary scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024. A request in writing is

required for obtaining an early or absentee ballot. An application to request a ballot can

be found on the Wilbraham Town Website and

Secretary of State's website. Please call

596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

For the Vote by Mail Paper Application, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/download/vote-by-mail-applications/vote-by-mail-paper-application-2023.pdf>.

To register to vote or change name/address on voter registration, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

SELECTMEN from page 1

discretion to decide either way.”

On whether the board could get clarification from their attorney before their meeting for the appeals court, Davenport said the answer was no.

“We have two choices at this point: file an appeal of the judgment or seek clarification from the court regarding how they want the Planning Board to proceed. We cannot get the clarification before our decision must be made to appeal, which by the way the deadline is tomorrow,” Davenport said.

On whether the imposition of reasonable conditions is warranted—including the 21 conditions in

the ruling—means additional conditions could be added, Davenport said their attorney said yes.

“Provided they are reasonable and are not restrictive that they, are, essentially act as a denial of the special permit,” Davenport said.

If the new board—the Planning Board—could add those new conditions and how could that be done due to two members having not participated in the original hearing, Davenport said this.

“The attorney said that requires clarification from the land court. State law requires that votes for special permit and conditions must have four affirmative votes by planning members who attended all hearings, other than one allowed absence,” Davenport said. “The Planning Board and whatever form the land court tells us to take would have to vote on every condition and receive four affirmative votes.”

If the Planning Board adds new conditions and the plaintiff objects, Davenport explained the avenue would be the applicant could appeal after the special permit decision post-hearing.

“The Planning Board must grant the special permit, but there could be a fight over whether the conditions are reasonable. Abutters or other opponents could, also, try to appeal the decision,” Davenport said. “Although, it would be an uphill battle with the land court has already ordered that a special permit must be granted.”

Regarding one of the new Planning Board members having been an opponent of the project and testified about it at the hearing if they would need to recuse themselves, Davenport said the attorney responded this.

“Whether or not a new member is even eligible to vote on any of this is an unanswered question that we need clarification from the land court to address. If new members could vote, then the issue of the possible conflict is for the member in question to address personally,” Davenport said. “Which raised, personally, for myself, the question of

whether the former chairperson who was recently reappointed could vote because of these expatriate communications with the plaintiffs and his attacks on the board and myself personally. He said recusal questions are left to the individual board members.”

After Selectman John Flynn clarified the 50/50 is about the rewarded damages, Davenport affirmed that was correct.

“The 50/50 refers to whether they reward damages or not,” Davenport said.

Flynn said after getting opinions from their attorney and Town Administrator Brian Domina, he agreed on the concerns about the appeal being frivolous and “opening the door to potential damages.”

“I think we have the opportunity to use the Planning Board's process to impose reasonable additional conditions as well and put it in their hands to protect the town from that standpoint,” Flynn said. “So, I would be not in favor of proceeding with an appeal to this decision.”

Selectman Craig Rivest was also not in favor of moving forward with an appeal.

“Based on town council's opinion, I don't feel comfortable with the appeal process,” Rivest said.

Davenport's final thoughts focused on this being one of those rare occasions “where your personal feelings have to be subservient to your stewardship of the town's funds and the process.”

“You know I have some substantial issues with certain things. However, I think that as a steward for the town's funds and (a) practical matter in additionally being concerned about the other applicant, now, filing to reconsider—that decision, I would, reluctantly, vote not to appeal,” Davenport said.

The motion to not appeal the Garvey v. Hampden Lawsuit (Self-Storage) passed 3-0.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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Hartsprings Bin Reminder

HAMPDEN - As you can see, items such as this great stuffed sea animal was given to us. However, he didn't quite fit in the bin, so I helped and pulled her out to wait for The Hartsprings Driver to arrive with his big truck to take it for a ride to its new home to redistribute. Thank you to the anonymous person who donated this and most likely many other items as well.

The bin will remain in this location

at The Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street in Hampden and we accept all cloth items such as clothing, bedding, towels, shoes, purses, books, small kitchen items along with dishes, glassware and small microwaves and toaster ovens.

The bin cannot take bed pillows or textbooks or encyclopedias..

If you have any questions as to what can be accepted or if your bags are too

large, please call Joan at 566-8224 or leave with the Hampden Senior Center between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Submitted photo and caption Joan Shea
Joan Shea who manages the Hartsprings Bin for The Hampden Senior Center.



Adults, teens celebrate end of Summer Reading at library



The adults gathered in the Rochford Reading Room for the Adults Summer Reading Finale Party at the Hampden Free Public Library.



A close-up of tie-dye tote bags teens made during their Summer Reading Finale Party on Aug. 3.



Director Ellen Moriarty gets ready to pick out the next raffle winner at the Adults Summer Reading Finale Party on Aug. 3.



Brigid Choiniere was this year's big winner upon winning the Mystery Raffle Basket for Teen Summer Reading.



A tie-dye project with a mix of blues and greens at the Teens Summer Reading Finale Party.



Isabella Kupis holds up her movie night raffle basket she won during the Teen Summer Reading Finale Party in Hampden. The teens' party took place in the Town House Auditorium.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

By Kristin Rivers
 Editor
 krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Adults and teens gathered at Noon on Aug. 3 to celebrate the end of this year's Summer Reading program with finale parties.

The adults gathered in the Rochford Reading Room while the teens were downstairs in the Town House Auditorium.

For the teens, they enjoyed a tie-dye event and music with Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard announcing the winners of raffle baskets including a Swiftie raffle basket for the ultimate Taylor Swift fan, a movie night basket, an Anime and Manga-themed raffle basket, a cozy reading raffle basket, a gamer-themed raffle basket, an

arts and crafts raffle basket, a mystery raffle basket and a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card.

Upstairs, the adults enjoyed treats and conversation while Director Ellen Moriarty was announcing the winners of \$50 gift cards for Casa Bella, Bilton's Mountainside Orchard, Village Food Mart, Gio's, La Cucina, Bagel Nook and the Mountain View Restaurant.

Moriarty and Girard also shared the results of this year's summer reading.

For the adults, over 100 adults signed up, reading over 500 books and sharing their favorite five-star reads in a binder so the community can check out their recommendations.

Meanwhile, for the teens, 58 teens in grades five through 12 signed up, reading for over 1,245

hours, with 23 teens reading at least 20 hours this summer.

Moriarty was ecstatic about the participation and getting to see patrons at the finale party.

"It's a fun get-together to talk about what you're reading in the summer, what you read, recommendations for future reading," Moriarty said. "I, also, have all of our programming out for the whole fall for everyone to see."

The upcoming programs, Moriarty explained, include three book clubs: the Saturday Book Club every third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m., the Social Justice Book Club & Film Series every fourth Thursday of the month and the Silent Book Club the second Saturday of the month at Noon.

Additional programming includes Matt York's tribute to Johnny Cash on Sept. 21 at Noon and Fall Yoga Classes.

"Everything is free and they're very popular programs. We hope to get a lot of people to come

and participate," Moriarty said.

Moriarty was thrilled with the success of this year's summer reading, crediting the local businesses, the Hampden and Massachusetts Cultural Councils and the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library for their generosity and support.

"It means a lot to me. It shows that reading is still very important in people's lives," Moriarty said. "Even though there's a lot of ways to read these days, people are still reading and it's very, very important."

Girard was excited to see many teens come for the finale party and take part in summer reading, adding tracking the number of hours has been more helpful and welcoming for participants.

"It's so exciting when the teens come in and say 'I've read so and so many hours' and it is really just so exciting to know that they're reading that much and they're excited for it," Girard said. "Our goal, really, is to just have teens reading when they're not in school just to stay engaged in a very low-stakes, fun kind of reading experience."

On upcoming fall events, Gi-

rard shared they include a De-stress with Tucker from Bright Spot Therapy Dogs event on Aug. 24 at Noon, the Anime & Manga Club beginning Sept. 12 at 4 p.m., a Sip & Stitch Crochet Club every first Saturday of the month beginning on Sept. 7 at 11 a.m., a DIY Trinket Box craft on Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. and a Book to Movie Book Club on Sept. 28 at 11 a.m.

Girard thanked the teens for taking part in summer reading and their enthusiasm for reading and supporting the library and its programming.

She also thanked everyone for their support of the programming and for putting together the raffle baskets.

"It really helps to create that community feel when everyone's home and doing random things in the summer," Girard said. "We really can't do it without our community. It's really community-based so we're really grateful for that."

Moriarty's message was this. "Great job! Keep reading! Keep coming to the library! We have programs for everyone: the littles, the teens and the adults," Moriarty said.

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Kathy Kennedy and Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, chat with residents stopping by to participate in the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors' \$500 worth of lottery tickets raffle.



A full show of the lotto tower for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors' \$500 worth of lottery tickets fundraiser to support the Wilbraham Senior Center.

FRIENDS from page 1

crafters, some regulars and then we have some new ones that are going to have some awesome products that they produce. So, we're excited about it."

Mitchell thanked Manny's for having the Friends hold their fundraiser and for their support.

"We thank Manny's for letting us have the space to do this on this tax-free weekend and all the businesses that support the senior center and the nonprofit organizations," Mitchell said.

Kari Mongeau, the store manager at Manny's, said the business was happy to support the Friends.

"It's very important to us to partner with our local organizations because it does everything for the community and that's what we're really all about," Mongeau said. "Trying to help our community and build it up so that we can all be prosperous."

Mongeau enjoys giving back and partnering with the Friends for events like the fundraiser.

"I enjoy helping out our community very much and it's always nice for the Friends of Seniors to come down and be part of our tax-free weekend and they give away out really nice prizes to our customers," Mongeau said. "Also, it helps them with their financial needs as well."

Mongeau wants the community to know how much they enjoy giving back to the community.

"If not for our community, we wouldn't be the prosperous business that we are today. So, we always like to give back to whoever we can and especially when the community has been such a huge part of why we're able to be in business today," Mongeau said.

Mitchell thanked everyone on behalf of the Friends for their support and they will be kept posted on who the winner is, wishing everyone good luck.

"We're thrilled. We appreciate all the donations that people made to buy raffle tickets in hopes to win," Mitchell said. "The support has been great whether it's mailing in the tickets or buying them here and again, thank you to Manny's for letting us set up here. We very much appreciate it and to the volunteers that help us sell these."

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.

Dance students heading to Poland to represent Team USA at IDO

MRHS student part of foursome

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Four local dance students, including an incoming junior at Minnechaug Regional High School, are headed to Poland this November to represent Team USA in the IDO Dance and Acrobatics World Championships.

IDO is known as the International Dance Organization, which has been around for 40 years and is a nonprofit organization World Dance and Dancesport Federation with over 90 members and contact nations, representing more than 500,000 dancers from all six continents.

Recently, after a bid process, the girls were in Atlantic City, New Jersey for a nine-hour audition to make the cut for Team USA. They will now be part of teams for Jazz, Contemporary Dance, Acro and Lyrical.

The foursome are Minnechaug student Madisyn Vasquez, Paige Bordeau who attends Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Thea Cosgrove of Suffield, Connecticut



Submitted photos Christina Bordeau
Thea Cosgrove, Madisyn Vasquez, Paige Bordeau and Karielys Rivera pose for a fun photo with their medals.

and Karielys Rivera who attends Longmeadow High School.

They are, also, students, at Dazzle Studio of Dance in Agawam.

A Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser event to support the girls' trip to Poland will take place on Sept. 20 at Ste. Rose de Lima Church in Chicopee, with a \$40 donation including 10 games, a bingo marker, a door prize ticket and light refresh-

ments. Anyone interested in attending the fundraiser can reserve their tickets at cbordeau13@gmail.com or call 413-534-5657, and sponsors are being sought.

The girls are, also, thankful, to Father Gentile from Ste. Rose de Lima Church and Kurt LaPlante and Chris McDaniels from Saint

Please see **DANCE**, page 20




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A COMMUNITY GALLERY

WPL holds Teen Tie Dye event



Submitted photos Rachel Hapgood

Teens took part in a tie dye event at the Wilbraham Public Library on July 23, creating their own tie dye t-shirts! The event was sponsored by the Friends of Wilbraham Public Library.

Life in & WILBRAHAM

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

The Times on the Appalachian Trail!



Photos and captions by Lisa Jones

Lisa Jones, left, and Michelle Tremblay, both from Wilbraham, section h Appalachian Trail. Starting at the Ny/NJ border and both making it to the border. Lisa Jones then went on to solo hike to the CT/MA border. It was a great experience and we bring a little bit of Wilbraham with them!

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



WPD receives donation from Wilbraham Junior Women's Club

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

The Wilbraham Police Department received a special donation from the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club on Aug. 9, thanking the organization in a post on Facebook: "Thank you Wilbraham Junior Women's Club! We think you're pretty great too. For those who don't know, the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club was formed in 1977 by a group of women interested in improving our community."



Wilbraham United Church presents gifts to WPD!

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

Summer program participants at Wilbraham United Church presented a gift to the Wilbraham Police Department on Aug. 4. The police department shared this thank on their Facebook page: "Thank you to the participants of Wilbraham United Church's summer program for their sign of encouragement and the bucket of snacks. It is greatly appreciated."



on Lisa Jones
hiked the
the NY/CT
s nice to

WPD spreading the word about Route 20 Scrap Metal Theft



Photos and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department
The police department is spreading the word about a scrap metal theft that took place on Route 20 on July 28. In a post shared to Facebook, the police department shared this information from the Monson Police Department, asking for help to identify the people and trucks involved in the theft: "The Monson Police Department is actively seeking the public's assistance in identifying these vehicles and their occupants who were just involved in a scrap metal theft from a business on Rt. 20 on July 28. Vehicles were last seen traveling eastbound towards Palmer. Anyone with information is asked to call Sgt. Szymanski at (413) 893-9500 Ext. 116. Callers can remain anonymous."



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Wildlife on Wheels visits Wilbraham Public Library



Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley
A close-up of Meatball, a Lionhead Rabbit.



A close-up of Linguini, the corn snake.



Attendees were allowed to touch each animal, but gently and with only two fingers on their backs.



Stephanie holds Meatball, a Lionhead Rabbit, for a child in the audience to pet.



Stephanie shows the audience the first animal, a Blue-Tongued Skink.

The Forest Park Zoo is a non-profit organization that feeds their animals primarily with the money they make from ticket sales. They take care of animals that have been injured, surrendered or have been there since birth. Stephanie, the lead educator at Forest Park Zoo, brought five different animal species for the event. The first friend Stephanie brought out was Aero, a Blue-Tongued Skink. "Aero is what is called a bottom-dweller," she said. "So, the colors of his body help him blend into the brown and black dirt and rocks, but the brightly colored blue tongue lets other animals know that he may be poisonous

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Brooks Room at the library temporarily transformed into a zoo on Aug. 1 with a visit from Wildlife on Wheels

through the Forest Park Zoo. Sponsored by The Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library, members of the community had the opportunity to meet and learn about some interesting friends at the Wildlife on Wheels event. The event, according to Jaime

Hageman, the children's librarian, is in conjunction with the theme for their summer reading program. "The theme is Read, Renew, Repeat," Hageman said. "It's all about conservation."

Please see **WILDLIFE**, page 13



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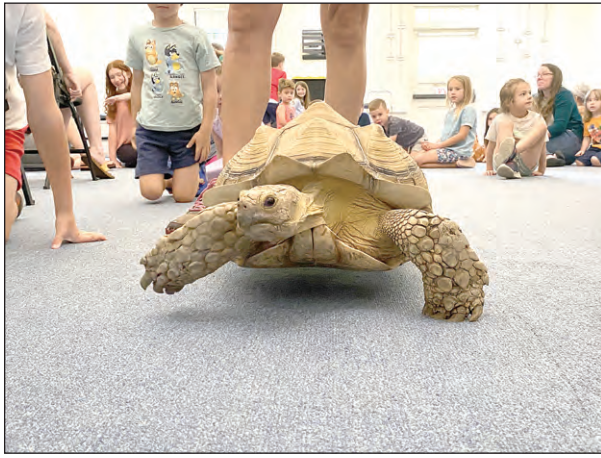
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Sully's shell has spine and nerve endings running all the way through. He has the same shell now as he did when he was born; it grows along with him.



The fifth and final animal, Sully, is an African Spur Tortoise. His maximum speed is not very fast, but boy is he trying.



Not to be outdone by Aero or Linguini, Piros shows off his tongue in a close-up photo.

WILDLIFE from page 12

and should stay away."
Aero is not actually poisonous, but the blue tongue is significant for him as a defense mechanism. Aero is natively from Australia and eats insects and vegetation. At Forest Park Zoo, his favorite treat is crickets.
The next animal came out of a bag rather than a box, because of their reputation as escape artists. Linguini is a corn snake and is much safer traveling in a pillowcase or snake bag since it's dark, confined and harder to escape from.
Linguini came from a clutch of eggs that, due to their size and yellow coloring, looked like cooked spaghetti, so naturally all the hatchlings got pasta names.
Linguini is five years old and was born at the Zoo, even though corn snakes are natively found in the southernmost states of the

U.S. Linguini is, like Aero, ectothermic and also has a significant use for her tongue.
Unlike Aero, however, Linguini's tongue is not for warding off potential predators.
Linguini smells the surrounding area with her tongue as it catches air particles and transfers them to the back of her mouth where she has what is called Jacobson's organ that transmits smells to her brain.
"A common misconception with snakes is that they can detach their jaws," she said. "They actually have stretchy ligaments that allow them to open their jaws wide."
The third animal to come out was Piros, an Argentine Tegu. Piros has ginormous cheeks, called jowls, that—in the Animal Kingdom—are what would help him attract a mate.
Piros would also use his muscular tail to fight off predators or

other tegus in the wild, but living at Forest Park Zoo he doesn't have to. Instead, he gets lots of time under a heat lamp and eats raw chicken eggs as dessert.
"During the wintertime, Piros enters what's called a brumation state," she said. "He brings his body temperature way down and moves as little as possible in order to conserve energy."
Not everyone in the audience was a fan of the reptiles. One attendee sat as far back as possible while her son sat on the floor closer to the front of the room.
"I don't do lizards or snakes, but the fluffy things I like," she said.
Much to her relief, the next animal Stephanie introduced was Meatball, a Lionhead Rabbit. They get their name from how much fur grows around their heads, much like a lion.
Meatball was a pet surrender years ago, along with his

mate and eight of their babies who all found homes with the Forest Park staff members.
The last animal the audience met was an African Spur Tortoise named Sully. His spurs can be sharp, but only as a deterrent against potential predators.
In a controlled environment, the African Spur Tortoise can live between 40 and 50 years. Sully is 17 years old and weighs about 68 pounds—and 60 of that is just his shell.
Since Sully is too heavy to be carried around the whole room, attendees lined up to meet him where he stood on the floor.
Stephanie has been with the Forest Park Zoo for years and travels for all kinds of events like

birthday parties, classrooms and senior centers.
"The really young kids or the older adults seem to have the most interest, so most of our events target audiences in those age ranges," said Stephanie. "The zoo is closed during the wintertime, but the animals still get taken out for adventures all year round."
During the summer, the Zoo holds a summer camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. where participants get to do animal-themed activities, encounter the animals and even help prepare their diet.
To learn more, visit forest-parkzoo.org.

Announce Your Wedding or Engagement Share Your Joy! Bridal GUIDE Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE! Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024: Bride's Name: Bride's Town Residence: Groom's Name: Groom's Town Residence: Wedding Date: Wedding Location: EMAIL TO: JAMIE@TURLEY.COM BRIDAL GUIDE 800.824.6548 | www.turley.com Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

Crossword puzzle grid with 65 numbered squares. Includes clues across and down. Clues across include: 1. Major American automaker (abbr.), 4. Pressure measurement, 7. Two-year-old sheep, 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand, 11. Up in the air (abbr.), 12. Actress de Armas, 13. Not moving, 15. Cool!, 16. Bog arum genus, 19. Perceptible by touch, 21. Type of test, 23. Monetary units, 24. Collection of various things, 25. Sum of five and one, 26. Type of sword, 27. Hates, 30. Immobile, 34. Pie __ mode, 35. Moved quickly, 36. Passenger's place on a motorbike, 41. A way through, 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan, 46. Leader, 47. Flowing, 50. Greetings, 54. Remedy, 55. Soft lightweight fabric, 56. Building material, 57. Sea bream, 59. A way to cause to be swollen, 60. One and only, 61. People get one in summer, 62. Wreath, 63. Thus far, 64. They __, 65. Sea eagle. Clues down include: 1. Policemen (French), 2. Toy dog, 3. Inflamed colon disease, 4. Can't move, 5. Helps little firms, 6. Lists of names, subjects, etc., 7. Takes down, 8. Makes possible, 9. Wife of Julius Constantius, 13. Engine additive, 14. Arctic explorers (abbr.), 17. Written account, 18. Consumed, 20. Something the first shall be, 22. No (slang), 27. Gov't lawyers, 28. Peyton's little brother, 29. Small amount, 31. Investment, 32. Fall behind, 33. Midway between northeast and east, 37. Head pain, 38. Popular sport in England and India, 39. King Charles's sister, 40. Boat race, 41. About fish, 42. Maidservant, 43. Able to be marketed, 44. Tinier, 47. Parts per billion (abbr.), 48. Paddle, 49. Oneness, 51. Bitter chemical, 52. Not around, 53. Very fast airplane, 58. Swiss river.

Events & announcements schedule

Here's Your Chance to be a BIG WINNER

WILBRAHAM - Feeling Lucky? The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors have again kicked off their popular fundraiser held throughout last summer. Just imagine- YOU could win a whopping \$500 basket of MA. Lotto Scratch Tickets!!

Raffle tickets can be purchased at various times throughout July and August. Look for their fabulous Lotto Tower. So, drop by the new Senior Center, behind the Wilbraham Town Hall on

Springfield Street on Tuesday and Wednesdays between 9 a.m. to Noon or stop by the Farmers Market, in front of United Church on Main Street between open hours of 2 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday.

Tickets could also be printed from their website: friendsofwilbrahamseniors.org and mailed in with your check to:

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, 40 Post Office Park, #747, Wilbraham, MA 01095 or just stick your envelope with filled out raffle tickets and payment into their drop box located in the front lobby near the reception desk and save yourself a stamp.

Ticket prices range from one for \$5.00, three for \$10, seven for \$20 or the best buy, 25 chances for \$50. Yes, a great way for family, friends, or co-workers to pitch in and share the winnings. All tickets need to be in by August 24, 2024. The drawing will take place on the front patio of the Wilbraham Senior Center, at 3 p.m. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards new programs and services which can now be offered at new Wilbraham Senior Center.

Wilbraham Hiking Club August Hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has six hikes planned for August:

Aug. 19- Springfield Reservoir in Ludlow, MA

Aug. 25 - McDonald Nature Preserve, Wilbraham

Aug. 31- Hike, lunch, and optional Stargazing at Arunah Hill Days in Cummington

More information about these hikes can be found on the club's TeamReach pages, or write to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com.

Minnechaug Class of 1974 50th Reunion

WILBRAHAM - The Reunion Planning Committee for Minechaug Regional High School of 1974 is pleased to announce their 50th Class Reunion will be celebrated the weekend of September 12 -15, 2024. Activities are planned on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to reunite and reminisce with classmates after 50 years! Join us for food and fun while getting reacquainted. The main event will be on Saturday Sept. 14, 2024 at The Starting Gate at Great Horse Country Club in Hampden. Other activities include a Meet & Greet and Sunday Brunch. Don't miss it! For further information contact Karen Wahlberg at mrsclassof74@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook - Minnechaug RHS Class of 1974.

Support Neurological Research at the Trot for Tom Run/Walk

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for the first and only Trot for Tom run/walk. Happening on Sept. 14 at Minnechaug Regional High School, the event features a 5K run or 1-mile walk honoring Dr. Thomas "Tom" Julian. Known for his curiosity and love of learning, Tom's ca-

reer as a scientific researcher and academic was cut short, but his impact on those around him was undeniable.

The Trot for Tom event aims to continue his mission, raising funds for neurological disease research.

Lace-up your shoes and visit <https://www.runreg.com/trot-for-tom> to sign-up and learn more.

Water Customer Notice from the Water Department

Metallic-Tasting Algae in Reservoir

WILBRAHAM - Starting in mid-July, an algae bloom occurred in the Quabbin reservoir. While the presence of low levels of algae (naturally occurring microscopic plants) is a sign of a healthy reservoir, this particular bloom consists of Chryso-sphaerella algae, which leaves a metallic taste to tap water. While this algae bloom presents a nuisance taste and odor condition, the water remains safe to drink. In the meantime, chilling water in the refrigerator and/or adding lemon is the easiest way to improve the taste.

The bloom is being monitored by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and MWRA three days per week. Staff are collecting samples in the reservoir, performing microscopic analyses, and identifying and counting the algae concentrations. MWRA is also communicating with each of the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct communities several times per week. In addition, water quality is monitored continuously with on-line analyzers immediately before and after treatment at the Brutsch Water Treatment Facility, as well as further downstream.

This Chryso-sphaerella bloom occurred starting around July 17. Chryso-sphaerella is a golden brown algae of the Chrysophyte family. For more information about Quabbin Reservoir and water

quality is available at MWRA.com.

Volunteer- your help is always appreciated

To learn more, please visit our website: <https://www.downsyndromewm.com>

We look forward to your participation and support in making this year's Buddy Walk a memorable and impactful event. Together, we can make a difference in our community. #BestBuddyWalkYet!

Theatre Guild of Hampden seeking directors

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is looking for directors for our 2024-2025 season.

For more information, call Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

Transfer Station permit price increase

HAMPDEN - In response to increased costs, the Hampden Selectmen voted on May 13 to increase the price of the Transfer Station permits.

The increase will be starting May 20. For Seniors over 65 the price will be \$30 for the first permit and \$15 for any additional permits for those residents meeting those criteria and car registered to that person or person.

For those residents that are under 65 the cost is \$70 for the first permit and \$35 for any additional permits for those residents meeting the criteria.

Hampden Board of Health and Selectmen

Seeing how Habitat influences the public makes the GSHFH mission worthwhile

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Working in the nonprofit industry isn't easy. It can often be compared to an actor trying to make it in Hollywood or a country musician strumming their guitar in Nashville with dreams of performing at the Grand Ole Opry. There are more "no" replies than "yeses," more challenges than benefits, and a clichéd thick skin is required. So, why do people stay?

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Marketing and Communications Manager Brandy O'Brien said she stays because she enjoys seeing how Habitat affects the public. People who had no prior association with the nonprofit organization are so inspired and empowered by the mission, they have to get involved. They want to see the organization and its partner families do well.

"Since I've been here, almost four years, I've worked with several young adult interns and met numerous youth volunteers, and their dedication is constant," she said. "Even though they won't directly benefit from the finished product, they want give all they can and they do."

Greater Springfield Habitat is a medium-sized affiliate with a tiny staff. There are just four full-time employees and two part-time staffers who serve 13 cities and



towns in Hampden County. In addition to the homeownership program, which builds one to three houses a year, GSHFH has a home preservation program. The home preservation program provides micro-loans to qualifying homeowners who need accessibility modifications, home weatherization, general home repairs, yard cleanup, and landscaping. Since opening its doors in 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

This past winter, GSHFH welcomed two interns from a local high school to help plan and execute a county-wide summer read-a-thon. The freshmen came in with little understanding of the nonprofit and are now working tirelessly, beyond the scope of their project, to raise money and awareness for the nonprofit.

"They've brought in countless pounds of empty, clean aluminum cans for a recycling effort and have increased the reach



of social media by getting their friends and family to 'follow' Greater Springfield Habitat," Brandy said. "They're now asking what other projects they can help with after the read-a-thon project ends this month.

"I have never seen two kids so incentivized to do something for a nonprofit when they have nothing to personally gain from it," Brandy said. "Yes, they get bragging rights and that feeling of doing good for the community, but it's not like they'll personally pocket the money. They're really something incredible."

In another instance, a local church's youth group of seventh to twelfth graders recently built a standing planter for Greater Springfield Habitat for its summer mission-related project and had it delivered to the nonprofit. The seven teenagers worked with a church member, who



is also a handyman, to complete the task. The planter will be given to the newest homeowner family when they move into their home.

"The goal was for the teens to have a hands-on heart change where they would be involved personally and collectively in these community projects. Our theme came from Micah 6:8 'To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,'" said Pastor Peter Yoon, who leads the youth group at Second Baptist Church in South Hadley. "It was a challenging experience for the teens but also a powerful one. They could see that their lives can be connected to a much bigger vision and bigger things going on in the world around them."

To learn more about GSHFH, visit habitatspringfield.org

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Villa FC defeats Lusitano for Men's PVSSL title



Villa FC captured the Men's Championship in the PVSSL earlier this month.



Kyle Tomas starts a move up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shane Sewell chases down the loose ball.



Pierre de la Croix-Vaubois looks to make a pass.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Cole Bamford, Tyler Goncalves, Mathis Fitzgerald, AJ Quiterio, Ben Riley, Sam Riley, Bugra Gokcek, Malik Serisser, and Anthony Shea, are a few of the players listed on the Lusitano White's roster. They're also former members of the Ludlow varsity soccer team, which is coached by Greg Kolodziej.

Enoz Botta, who graduated from Ludlow High School

Please see **VILLA**, page 16

Bankers take 11th consecutive playoff title



Seth Allen looks to get things going for PeoplesBank.



Pete Hogan hustles down the first.



Dave Clark connects on a home run to left in the first inning.



Jimmy Flahive delivers a pitch home.

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League continues to field one of the best rosters in Western Massachusetts. Last Tuesday evening, the Bankers would capture their 11th consecutive championship with a two-game sweep of Hilltown Tents, ending with an 8-3 win last Tuesday night. The Bankers had an unusual playoff path, having to wait nearly two weeks after the end of the regular season to compete in the playoffs. The quarterfinal series went through several postponements following the end of the regular season. When the Bankers finally came to play, they rounded off four wins in five days to take the semifinals and finals. The Bankers defeated St. Joe's, their longtime rivals, in the semifinals.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Joe Ferry fields a base hit to left.

Conte leads way in Owls golf tourney

WESTFIELD – Sunny skies met the 33 registered foursomes for the 18th annual Owl Club Tournament at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass. on Monday.

The tournament is a key fundraiser for Westfield State athletics with alumni, sponsors, families and university coaches and staff all participating to net more than \$21,000 to support Owls' athletics. Westfield Bank again served as the lead sponsor of the event.

Westfield State president Linda Thompson welcomed the players at dinner and thanked them for the support of the University and Owls athletics. She mentioned her increased focus on the success of the Owls athletic teams and their role in university life, and reminded players that the University will be celebrating its 185th anniversary this fall with a gala event as part of the homecoming weekend on Oct. 18.

Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. formally introduced Westfield State's new head football coach Lou Conte, Jr., as the guest of honor at the tournament's post-round dinner, sponsored by Westfield Gas and Electric and Whip City Fiber.

"Coach K and Coach Marino I held in high regard as a young man," said Conte in his remarks about the Owls previous two head coaches, both in attendance at the tournament. "I knew what I wanted to do, I wanted to coach football They

were kings to me, and to be able to follow in the footsteps of the path that they laid out, both individually and together, and I am so appreciative, and so lucky to be here. I'm so excited for the season and there are many great things here that makes it feel like the right move for us."

Conte, an Agawam native, noted that he and his wife and children were excited to be able to set down roots in Western Mass again after stints coaching at Lenoir-Rhyne and the Citadel in South Carolina.

Players played in the scramble format at Crestview, former home of the LPGA's Friendly's classic and a qualifying site for the PGA's Travelers Championship. Players received lunch, sponsored by College Hype Sportswear and Screenprinting, and competed in variety of contests on the course, including long drive, pot of gold, a putting contest, shot for a \$5,000 hole in one prize, and contested closest-to-the-pin on multiple holes. Carts were sponsored by the Follett Campus Bookstore.

The Owls 2023 MASCAC Champion women's soccer team helped out as volunteers on the course, running several of the contests and staffing the players' Oasis on the course, which was sponsored by Pepsi and Commercial Distributing. Part of the proceeds from the event will help support women's soccer's season-opening trip to the Nashville, Tenn. area for a multi-

day tournament.

Conte's big day continued as his foursome won the tournament's open division with a remarkable score of 17-under par.

"I hope his playbook is as good as his scorecard," joked tournament director Dave Caspole, the Owls associate director of athletics, in announcing the winners.

A foursome headed by Conte's father, Lou Sr., topped the senior division with a 16-under score.

Westfield State athletic trainers Cheryl Lee Scaccina and Katie Sylvain were part of the winning coed foursome with a score of nine-under.

Other honors went to baseball alumnus Jack Mosko '78 who won the putting contest, hockey alumnus Chad Lesage '78 who topped the long drive, and Deb Murphy p'17 who topped the women's long drive. Closest to the pin honors went to Tom Mathis, Jake Hough, and former Owls men's basketball guard Austin Joseph '18. Retired Owls cross country coach and Owls Hall of Famer Bill Devine '73 won the pot of gold drawing after hitting the green in regulation on the 11th hole.

The tournament is annually contested the first Monday in August, as the Owls ramp up for their teams to arrive for fall preseason. Conte's football team will be the first ones back on campus beginning Aug. 13.

VILLA from page 15

in June, decided to play for Villa FC in the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.

It turned out to be a very good decision for Botta, as top-seeded Villa FC defeated the second-seeded Whites, 3-1, in the men's championship match before a large crowd at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Friday night.

"A lot of my high school teammates are playing for the Whites this year, but I decided to go a different route," said Botta, who also won three PVSSL A-Division championship titles as a member of the Ludlow Ideal team. I'm very happy that I chose to play for Villa this summer. It's just a great soccer team with a good group of guys. It has been a lot of fun."

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster are Mike Lima, Kyle Tomas, and Brandon McCarthy.

A year ago, Villa FC lost to St John Heating & Cooling in the championship match.

The last time that Villa FC, who play their home matches on the turf field at Minnechaug Regional, took home the championship trophy was in 2017. They defeated Pros Malaca, 3-2, in that match. Anthony Basile was the M.V.P. and he also played in this year's finals.

"This is the second time that we won a championship title in this league," said Villa FC head coach Anthony Bourget. "Our main goal this year was to get back to the finals."

Villa, who finished the regular season with an 11-1 record, only setback was to Rumbleseat. They defeated eighth-seeded Skyline FC, 2-0, in the quarterfinals and CF Arbor by the same score in the semifinals.

The Whites (10-1-1), who also lost to Villa, 2-0, during the regular season, advanced into the championship match after dispatching seventh-seeded STCC FC, 6-0 in the quarterfinals and to third-seeded Rumbleseat, 2-0, in the semifinals.

Besides winning the three PVSSL titles with Ludlow Ideal, Botta also helped the Lions varsity soccer team win three Western Mass. titles.

Botta, who scored a team-leading 13 goals for the Lions as a senior, will be a freshman member of the Bentley University men's soccer team this fall.

"Bentley is a great school both academically and athletically," said Botta, who's planning to study finance in college. Playing college soccer is going to be a great opportunity for me and I'm very excited about it."

Another freshman listed on the Bentley men's soccer roster is Cristiano Marta, who was teammates with Botta at Ludlow High School in 2021. Marta then transferred to Suffield Academy.

One of Botta's teammates on Villa FC was Gabriel Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers. Ganzer recorded a hat-trick in the men's finals.

"Gabriel is an amazing soccer player," Botta said. "He always finds the back of the net and he's the reason why we're the champions. I watched him play for the Pioneers."

For his outstanding effort, Ganzer was selected as the M.V.P. of the men's championship game.

"Gabriel is the best player in this league this year," Bourget said. "He knows how to put the ball into the back of the net."

It didn't take Ganzer very long to give his team's first goal. He fired a low shot into the lower left corner of the net past goalie Christian daCruz during the second minute.

Ganzer scored his second goal during the 25th minute, which gave Villa a 2-0 lead.

A couple of minutes later, the Whites managed to cut their deficit in half following a free kick goal by Brayan Rivas, who blasted a line-drive shot from the top of the box into the left corner.

At the start of the second half, Goncalves fired a shot on goal which would've tied the score, but the ball sailed over the crossbar.

The score remained 2-1 until the 69th minute when Ganzer completed his hat-trick

"My teammates helped me score all of my goals," Ganzer said. "I really enjoy being a member of this soccer team."

It was a memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.

Actions picks up at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT — What started out as a gloomy day in the quiet corner of Connecticut turned sunny for the teams, fans and supporters of the 5/8-mile Thompson Speedway. Track championship action started with the AZ Roofing SK Light Modified division under the command of John O'Sullivan and Rob Schultz. O'Sullivan quickly took charge on the bottom groove with Schultz sliding back on the outside. Launching into a four-car race saw Meg Fuller, Tyler Chapman and Nick Hovey join O'Sullivan under a blanket at the front.

Fuller stole the lead before a hard-charging Chapman took over on lap five as Nick Hovey stalked from behind. The extra-distance feature saw the three leaders run nose-to-tail before a mid-race caution for the spinning Rob Schultz set up a dash between Chapman and Hovey. The two leaders turned sour in turn two, spinning off the treacherous turn and leaving Fuller the lead for the restart with eleven laps remaining. In just five laps, Hovey and Chapman returned to the front as Hovey tried his best to claim the win but Tyler Chapman took down his fifth win in a row at Thompson with John O'Sullivan taking third.

The Mini Stocks were next on the field with Rick LaFlesh and Steve Michalski in command under the green flag. LaFlesh led the early goings before Kevin Moore pow-

ered through on the bottom to lead lap 4 with defending champ Jarred Roy patiently making his way to the front. After battling LaFlesh for second place lap after lap, Roy finally made his way into the runner-up spot with five laps remaining and set his sights on Moore. Side-by-side under the white flag, both former champions gave it all they had but it would be Kevin Moore at the line to snap Jarred Roy's four-race wins streak with Ryan Pomposelli joining the podium in third.

Moving on to the Street Stocks, rookie Austin Flanagan and Icebreaker winner Al Stone III brought the fan-favorite division to the initial green with trouble early for Ryan Waterman and Scott Souza as they dragged across the length of the backstretch wall. After rookie Flanagan led lap one, Stone powered back to the lead with Scott Sundeen, Corey Fanning and 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett following him on the bottom. Fanning used a strong run through turns one and two to launch under Stone and lead lap seven.

The Thompson Late Models jumped on the highbanks for their 25-lap feature with Ryan Morgan and Derek Gluchacki leading the charge into turn one. Kulwicksi Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Gluchacki led the early circuits with Jake 'The Jet' Johnson trying to track him down as

Connor Souza made a physical battle in his fight to third-place. Three wide with former champions Morgan and Nick Johnson, Souza battled hard to join the top-three. The physicality continued to the lap 10 caution with Souza sent to the rear for contact that sent Morgan around in turn two. One final late race caution for rookie Kyle Gero's dust-up in turn three set up a final chase to the checkers with Derek Gluchacki becoming the first repeat Late Model winner at the Big-T with Jake Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh rounding out the podium.

The Tripoint Showdown 50-lap main event for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out the evening's program under the lead of Danny Cates and Josh Carey. Cates led from the start as Jon Puleo motored into second with Kieth Rocco looking to come from the back of the pack. Puleo and Cates would swap lanes over and over again with crossovers galore as Rocco watched from two car lengths back in the catbird seat. The first caution would slow the field as Derek Ramstrom smacked the turn one wall with Puleo getting the restart jump on Cates. Cates and Josh Carey would suffer the same fate on lap 27, slamming into the turn one wall. Jon Puleo would take off on the restart and lead down to the wire with Keith Rocco and Isaiah Newcomb rounding out the podium three.

West wins Bronze in Bay State Games

WALTHAM – The Western Mass. representative in the Bay State Games for boys soccer captured the bronze last month. Here is a look at a couple of their matchups during the games.

West played a strong game offensively against Metro, winning 4-1, scoring four goals. Imran Daher (Roxbury,

Boston Latin Academy) was the only Metro player that was able to get a goal against West. Daniel Martin (Easthampton, Hampshire Reg HS) had a good game. Martin made two goals and assisted another. Martin assisted Thomas Wadas (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Alex Hensch (Longmeadow, Longmeadow HS) assisted Owen

Miller (South Hampton, Hampshire Reg HS) on West's third goal of the game.

West would lose to Northeast 3-1. Northeast only allowed one goal this game. It was made in the first half by Jack Walsh (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS). Northeast didn't trail for long, they responded to Walsh with

three goals of their own. These goals were scored by Alexander Faiella (Littleton, Littleton HS), Andre Groberio (Wenham, Hamilton-Wenham Reg HS), Jayden Dullea (Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury HS).

West would defeat Coastal 2-1. Coastal was able to hold West off until the second half of the game. During the first

half, Landen Freitas (Fall River, B.M.C. Durfee HS) of Coastal scored a goal which Michael Gallagher (Longmeadow, Wilbraham & Monson Academy) of West responded to with one of his own. West's second goal was scored by Ayden St. Martin (South Hampton, Hampshire Reg HS).

Gulls win NECBL title

NEWPORT, RI – The final game of the 2024 season was one for the history books, as the Newport Gulls capped off their 2024 campaign with a bang in extra innings for an 8-7 victory following the continuation of game two on a sunny Saturday evening at Cardines Field.

In the bottom of the second, the Gulls struck first as Tyler Hare (Wofford) crushed a solo home run to right center to put the Gulls up 1-0 early. However, the Mainers responded immediately in the top of the third. The Mainers tied the game on an error and then Jackson Tucker (St. John's) hit an RBI double to put the Mainers up 2-1.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Gulls put up a crooked number to take the lead 6-2. Dixon Williams (Eastern Carolina) crushed a two-run home run to the thrill of his teammates. After that, Matt Ossenfort (NC State) crushed his own three-run home run to add a cushion for the Gulls.

Meanwhile on the mound, Gulls starter Kade Shatwell (Oklahoma City) brought the energy for the team. Shatwell pitched 6.1 strong innings, allowing just three earned runs with eight strikeouts, pumping up his teammates. However, after Shatwell came out, the Mainers marched back. In the top of the seventh, Devan Bade (Binghamton) hit a two-run single to cut the deficit to 6-4, then in the top of the eighth, Caleb Shpur (UConn) came through for the Mainers, tying the game with a two-run home run to even the score. Later in that same inning, the Mainers took the lead 7-6 on a single by CJ Willis (Quinnipiac), turning the tide once again in favor of Sanford.

Down to their final three outs, the Gulls sent Hare to the plate with one out and Hare delivered, crushing his second home run of the night into the right field netting to tie the score at seven apiece and force extra innings.

In the tenth, Drew Delucia (Franklin Pierce) did his job for the Gulls, keeping the Mainers off the board and giving the team a chance to walk it off. In the bottom half of the inning, the Gulls did just that. Williams came through with the game-winning RBI single, walking it off 8-7 to clinch the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup for the Gulls.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

This Week in Rec

The Wilbraham Baseball Committee

WILBRAHAM - Peanuts, popcorn, programs here! The Falcons baseball program had a fantastic season in 2024, despite the consistent rain. The program formed 23 teams and fielded 266 players, from kindergarten through grade 8. We started the season in April with our Opening Day celebration at Spec Pond, which included a parade of teams from all age groups, the Minnechaug Baseball Team hosting a clinic for the younger players, and a few new 'skills' events for the older kids as they competed in a home run derby, fastest runner, and furthest throw

for a small prize and more importantly 'bragging rights'! Some notable events over the season were the used gear donation "drop and grab", Falcons Baseball Night at the WooSox game, the Peach Festival Dunk Tank, and two of our competitive teams, 14U and 12U, playing in historic Cooperstown, NY.

While winning isn't everything, taking home some hardware is always nice too, and so finishing off the season, we'd like to recognize our league champions:

10U JLS League, A division, the Western Mass Suburban Senior

South Bracket (Wilbraham PV Financial), and the 14U JLS League, A division.

Thank you to all the families, coaches, players, sponsors, and the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department for making this another successful season. We are looking forward to the 2025 season. Registration for our 8U through 14U competitive teams started this week with tryouts coming in a few weeks and our regularly-scheduled committee meetings for the public published on our Facebook page.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6 PM at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden**, for a **Request for Determination of Applicability**, (RDA), submitted by Amber Pelletier and

Andrew Snow for the removal of trees on their property, (46 Mountainview Drive.) Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, Bonnie Geromini, Admin 08/15/2024

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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of the Main Street bridge that crosses East Brook by the Audubon Society. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, Bonnie Geromini, Admin 08/15/2024

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SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for August at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

August Pop Up Boutique – It's Time to Shop!

Whether you want to get an early start with your holiday shopping or you're just looking for a bargain, you can shop the whole month of August right here, at the Hampden Senior Center!

Boutique Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday, 9 a.m. to Noon

We are still accepting donations of new and gently used clothing & accessories, jewelry, shoes, home décor, household items, books, and puzzles. Due to space constraints, we are unable to accept large items. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call the Senior Center before bringing your items in. *All proceeds for sale will benefit the Hampden Senior Center Building Expansion Fund.*

Save the Date:

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Tag Sale, Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Liquid Dishwashing Soap!

Thank you to those who donated disinfecting wipes last month. Every month we will target a different item to help fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

MOVIE SCHEDULE:

Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

8/19 - Queen Pins, R, Comedy/Crime

8/26 - 13 Going on 30, PG-13, Comedy/Fantasy/Romance

Grab and Go Dinner

Friday, Aug. 30, pick up is 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of Sausage, Peppers & Onions Grinder, Pasta Salad, and Dessert

Cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting July 1st to order your dinner

Learn to Play the Recorder with Sue
Ongoing weekly classes, Mondays, 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Our Ukulele Instructor, Susan Mc Hand would like to share her love of play-

ing the Recorder.

Cost is \$3 per class for a half-hour lesson, paid to the instructor. Recorders can be purchased for \$10. Please let us know if you need to purchase an instrument when signing up for the class.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot, and instrument if needed. Space is limited.

Learn to Play the Ukulele with Sue

Accepting new students.

All Ukulele students will meet:
Mondays, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Any new Recorder or Ukulele students will meet:

Mondays, 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost is \$5 per class, paid to the instructor.

Starting in September, Sue will offer a 10-week session,

from Sept. 9 through Nov. 25.
Cost is \$50 paid in full for the 10-week session and receive two free classes, or \$6.00 per class – call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

"African Drumming" with Jason
Is taking a break in August and beginning a new 12-week session, from Sept. 6 through Nov. 22. Accepting New Students.

Fridays, 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Cost is \$60 paid in full for the 12-week session and receive two free classes, or \$6 per class – call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

LET'S JAM!

We are looking to get a group of musically inclined people together to start a weekly jam session this Fall.

Let us know if you would be interested in joining a group in a casual, laid-back, but fun setting to share your talent with good company.

Please call 566-5588 so that we can start a list of anyone who would like to JAM! Let us know what your musical talent is.

D & R Summer Farm Share – PICK-UP is on:

Wednesdays, Aug. 21 and 28.
D & R FARM offers fresh produce weekly, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP

you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month.

New applications for Summer Farm Share are required.

Contact Wendy if you haven't submitted your application.

Shares are limited. Please call Wendy at 566-5588 or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

Save these dates:

Friday, Sept. 13 at 12:30 p.m.,
Beekeeper Sue Kendrick will be here to talk about beekeeping, honey and more!

Thursday, Sept. 19 at Noon,
Grandparents Luncheon followed by BINGO with Boomer and the Springfield Thunderbirds

Evening Programs in September:

**Trees Downsize in Autumn...
YOU CAN TOO!!**

Come and learn how to live an organized life that doesn't involve constant maintenance with special guest:

Bonnie Borromeo Tomlinson on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bonnie is the author of:
STOP BUYING BINS & other blunt but practical advice from a home organizer

STOP PUSHING PERFECTION & just create a home you can actually keep neat

This program is FREE. Books will be available to purchase at no obligation.

Enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments while you're here. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

Space is limited. **Sponsored by Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.**

Intro Class for "African Drumming" with Jason

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to be part of something new and invigorating, discovering great benefits for the body and soul!

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
This introductory class is FREE. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

We have a limited number of drums. Preference will be given to new students on a first come, first serve basis for the use of a drum. All are welcome to observe. If you have a drum, please feel free to bring your own, but still call to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Sponsored by Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

Ready to start feeling better? Needing a clearer mind and body? Come and join us for a

Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation, led by Chantal.

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Past and recent participants stated they experienced:

Increased energy and overall sense of relaxation; Release of pain and tension; Increased focus and ability to concentrate; Deep sleep and feeling well-rested upon rising; And much, much more!

No prior knowledge of meditation is needed! Just sit or lay down, enjoy, and R-E-L-A-X!

Chantal is co-owner and manager of Nirvana Spa and Wellness in Somers, Connecticut.

Please bring a yoga mat or zero-gravity chair if you have one, a pillow, a blanket, and a water bottle.

The cost of this program is \$10 per person. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited

All Levels Yoga with Lisa Zizza

5-week session
Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., beginning Sept. 19 through Oct. 24.

Please bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Dress comfortably and stay hydrated!

Cost is \$25 paid in full for the 5-week session and receive one free class, or \$6 per class - call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Basic Beginner Drawing with Joyce Belliveau

3-week session
Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 26 through Oct. 10.

Come and discover your inner artistic abilities.

All supplies will be provided. Bring yourself and enjoy!

Cost is \$20 paid in full for the 3-week session.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Springfield Technical Every Class Reunion Sept. 28

SPRINGFIELD - The spirit and comradery of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon to 6:00 pm. The reunion is open to ALL TECH CLASSES and friends.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and a special tent. The BBQ will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, "Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We're thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to many years to come".

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come,



Committee members for the September 28 Every Class Tech Reunion proudly stand in front of their welcome banner at the Elks Lodge #61 (L to R) Mike Borecki '72, Paul Montefusco '69, Dawn Duncan '71, and Matt Villamaino '67. Missing Joan Learned '56.

first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan '71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco '69 at 413-596-6607, or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206. We're always

looking for volunteers. If interested, contact Mike Borecki.

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

Hampden Senior Center Fall Trips

HAMPDEN - The following senior trips are made available through the Hampden Senior Center. A minimum of 40 travelers are needed for any trip to run. All prices include a driver's tip. Flyers are available at the senior center on Allen Street. Coach seat assigned as your \$20 deposit is received (unless otherwise noted).

Please write a separate check to Bobbi for each trip; note trip name in the check memo.

OCT 23, Wed - Fall Foliage Trip – American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA; Lunch @ O'Connor's Restaurant (menu choice on flyer) in Worcester; Wine Tasting @ Hardwick Vineyard & Winery; \$135pp. Full Payment Deadline Oct 3.

NOV 11, Mon– Radio City Music Hall for Rockettes matinee Christmas Show, orchestra section 103, closest to lobby concessions & exits; coach, orchestra tickets, choices for lunch @ Carmine's on W 44th St (Times Sq) \$263/pp. Full Payment Deadline Oct 6. WAIT LIST ONLY

DEC 11, Wed - Aqua Turf Show "Deck the Halls Christmas" w Buddy Holly & Elvis (his 2nd cousin); Delicious Family-style Lunch; \$131pp. Full Payment Deadline Nov 20.

Questions call 413-566-8271 or email bobbi_jg2@charter.net.

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

HELP WANTED
 The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing otislibrary@cwmar.org or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.**
 The application deadline is **September 13, 2024.**
The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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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 advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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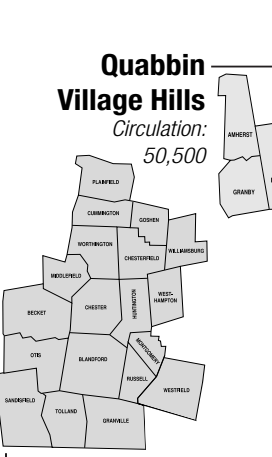
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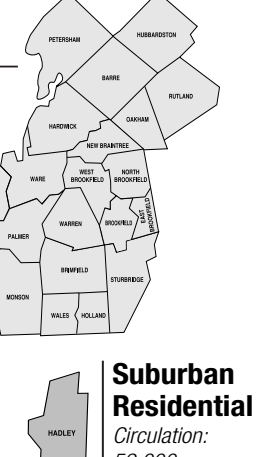
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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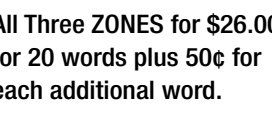
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DANCE from page 9

Rose Bingo for their support of their goals.

Vasquez made the Lyrical, Jazz and Acro teams and expressed excitement for the upcoming Dance Olympics, having been dancing for 14 years.

"I remember my first recital and I saw one of the older girls dancing and I thought it was the coolest thing ever and I wanted to do the same thing," Vasquez said. "So, she definitely inspired me a lot to begin dancing and to take it more seriously."

Vasquez stressed how dance is not only just a sport, but also an art.

"It's like an entertaining form of art that people watch, but it also comes with a lot of discipline and training to perfect your art. So, I think it's really important for people to understand that it is a sport as much as football and basketball is because of the training, time and effort put into it," Vasquez said.

Bordeau got into dance through her mom and started her first class at three years old, currently in her sixteenth year of dance.

She also competed and won Miss Acro United States during her recent trip to New Jersey to participate in the competition, a feat completed only one other time over eleven years earlier by her dance teacher--and role model--Brooke Attanasio.

"It's definitely exciting that I not only get to represent just Chicopee, but Western Mass. I feel very honored to do it because dance is a very big part of my life," Bordeau said.

Bordeau's advice for future and aspiring dancers was this.

"The advice I would give is to not hold back and really just go for it," Bordeau said.

Cosgrove, meanwhile, made the Lyrical team and has danced for 12 years, following her sister and friends into dancing and loving the art.

"It's a really cool opportunity, so I'm super excited to represent and it's just such a great honor," Cosgrove said. "It's really important to all of us."

She considers her fellow teammates her role models, enjoying how dance provides community, freedom and an opportunity to express yourself. The greatest lesson Cosgrove learned in dance focused on mindset.

"Probably just to be in the mindset that you overthink about what you look like and what everyone thinks about you. But, they're focused on themselves and I think it's an important thing to keep in mind while you're dancing," Cosgrove said.

Rivera, who also went to Germany and made the Hip Hop team, will be competing on the Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz teams, dancing since she was two years old. She also made the United States Dance Team and Acro Team for the New England area.

"It's been a good experience. I think it's taught me a lot of things like teamwork and discipline, things like that," Rivera said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world honestly."

Rivera hopes the girls attending the IDO Dance Olympics will inspire future dancers.

"I think it's a good impact,



Submitted photos Christina Bordeau

From the left, Thea Cosgrove, Karielys Rivera, Paig Bordeau and Madisyn Vasquez, who will be heading to the IDO Dance and Acrobatics World Championships in Poland in November to represent Team USA.

especially in New England, because we don't really have prestigious dance schools over here. So, I think it's a really good impact and I hope little girls and little boys can see us as role models and they can see us growing so they can grow themselves," Rivera said.

Christina Bordeau, Paig's mom, said the IDO is the Olympics for dance and "is the biggest opportunity" the girls wanted to do, hoping to take home the gold.

"It is a huge community, the dance community. There are so many positive things and I think Lisa (Attanasio) and Bianca (Attanasio) are the ones who kind of foster that with the teachers at the studio," she said. "And I

think there's so many opportunities, but this is like, wow."

She added the fundraiser in September is an opportunity to bring the community together to support the girls and vice versa.

"We're really looking for the girls to thank the community for coming to support them," she said. "So, we're excited about that."

Bordeau wants the community and surrounding communities to know how much the girls want to make everyone proud.

"I do think it's important for the community to know that all four girls want to represent the United States in a positive way and when they have that United States flag and patches on them, they're representing not only the

United States, but their communities in which they serve," she said. "And that they're really here over there to set a positive example, especially for girls today. They're really appreciative of the support from their communities and the support from their studio and teachers."

The girls' messages were this.

"I give a thank you to my studio, my teachers and everyone that has supported me there because they've known this is one of my biggest dreams for a while," Bordeau said. "And I thank the community for all the support they're going to provide us."

"Thanks to the community the last time I went. It made things easier for my parents financially and, hopefully, they do it again for us and, also, for my friends so I can live this experience with my friends," Rivera said.

"Just a huge thank you for everyone's support because without them, we could not get here. Everything helps us get here and makes our dreams come true," Cosgrove said. "So, everyone's support means the world to us to help make our dreams come true."

"A really big thank you because I wouldn't be going to Poland without them, without the support of my community, without the support of my dance teachers and the training they have provided for me," Vasquez said. "And, also, for my friends, thank you as well. I wouldn't be the dancer I am today without any of their support."



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