

MRHS celebrates first day of classes

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Thursday Aug. 28, Minnechaug Regional High School welcomed back students with their annual first day assembly in the gymnasium.

The assembly plays an important role in establishing values and building community, while also incorporating fun and spirit, being back at school first thing in the morning.

Minnechaug's seniors were sent off into their final year, walking into the gym single file through a tunnel of teachers and staff as if they were graduating their junior year. Angelina Acevedo, a current Minnechaug senior, mentioned that she enjoyed seeing all the teachers that she has had from every year before cheering her on.

Similarly, the classes of 2029 and 2030 were welcomed, cheered on by all the current students at Minnechaug.

The assembly held three main games to get students from all grades up and having fun: the classic "Hula-Hoop Competition," "Head, Shoulders, Knees,

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Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

The group of teens with their finished artwork.

Teens create fall art

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Tuesday, Sept. 2, the library hosted a Fall Watercolor Workshop for teens, instructed by Ellie Antonacci, owner of the business "Art Lessons with Ellie".

The focus of this workshop was to utilize opposite colors on the color wheel to create fall floral paintings.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library.

Antonacci's business is located in Somers, Connecticut, and runs after-school art lessons, as well as offering one-on-one personal lessons to focus on spe-

cific skills. This was her second time coming to the Wilbraham Library since she started in fall of 2023.

When asked why she came to the WPL, Antonacci said this.

"I actually grew up coming to this library, so I love coming here and teaching the kids in this area," Antonacci said.

Antonacci also enjoys art.

"I've always loved art and enjoyed it during school, and I want to bring the next generation the same joy I feel when I create art. I just love sharing the love I have for art," Antonacci said. "This class is focused on watercolors, which I personally

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Ushering in fall with watercolor painting.

J.R. Greene presents Quabbin Reservoir history

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - Author and Historian J.R. Greene stopped by the senior center on Sept. 5 for a presentation on the history of the Quabbin Reservoir and the pre-Quabbin history of The Swift River Valley.

Greene has written 24 books so far, including "From Valley to Quabbin: 1938-1946," "Calvin Coolidge in 100 Objects," "The Day Four Quabbin Towns Died," "Strange Tales from Old Quabbin," "Historic Quabbin Hikes," "Quabbin's Railroad: The Rabbit," "The Mass. Central: Quabbin's Phantom Railroad," and many more.

His latest book is "The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects" and he's also written magazine and newspaper articles too.

During the presentation, Greene shared with attendees the chronological history and impact of the Quabbin Reservoir and The Swift River Valley, which also included histories of the four towns that existed before the building of the Quabbin Reservoir.

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Wilbraham to hire Comstar to handle billing services

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The town of Wilbraham is set to enter into a three-year agreement with Comstar to handle ambulance billing services.

The contract with the Massachusetts company, based in Rowley, will include a price proposal of 4% of actual receipts delivered to the town, according to Fire Chief Michael Andrews, who presented to the Select Board on Aug. 25.

Andrews explained that the town currently has a vacancy in the position of billing clerk, so he considers this move a great opportunity to pursue other less costly avenues for how to proceed forward with the service.

"Medical billing is very complex, and it's constantly changing due to different mandates and laws that are ever revolving," Andrews said. "Comstar has multiple profes-

Please see **AMBULANCE**, page 4

Taking 'School Days' to a new, adventurous level

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - If you've driven down Main Street, you've probably noticed a sea blue and green school bus on a lawn and wondered what it is and the story behind it.

Well, the Times has learned that very story.

Aidan Coutu, a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, has been refitting a medium-sized school bus with the help of

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Aidán Coutu and Arianna Hawley pose for a photo in front of their school bus.

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Selectboard appoints three new members to Conservation Commission

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard appointed three new members to the Conservation Commission during their Sept. 2 meeting.

The three new members are Marilyn D'Agostino, Eric Ainsworth and Joe Zeno.

Bonnie Geromini, the administrative assistant for the commission, explained the three have been on the Conservation Commission "for quite a few months as associate members," but there are only three full-time members right now.

"They've all asked to come on as full-time now, which would be very beneficial to the Conservation Commission because I would go from three voting members to six voting members and I wouldn't have to worry, number one, about having a quorum for a meeting, and I think it's good to get more exchange of ideas with more people than just three," Geromini said.

Geromini added how D'Agostino can't do site in-

spection, but after checking with the state, she was told that was okay.

"They don't have to do site inspections as long as they stay up on all the material that's being presented, and Marilyn has done that. She's done all her homework and asked intelligent questions at the meetings," Geromini said. "And Eric and Joe have both attended every single site inspection since they have come on as associate members."

Geromini shared how she's tried for several years to grow the Conservation Commission "because it was just shrinking."

"And now, I have three people that I think would be very good," Geromini said.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn noted how Geromini shared the backgrounds of the three at the last meeting and "how they've been participating quite often in the field work, etc."

"But, if we could hear from you all," Flynn said. "Eric, let's start with you."

Ainsworth said he's an Army Veteran and served overseas in combat until a medical

discharge in 2016. From there, he became a police officer in East Longmeadow and moved to Hampden about four years ago.

"Bought a house that had some conservation issues, worked on them and got me interested in conservation. I also like hunting and nature and so I find it kind of fascinating. That's why I end up talking to her about and getting on conservation," Ainsworth said.

Zeno has lived in Hampden his whole life and has degrees in Plant Science and Environmental Ecology.

"I just recently graduated, came home. So, I'm just looking for ways to get involved with local conservation, just broadened my horizon, learned some more skills, contribute to the town," Zeno said. "So, now I'm here."

He also clarified to Flynn he'd be able to shift his schedule when needed.

D'Agostino, meanwhile, is a retired high school English teacher and a retired licensed social worker. Her son, Gregory had been on the commission for a number of years and shared a lot of his personal ex-

periences with her.

"We have property in Maine and it really kind of struck a note with me with what he was talking about because he ran into a lot of problems when it came to illegal property use, when it came to water rights, when it came to not getting the proper paperwork from the state of Maine," D'Agostino said. "I have been through all of that."

The experience, she added, motivated her to find out more and contribute to a town that she's been a part of for many years.

Flynn noted an important role of the commission is "to find a way to work with the people."

"How can we work to a solution? If you're open to it and they're open to it, we can make it work out," Flynn said.

Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden was in favor of appointing the three.

"Nice group," Vanderleeden said.

Zeno and Ainsworth were then unanimously appointed for two-year terms, while D'Agostino was appointed to a three-year term.

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Minnechaug students gather on the gym floor to dance to the "Cotton Eye Joe".

Turley photos by Natalie Proulx

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and Pull," and the fan favorite "Hungry Hungry Hippos." The final game was followed by the "Cotton Eye Joe", inviting all students to the dance floor before beginning their first day of classes.

School hours at Minnechaug have also changed this year. Previously classes would begin at 7:30 a.m., but this year the students days begin at 8 a.m. Many students claim to be more well rested, energized and are getting more free time for themselves in the morning even if they woke up at the same time from the previous school year. But there's also those that are impacted by the later dismissal time.

Acevedo personally enjoys the new schedule because it's convenient for her but also noted concerns for those who do sports and clubs.

"I know a lot of people who are doing clubs and sports aren't too happy about it because now...practices are pushed back to like 4 or 5 p.m.," Acevedo said.

This is a major change which means schedules will need to be shifted but there are many benefits for students.

Class of 2026 President Anthony Cianflone was also excited about the time change.

"I can wake up to the sunlight beaming through my window rather than to the sound of crickets chirping," Cianflone said.

Something else new this school year is the 8th grade ICP program. The ICP program stands for Innovation Career Pathways, allowing students within the district to achieve their goals and seek out career resources, different from the traditional career



A decorated parking spot that was created during Senior Sunrise.

internship program for Minnechaug's Seniors.

Casey Moriarty, a history and social sciences teacher at Minnechaug, shared her experience with teaching the new eighth graders in the ICP program in comparison to her regular demographic of students.

"It's definitely really different, my juniors and seniors have a certain expectation that they adhere to without me having to say it...It's like teaching them [the eighth graders] social norms of the school or our honor code, or just our normal procedures at Minnechaug," Moriarty said. "They are super enthusiastic in a way that the juniors and seniors aren't so it's been really fun to see, but it's definitely been a challenge for me."

There are currently only a handful of students from the class of 2030 involved in the ICP program at the high school for the time being due to teaching availability and classroom space, but this is

gathered to watch the sunrise and decorate their parking spots with chalk to continue Minnechaug's annual tradition of Senior Sunrise.

Cianflone participated in coordinating the event.

"While it is meant to symbolize the beginning of the end of our high school lives, it is really about all of us getting together," Cianflone said.

And getting together is exactly what the class of 2026 did, arriving with snacks and photo frames to capture the memories of their last day of summer before arriving at seniorhood.

Cianflone also shared his hopes and advice for the fellow members of his senior class.

"My personal goal and advice for all my peers is to make this year worth remembering. I want to see everybody around me living every day of their senior year with passion. The stories you will tell your college friends, kids, and grandchildren are for you to live today," Cianflone said.

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COMMUNITY

Selectboard to send letter for School Committee meeting request

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard agreed on Sept. 2 to send a letter to the School Committee in response to a meeting request.

This update comes after the School Committee discussed and agreed on Aug. 21 to a meeting request from the Wilbraham Select Board to discuss the budget process for FY27 and the capital planning process for district properties and town-owned properties.

Besides sending a letter to the Selectboard in Hampden, the School Committee, also, agreed at their meeting last month on the creation of a draft agenda by Superintendent Dr. John Provost and Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter for the School Committee to review, sharing the agenda with both towns and then coming up with a meeting date.

Chair John Flynn explained how the School Committee would like to get themselves, the Selectboard and the Wilbraham Select Board together for a multi-board meeting.

"The board is always in-

terested in hearing new, fresh ideas that move us toward a goal," Flynn said. "We're not interested in rehashing the same things that have gotten us nowhere."

Flynn emphasized an agenda and making sure if funding for capital items was discussed that everyone was "on the same page."

"I'd like to make sure we'd get a seat at that so we're not surprised. Because I have to say, I thought that Chapter 70, 71, for regional appropriations has been very clear. The regional budget doesn't get touched. The number goes to the member towns and that's the number you publish," Flynn said.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport noted in the law, "there's a process that if the town votes against it, there's a process to go back" and get something new together.

He then added he has "no interest in attending this meeting because I have no interest in getting in the middle of what is clearly a food fight."

"Not here," Flynn said. "Not here. Nothing to do with Hampden right now," Davenport clarified.

Flynn agreed. "We don't want to be the guys on the sideline with the popcorn going, 'Well, that

was fun,'" Flynn said.

Davenport then again emphasized "the law is clear."

After Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden noted there wasn't a date yet for this meeting, Flynn said this.

"If there's something productive to happen, we want to be involved in it," Flynn said. "We're not there to point fingers. We're there to point out how do we get ahead."

Flynn's suggestion for the letter response was explained this way.

"Perhaps a comment back that what would be the scope of the meeting and, obviously, location," Flynn said.

After Davenport then brought up how the town of Wilbraham—at this point—was not going to have a Fall Town Meeting this year, Flynn replied, "things change."

Ultimately, the board agreed to send a letter to the School Committee to express interest in inclusion for the meeting.

"So, response back saying, 'We'd be interested in seeing the proposed agenda for that meeting,'" Flynn said.

"Also, proposed date might be nice," Vanderleeden added.

"Dates would be nice too," Flynn said. "But what do you want to talk about."



An inside look from everyone in attendance.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Sheriff Nick Cocchi holds Eighth Annual Cookout

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD — On Aug. 20, more than 1,500 people gathered under the Elks lodge pavilion as Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his 8th Annual Cookout, which consisted of elected officials, friends and a plethora of community members.

Some notable names that were in attendance were Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, along with State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-

Springfield) and Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, and even the previous Hampden County Sheriff, Michael Ashe, who served 42 years in the role, who was known for his clam bakes back in the day stopped by to greet Sheriff Cocchi, along with Springfield PD Commissioner Albert Traghese.

Offering insight despite the rainy and inclement weather was Cocchi, who reflected on the chance to continue the legacy left behind by Ashe in the pursuit of bringing the community together.

"We do it in August, just

before Election time, so a lot of people running for office come, which allows the public to express their concerns or interests to get to know who they will be potentially voting for, and it allows me to offer an ode of gratitude and just a thank you to the people who have been the Sheriff's office," Cocchi said. "I just feel this love and support from the community, but make no mistake about it, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office is the people's, and I'm very grateful to have

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Luncheon Card & Game Party Luncheon Sept. 25

WILBRAHAM - Fall into Fun at the Luncheon Card & Game Party sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious luncheon served at Noon. Bring friends and come to play any game of

your choice (dominoes, mahjong, bridge, canasta, scrabble, etc.).

Donation is \$10 and there will be a raffle for cash prizes. Proceeds help to fund our scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480. Hope you will join us for a fun afternoon.

Adult Crafternoon at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Public Library is offering a Crafternoon for Adults on Friday, Sept. 19, 2 to 3:30pm.

Calling all adults; please join us for a crafting opportunity. We will be making personalized napkin rings using small grapevine wreaths.

These items are simple, fun to create, and they make great gifts too!

No experience is needed, and all craft supplies will be provided. But registration is necessary as space is limited.

For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

ART from page 1

love teaching because of how versatile it is. It's simple, yet so complicated at the same time, and it's a great creative outlet for the kids."

Teens from grades six through 12 were welcomed to sign up and attend and all supplies were provided for them to paint with their friends.

Teen Services/Young Adult Librarian Rachel Hapgood said that the library is always looking to see what programs the teens enjoy, and this one was a big hit.

"We have a lot of art and craft programs at the library, and we are always welcoming to new instructors who we either reach out to or who reach out to us," Hapgood said. "In Ellie's case, she reached out to us and did a workshop in the spring where the teens did ceramic tile painting, which they really enjoyed. Whenever the teens are excited about a certain program or instructor, we try to run another event with the same instructor, which is exactly how the Watercolor Workshop started."

Hapgood also shared how the library finds the variety of



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo
Two photos of a pumpkin painted in watercolor.

instructors for events.

"We hear about different instructors through word of mouth a lot of the time, but also from other teen librarians in the area. It's so nice to see people who have an interest in teaching our community, and we want to make them available for people," Hapgood said.

The library also offers arts and craft programs for younger kids and adults, including past

events like DIY jigsaw puzzle art for kids and rock painting for adults. All events for the library can be signed up for online in advance to secure a spot.

The next event Antonacci has at the library is another teen painting workshop, focusing on the Harvest Moon on Oct. 6. Registration opens up on Sept. 15 for again, grades six through 12.

"The next workshop is

actually really cool since the Harvest Moon actually is on Oct. 6, so as the kids are painting the moon, (it) will be that red-orange color. It's going to be really cool to see the moon right after painting it," Antonacci said.

The floral watercolor workshop was undeniably a good time for those attending, so it's safe to assume the Harvest Moon workshop will be a blast as well.

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sionals on hand. They have an EMS attorney, building experts and medical coding experts that can offer a lot of insight into what we should be doing and how we should be going about it."

Comstar was established in 1984 and processes medical claims, sends bills and provides collection services for ambulance services. According to its website, the company looks to maximize an organization's ability to recover insurance dollars quickly.

"They would handle it soup to nuts from the billing," Andrews said. "We would provide them the data that's needed so they can bill each call. They would send the bill, receive the payments and deposit into the town's account."

Andrews added that Comstar is HIPAA-compliant, undergoes a yearly audit and can meet future needs if the town expands into something like community paramedicine, which he said has been brought to the board before by different presenters.

From a financial and efficiency perspective, Andrews said the move makes a lot of sense.

"First, financially we would

be saving about \$20,000 upfront," Andrews said. "When the billing clerk position is filled with salary, benefits, pension and everything included, it's about a \$73,000 position. Taking the 4% based on what we brought in last year, we'd be paying Comstar about \$52,000 for the services."

Andrews noted that the town would see no difference in day-to-day operations. He said the town through the Select Board would retain the right to set its own billing rates, and the Ambulance Committee would still be able to address any hardship requests for abatements of ambulance bills.

"And the customers would still have the ability to pay online or at the fire station like they currently do. We would collect payment like any other type of payment. We would just report that to Comstar so they can track it as well," Andrews said.

The board voted unanimously in favor of Andrew's request.

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell complimented him for bringing it forward.

"I appreciate the report and the research and that we're getting this done. It's nice efficiency for the town," Bunnell said.



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COMMUNITY

SB discusses noise complaint against Fern Valley Farms

One woman says the business plays music too loudly.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Located off Main Street in the hills of Wilbraham, Fern Valley Farms has become a staple of the community.

Known for apple picking and for hosting events such as weddings, concerns, graduation parties and more, the business appears to be thriving.

That said, at least one resident who lives nearby has voiced noise complaints to the Select Board regarding

Fern Valley Farms' noise levels. The board discussed this during its Aug. 25 meeting.

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell shared what she has heard recently.

"We have had residents voice concerns about Fern Valley and their Friday, Saturday, Sunday entertainment," Bunnell said. "My understanding having spoken with that individual is there were other residents [concerned]. The only time I spoke with her, she was about to leave town for a period of time, and my recommendation was if there were other people that had concerns that she definitely needed to encourage them to communicate those concerns to us as well."

Bunnell said she lives near

Fountain Park and can often hear the music. But she added that she can't hear what specific song is playing and that appears to be the case with Fern Valley Farms.

According to Bunnell, the complainant has had "pleasant" discussions with the owners of Fern Valley Farms, who Bunnell expressed great respect for.

"Some of this is the configuration of the land. You know, you've got hills and things bounce around," Bunnell said.

Bunnell weighed the idea of establishing a noise ordinance that is currently in place for a community located on Cape Cod.

"A resident shared with me some ordinances that are in place on a town out on the

Cape as a potential model if we were willing to entertain it," Bunnell said. "I understand from Nick [Breault] that the entertainment license actually doesn't have actual constraints that I thought I remembered from speakers and the distance of what can be heard."

Bunnell believed that the distance noise should not be heard from is 50 feet, but she wasn't sure.

Breault, the town administrator, offered his input.

"We still need to get the information together, probably have some more conversations with the police chief, maybe counsel," Breault said. "If the goal here is to look at some kind of model ordinance, then the goal would be to put a

draft together and have the Select Board start talking about that."

Breault added that Police Chief Ed Lennon would be available at the next meeting on Sept. 8 to discuss the matter further.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey questioned further if the complaints are only coming from the one woman. If so, he doesn't believe significant action is necessary.

"I prefer not to over legislate for one person is all," Ducey said. "I don't want to dismiss this one complainant's concerns. And it's frequent... But I think we need to weigh if it's only one person, then maybe we could come up with some sort of solution for them."

Wilbraham Troop 359 Bottle & Can Drive

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their Bottle & Can Drive on Sat, Sept 13, 2025 from 8a - Noon. It will be held in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot.

All donations to Troop 359 provide support toward camping equipment and supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. The generous community support and donations are greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact John Guerin 413-388-3545.

BUS from page 1

his girlfriend, Arianna Hawley, into a van so they can travel across the country. The places on their list include Florida, stops in North and South Carolina, the Buc-ee's Truck Stop in Texas, national parks including Yellowstone National Park in Montana, the Redwood National Forest and parks in California, Niagara Falls and more.

The school bus was obtained through Facebook Marketplace and sold out of New Hampshire.

Coutu has been working on this project since graduation and while working full-time at Cumberland Farms, with help from his father, electricians and plumbers throughout the process. This summer, solar panels were placed on the school bus roof.

Coutu said the school bus is slated to be done later this year and was bought a year after he graduated.

"Since high school, I knew I wanted to travel the country and I wanted to see other parts of the country that I didn't get to see growing up and I was always interested in the nomadic lifestyle and living on the road. I considered doing a van life or whatever you want to call that, but the cheapest and most do-it-yourself route

always seemed to be with the school bus," Coutu said. "I did a lot of research, looking into people that wanted to do similar things and the easiest way to do it—and fastest, I guess—would be to build a school bus, which sounds crazy, but I didn't have the money and still don't have the money for an RV. So, that's where the idea came from."

Hawley explained it took six months for everything to be gutted out of the school bus.

"That's when we really started to see a change, like put in the actual work. We got the flooring into it, we got some of the ceiling done, we got our water tanks, we have the electrical, the solar panels on the top of it now," Hawley said. "So, it did take us a while to get us to the point we are and we still have a long way to go, but I think, overall, it's very worth it. It's going to be very worth it in the end."

Coutu added he chose a school bus per his parents' advice to learn skills, also working on the engine and other mechanic lines and installations. Next, he will be building the interior and putting in walls, the lighting and more.

Also, getting the school bus registered.

"They told me it was a good way to learn a lot of trades and stuff like that. I definitely



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

A wide shot of the school bus, with solar panels on the roof.

learned carpentry skills, learned plumbing skills, even just mechanic stuff," Coutu said. "It would have cost so much to outsource everything and have it all be done by professionals, so you're kind of forced to teach yourself stuff, real-world skills, which is, also, I guess that's a bonus that's come from it."

Hawley said the school bus was found the night before they purchased it, with Coutu adding the couple seized the opportunity after reviewing it was a diesel engine, checking for rust damage and when other people were looking to buy it.

Also, the bus has been running smoothly and working well.

"We were just going to take the risk and buy it. It really worked out," Hawley said.

"And once we test drove that, we checked it for all the red flags, we just pulled the trigger. It was like \$8,000. Compared to an RV, it's nothing," Coutu said. "We looked at our options. We looked at box trucks and ambulances and mailman vans. The school bus just seemed to be the safest too because they're built out of all metal."

On going with solar, Coutu said it was "the cheapest way" once you get it and don't have to worry about monthly costs.

"It's basically just an upfront cost, which made us choose that. Because that's the whole plan is to save up money," Coutu said.

Hawley added rent was a factor in that decision too.

"We are 21 years old now. When we bought the bus, we were turning 20 so at that age,

a lot of people are moving out, getting an apartment. But, now that it's 2025, apartments cost so much money in rent and it goes from—I don't know—\$1,200 to \$1,800 just for a one or two bedroom," Hawley said. "So, we just thought that it was a way better decision too. Yeah, we're spending thousands of dollars now, but in the years coming up, we'll be able to save so much money in the long run."

The couple added the school bus will eventually be retired and kept for future use that best fits them. They also have a goal of getting online jobs.

"It's an investment," Coutu said.

"It just feels good to be 21 and own something," Hawley said.

Coutu said the community has taken interest in the school bus too whether it'd be people chatting with him at his job about it to people walking their dogs and yelling they enjoy the bus.

Hawley added there are people, also, who question it or don't understand why the couple is doing this. But, there's also interest in other communities.

"We want to travel and then at the end of the trip, we don't have to go back to our parents' house. We have our

own place," Coutu said. "We want to spend our 20s traveling, seeing the world. That's what I believe life's all about. Just seeing stuff, seeing new scenery, new places, meeting new people."

There's also an irony to this project as—according to Coutu's grandmother, Paddy Marsh, who reached out to the Times about this story—he didn't like the school bus growing up, which he confirmed was true.

"It is definitely ironic and it's funny she said that," Coutu said. "Now I love school buses and now every school bus we drive by, I'm looking at it like, 'Oh, which one is that?' Trying to think of what engine's in it and this or that."

The couple encourages their generation to seize the day and any opportunity that comes their way.

"Pull the trigger. That would be my advice. Just to pull the trigger, just do it," Coutu said. "If you have something you're thinking about, don't think about it. Just do it."

"If you have that impulse decision, make it. Trust your gut," Hawley said.

To follow along on the project and the future travels, check out @blubuslife on Instagram.

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VIEWPOINTS



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

When a loved one is recovering from a heart attack

Few things are as frightening as a heart attack, not just for the person experiencing it but for family members. With prompt and proper treatment between 90 percent and 95 percent of heart attack patients (let's not call them victims) survive and return home.

A heart attack, technically a myocardial infarction, occurs when a blockage keeps oxygen-rich blood from getting to the heart. (Cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating entirely, is a completely different animal – and perhaps a topic for another day.)

Heart attack patients typically spend between two and five days in the hospital. For those who receive angioplasty or stents to keep the arteries open, the stay is usually shorter. If coronary bypass surgery is required, expect your loved one to be in the hospital for five to seven days. Hopefully, there are no complications (like blood clots) that keep them there longer.

When your loved one is ready to continue their recovery at home, you may wonder what will change, how to best support their recovery, and how you should behave around them. Based on my years of experience as a critical care nurse and patient advocate, here are five things to do – and not do.

1. Just listen.

Heart attack patients often experience something known as the “cardiac blues,” which can encompass a range of emotions, including sadness, anger, anxiety, confusion and loneliness. While distressing, these feelings usually abate with time.

It's important for you to hear what your loved one is saying and feeling without passing judgment or giving advice, such as, “You'd feel better if you'd just take a walk.”

2. But don't walk on eggshells.

On the other hand, you shouldn't make your loved one feel fragile, which can only make them feel more anxious than they already do. Do some of the things you've always done, such as watching a favorite TV show or movie. While you don't want them going up and down stairs to help with the laundry as they've always done, you can sit together and fold clothes while you chat.

3. Get their OK to come with you to follow-up visits.

As a spouse, partner or family member, you have a role to play on your loved one's care team. Part of this role is accompanying them to doctor visits so you can listen, take notes and ask questions.

Ensure that their doctors know that they have permission to discuss medical information with you so you

can be fully informed about what's going on or what needs to happen next.

Spouses are generally assumed to be the patient's representative in hospital settings, but if you are not married, it's wise to ask your loved one to complete a HIPAA authorization so your status as the patient representative is crystal clear. This also comes in handy if a situation arises where you have to advocate for them.

4. Know the right questions to ask.

The cardiologist will likely answer all of these questions, but it's important to understand and jot down the responses, particularly if the doctor seems rushed.

In addition to instructions about dietary changes and cardiac rehabilitation, ask the following:

What exercise is OK to do and what should not be done during recovery from a heart attack?

How will their heart condition be monitored on an ongoing basis (echocardiograms, stress tests, etc.)?

What are the chances of another heart attack after having one?

What symptoms should we watch for to indicate another heart attack?

How long before your loved one can return to their job?

5. Help them follow doctor's orders.

Your loved one will likely come home with some new medications, dietary modifications and an appointment for cardiac rehabilitation. Cardiac rehab is a critical component of their recovery. Typically, a heart attack patient can't drive for a few weeks following their hospital stay, so make yourself available as a chauffeur.

A heart attack is sometimes a bucket of cold water telling the patient that they have to make some lifestyle changes to ensure their heart gets healthy and stays healthy. Encourage your loved one to follow the doctor's recommendations, and maybe try some new recipes.

But don't nag them. Instead, tell them you need for them to comply with the doctor's recommendations because you love them and you want them to stick around as long as possible. Otherwise, your heart may break.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to “work on” the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed “the tiny place” when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I planted the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter which helped to break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months.

Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate, I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had

on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild

also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of “working on” the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



by Roberta McQuaid



weather this spring during bloom time.

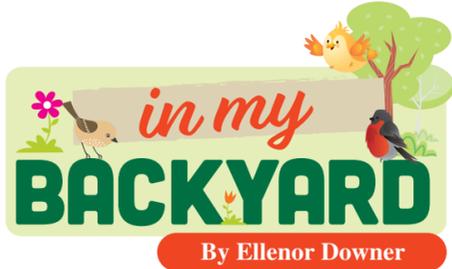
It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the country, prune when the tree is in blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can



By Ellenor Downer



Male Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, “Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer.”

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The fe-

male has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking. They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be attracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a “drink your tea” and a sharp “chewink” call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants

in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, “I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8



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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in
WILBRAHAM & HAMPDEN

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

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Bruce Adams, legislative aide for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield), reads the citation on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives during Retiring WPL Director Karen Ball's Open House reception.

Retiring WPL Director Karen Ball hugs State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) after receiving a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate.



Bruce Adams, legislative aide for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield), Retiring WPL Director Karen Ball and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) in a group photo.

Karen Ball celebrated at retirement reception

On Aug. 29, WPL Director Karen Ball retired after 32 years of serving the town of Wilbraham at the library. While receiving gifts and best wishes, Ball was also presented with citations from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives and the Senate in celebration of her retirement. Congrats to Karen Ball on her retirement!



A slideshow also shared some throwback photos over the years, including this fun group photo of library staff in Halloween costumes.



Well-wishers left thank you and congratulatory messages in a guest book.



Attendees mingle and share memories during the Open House reception celebrating the retirement of WPL Director Karen Ball.



Gifts were also brought to celebrate Retiring WPL Director Karen Ball on her last day. Pictured here is another attendee signing the guest book and sharing well-wishes

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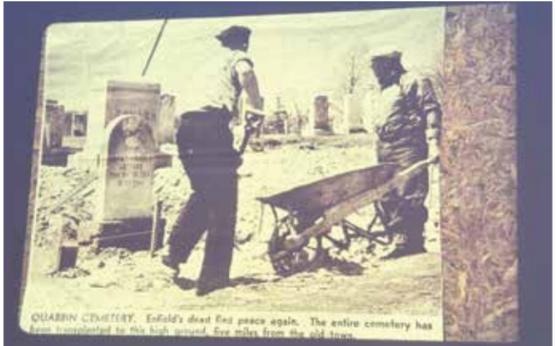
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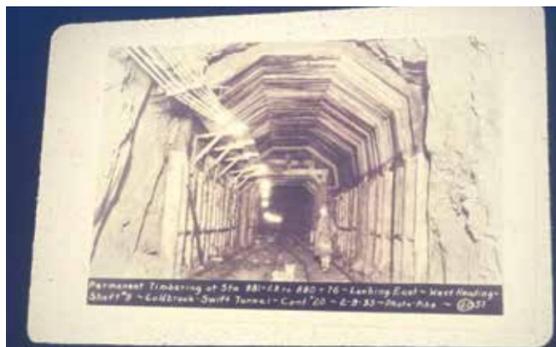
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A photo of the town hall and school buildings in Enfield, Mass, one of the four towns lost to the Quabbin Reservoir.



A photo of the Quabbin Park Cemetery as graves were being moved during the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir.



A photo of a tunnel being constructed.



A shot of attendees watching the presentation on the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir.

GREENE from page 1

which were Prescott, Enfield, Dana and Greenwich.

Afterward, there was a Q & A followed by a book signing and sale for attendees to check out Greene's books and have them signed.

Greene explained he calls the presentation "The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir," which is also a title of one of his books.

"Because that's what it covers. The fact of how it got there," Greene said. "Because there's a lot more to it than that obviously and that's what I try to explain in the course of the program."

On his latest book, Greene said besides coins and postcards, he also looks at objects "that are not meant to be saved" which include tickets, programs, guide pamphlets and advertising items.

He calls these items "found objects of history," with the idea being these items—particularly in relation to the Quabbin—are a part of its history.

"So what I did was I took various of those things I just mentioned and tied in a picture either of the people who issued it or the organization, the building, the steward, the factory, whatever, so that gives you much more meaning than just a thing," Greene said. "You see whoever issued the thing or what it was for."

Greene credits the Athol Atlas and the railroad for beginning his research into the history, following the path of the track from Athol to Springfield and going through the Quabbin, while also seeing previous out of print books did not have maps.

"So, I did that atlas in 1975, that was 50 years ago. That sold very well and I decided to research how the reservoir got passed through a bill, so I did the Creation of Quabbin book that came



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Joan Shea, vice president of the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, and J.R. Greene pose for a photo.



J.R. Greene pictured with his latest book, "The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects."

out in 1981, so it's taken off from that," Greene said.

From there, he's interviewed many people, researched archives and newspaper files, which led to his other books.

"I've done over 650 of these programs since 1976," Greene said.

Joan Shea, vice president of the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, brought Greene to Hampden.

"I'm looking for speakers to come to the senior center—interest—I have had speakers and authors and I remember having to look for his books for my niece. I searched online, found his email, sent it out and he answered me in three seconds flat," Shea said.

For Greene, the history of

the people in the four towns lost through the Quabbin Reservoir is what stays with him most.

"That's been very important to me and, also, the rather heartless bureaucracy—in most cases—that dealt with them. I quote a letter in the hikes book about a guy that had a blacksmith business—Mr. Pelham—and how they pay him for his bond and his house and all that, but his loss of business he couldn't restore it because most of his customers were going to be moved out as well," Greene said. "Some of the businesses did get lawyers to fight for that, but most of them didn't,

so they didn't get treated very well."

The cemeteries are also an interesting historical note.

"They did that over the whole course of the project starting in the late '20s. Dug up cemeteries," Greene said. "As I mentioned in the program, the Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware was especially built for that, but if people moved like to my hometown of Athol, they would have the graves moved up to there. So, there's still Quabbin graves in towns all around the reservoir because of that."

Greene was pleased with the turnout, noting the subject matter is what draws people in.

"After 50 years, I've become pretty well-known for this, but I think the word 'Quabbin' excites all kinds of interest in people," Greene said. "Like I say, it's the subject, it's not me."

Greene is currently working on another Strange Tales book and added his other books can be found at Atkins Farm, the Quabbin Visitor Center, Junction Variety in Thorndike and the Ware Public Library. They're usually found during the holiday season.

He will also be at the Belchertown Fair on Sept. 19 and 20 and will debut the 2026 Quabbin History calendar.

Greene thanked the community for coming out for the presentation.

"I'm glad there was a good turnout, the meal was good, so that's all I can ask for," Greene said.



J.R. Greene shared history with attendees during his book sale and signing as well.

Teen Advisory Board announces meeting, Sept. 15

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) announces its first monthly meeting of the school year on Monday, Sept. 15 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Brooks Room.

If you know someone in grades six through 12, please let them know about TAB. The WPL Teen Advisory Board consists of students

who help our Teen Librarian design the best programs for teens and recommend YA books and more for the Teen Loft.

Online registration is required or call us at 413-596-6141. Sign up, join us and let your teen voice be heard!

Snacks will be available, and the group is always looking for new members.

BACKYARD from page 6

rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can often save the bird. However, they then need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

South Hadley resident

A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

Eagles, ravens and more
My daughter, Paula, saw

a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Chaug field hockey winless to start fall

WILBRAHAM – The last couple of years, Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey has had some really competitive games against perennial powerhouse Longmeadow. Unfortunately, it was a 4-0 defeat in the first meeting of the season between the two league rivals. The Falcons also fell 3-0 in its season opener last Tuesday against East Longmeadow, which will be another league rival for the Falcons this season. The Falcons search for their first win on Sept. 11 against Westfield on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Natalie Duff continues past midfield.



Giselle Harris fights to keep possession.



Anna Taylor focuses as she possesses the ball.



Gabiella Eggsware heads up the field.



Reese Magee sends a free hit it away.



Jack Parastatidis watches his follow-through.



Cameron Salvador fights off an opposing player while trying to keep the ball.



Tyler Supczak chases down the ball.

Boys soccer edged 2-1 in two games

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer opened up the regular season. The Falcons suffered a pair of 2-1 losses, one to Monument Mountain and one last Wednesday night to Longmeadow.

Nathaniel Wesloski scored the Falcons lone goal in the second half. Minnechaug allowed by Longmeadow goals in the first half. Minnechaug seeks its first win at home against Agawam on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6:45 p.m.



Nicholas Cianflone winds up to send the ball upfield.



Benjamin Lopez makes a throw-in.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jack Paterno looks toward his teammate before making a pass.



Maliha Daubon goes for the spike.



Aezlin Rost gets the serve for the Falcons.

Falcons open regular season with pair of wins

WILBRAHAM – Last week, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball team opened the regular season with two 3-1 wins. The Falcons first defeated a familiar foe in league rival Agawam 3-1. The Falcons were able to get up early in the first set and rode the momentum to its first win. The second was a victory over Baystate Academy Charter. The Falcons return to action on Sept. 12 against Frontier Regional.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Cora Pace sends a backwards hit across the net.



Anna O'Toole gets the side hit.



Aa'mani Bianca sends a tip over the net.



Haley Powers makes a play from the libero position.

SPORTS

Leclerc, Patnode gets wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Teen Ty Leclerc is for real and so too is a slightly older guy named Todd Patnode.

Other winners Saturday on the high banks of the Great Race Place included Super Street hot shoe Zach Zilinski, who won for the second time this summer and Gordon Farnum, Farnum, who jumped into the Swanzy Oil ride mid-season, won for the third week in a row and fourth time this summer.

While points aren't kept in the youth Young Guns division, 2025 will be remembered as the year of Hunter Duquette. The Bay State teen scored his track-high seventh win Saturday. And in the Six Shooters, defending track king Michael Yeaton moved to the top of the leader board with his second win of the summer.

Leclerc started up front alongside Andrew Brouseau as the Allstates Material Group 604 Modifieds went to war in the night's first of two 35-lap features. The Taunton, Mass. star, who'd scored his first career win just three weeks earlier, jumped all over the opening lead and never looked back.

Top gun Tyler Leary raced most of the way in Leclerc's shadow but could never find a path around the flying teen. Patnode was quickly up to Leary's bumper but could advance no farther, settling for the bronze medal finish and setting his sights on a bigger prize in the nightcap.

With the top eight then inverted to start round number two, top points man Brian Robie, who entered Saturday night's twins with four wins already this summer, took charge on lap two. Patnode, though, firing from row three, led by a foot as the two former champs hit the stripe on lap four and then held strong to beat Robie to the checkers by a single length. Leclerc, blasting off from row four, was strong in third.

While Robie was winless on the night, he and his potent Bar Harbor Bank and Trust ride still holds a commanding 64-point lead in the race to the 2025 604 Modified championship, with only two remaining races this season.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first eight laps of the Twin State Truck Services Super Street feature. Zach Zilinski, though, wasn't about to let him get away, low-lining into the lead in turn two and then holding off a blockbuster cast to score his second win of the season.

Zilinski had to first hold off Erik Smith, and then JD Stockwell, as the presence of five-time winner Dylan Zullo moved closer and closer from his row four starting spot. Zullo rocketed into second on lap 16 but, on this night, had to settle for second, taking the checkers glued to Zilinski's bumper as he continued his march toward a first-time title. Stockwell finished his strong night's work in third, with two other previous 2025 winners, Chris Riendeau and Smith rounding out the top five.

Reigning Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure

Stock champ Andrea St. Amour started up front in Saturday night's 25-lap feature and immediately took charge. While she had a swarm of top contenders at her heels, the biggest thing to keep her from cruising into victory lane was coming like a heat-seeking missile from way back in row five.

Gobbling up positions from any lane he chose, Farnum took fourth on lap six, third on lap nine, and sailed past points leader Kyle Kenny two laps later. St. Amour was next. Taking the lead low along the front chute as lap 13 went into the books. He sped off into the sunset to win for the third week in a row. St. Amour and Carlos Grenier, staged a terrific battle for the second spot, with St. Amour prevailing to earn the runner-up hardware. Jimmy Zellman was fourth on the night, and fifth went to Addison Brooks.

Hunter Duquette made easy work of powering to win number seven in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday. Leading all the way in the caution-free 15-lapper, he romped to victory after earlier winning his heat. Ella Grabowski impressed in second, and Maya Bell was third.

Michael Yeaton and Travis Hollins were tied atop the Six Shooter leader board entering Saturday's third outing of the season. Not anymore. Like he'd done a few weeks ago at Claremont, Yeaton, the reigning king of the Six Shooters on the high banks, blasted off to win by a country mile Saturday. Hollins was second, and first-timer Jeff Staiti came home third.

Reigning Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure

Thunderbirds support annual charity ride

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today their continued support of the annual Ride to Remember, contributing a donation of \$2,500, hundreds of team hats for participants, and a specially designed custom Thunderbirds jersey honoring Aaron Pelletier, Connecticut State Police Trooper First Class, whose memory will be honored at this year's event.

"The Thunderbirds are truly honored to once again join together in support of Springfield's Ride to Remember in 2025," said Springfield Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "This event speaks to the values that mean so much to us as an organization - honoring service, remembering sacrifice, and standing with our Western Mass community. It's a privilege to stand

alongside the families, participants, and first responders who give this tradition its heart and meaning."

Now in its 14th year, the Ride to Remember unites hundreds of cyclists as they ride from Springfield to Hartford. Proceeds from the event support the families of fallen officers and firefighters and ensure their legacy is carried forward.

The Thunderbirds' contribution is part of the team's longstanding commitment to community impact. Alongside their donation and custom jersey, the Thunderbirds will continue to engage in initiatives that support local organizations and causes that strengthen Western Massachusetts.

Community members are encouraged to come out tomorrow to cheer on the riders and learn more about the Ride to Remember here, and to follow the Thunderbirds' community initiatives at www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Open roster spots remain in Quabbin Fall League

SOUTH HADLEY - After successful recruiting, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League has reached a decision to expand this year's fall league to six teams.

With the expansion, there are still some open roster spots for players who are age 28 and older. The league was set to get underway with its Sunday schedule beginning on Sunday, Sept. 7. But games were postponed due to rain. The season will now begin on Sunday, Sept. 14.

All players in the league will get to experience an eight-game slate with the cost in the range of \$45 to \$60 depending on the number of players on the team. The cost reflects paying for insurance, umpires, baseballs, and fields.

Primary fields being used this fall include Mitineague in West Springfield and Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley, with a third field being finalized this week.

Players potentially interested in participating in the league this year, don't wait to sign-up.

Go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the registration page. If you have more questions, you can contact the league's co-coordinators at gscibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com

The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an over-28 baseball league playing games during the spring and summer in Western Massachusetts. The league recently expanded to offer an over-28 fall league to allow players in the age range to face like competition during the fall months. There were four teams last year, and the league is expanding due to higher interest in its second year.

The tradition of fall league is to play with wood bats only. The league has nine-inning games and participants are guaranteed time in the field for at least four innings.

To learn more about Andrew Associates and its services, contact John French at jfrench@andrewdm.com.

Andrew Associates celebrates 40 Years

Enfield, CT - Andrew Associates, a certified woman-owned direct marketing company, is proud to celebrate its 40th anniversary this quarter. Founded in 1985 by Judith Knapp, in Wilbraham MA, the company started in a garage with just one employee. Today, Andrew Associates has grown into a respected leader in the direct marketing industry, partnering with Fortune 100 companies, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and government agencies.

From its state-of-the-art, 45,000 square-foot sustainable facility in Enfield, CT, Andrew Associates employs 45 dedicated professionals who provide clients with a full suite of services including data management, modeling and analytics, direct mail, printing, fulfillment, and creative marketing solutions.

In 2008, recognizing the unique needs of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions, Andrew Associates launched a specialized nonprofit division focused on enhancing fundraising and communication efforts. This division has since helped local, regional, and national nonprofits improve their donor database management, annual giving campaigns, planned giving initiatives, and capital campaigns.

Looking back on Andrew Associates' journey, Graeme Bazarian, President of Andrew Associates, reflected on the company's achievements and future goals.

"Celebrating 40 years is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team. From our humble beginnings to becoming a trusted partner for some of the nation's leading organizations, we're proud of what we've built and excited for the future," said Bazarian. "As we look ahead, our focus remains on providing innovative, results-driven solutions for our clients."

To learn more about Andrew Associates and its services, contact John French at jfrench@andrewdm.com.

A fresh look inside the Hall

HOLYOKE - Big things are happening at the Hall of Fame museum this fall - and you'll want to be here to experience them.

Launching Induction Weekend on Oct. 18, the expanded Beach Volleyball exhibit takes fans on an interactive journey through the sport's rise from the sand to the Olympic stage and beyond. Explore historic vid-

eos, trace volleyball's global reach with a dynamic world map, and discover how our inductees helped shape the game's incredible story.

The Hall is also unveiling a brand-new Inductee Hall - a dedicated space where every plaque, from the very first class to the Class of 2025, will be honored together in one inspiring showcase of greatness.

And that's not all. Enhanced Olympic and World ParaVolley exhibits will debut with rare artifacts and powerful new stories, giving visitors even more reasons to celebrate the game's diversity and global impact.

The Hall you know is being reimagined to add more - more stories, more history, more ways to connect with the sport we love.

Minnechaug Land Trust Volunteer Maintenance Day, Saturday Sept. 27

HAMPDEN - We're back with a volunteer opportunity for you this Fall! Come join us on Saturday Sept. 27 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon to help maintain our popular Goat Rock Trails. You may have heard that Goat Rock was originally called "Goat Rocks," and received its name in the late 1700's after one of

William King's goats became caught in the rocks and died. Many hikers in Hampden and the surrounding towns know Goat Rock and its trails well.

Due to the popularity of Goat Rock and its trail system, we will need volunteers to help with various tasks, including trash pick-up, re-painting kiosks at the

trail entrances, re-marking trail blazes, fixing water diversions on trails coming up from Memorial Park, clearing weeds and brush from vistas, and maintaining trail edges and boundaries as needed.

Please meet us at the trailhead in the Memorial Park parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Memorial Park is located at 495

Main Street, Hampden.

Volunteers are welcome to meet up with us on the trails anytime between 9:30 a.m. to Noon. A digital copy of the trail map can be found via the following link: Goat Rock Trail Map or looking up Goat Rock Trail on the Alltrails App.

Sturdy shoes, clothes that

can get dirty, gloves, water, bug spray, and a backpack are recommended, other tools will be provided. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to bring battery-operated hedge trimmers if possible.

Questions can be sent to either Charlie Thompson at tcharles344@gmail.com or Jenn Bagge at jenn.bagge@

gmail.com.

Volunteer trail days are our favorite events of the Minnechaug Land Trust and a great way to get outside and give back within the community. Without you, our lovely trail systems, serene woodlands, and iconic views would not exist. Thank you for your support.

Advertisement for 90 Meat Outlet featuring various meat products and prices. Includes text: LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!, INFLATION, PRICE BUSTERS, PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES! Products listed include Country Style Pork Ribs, Pork Shoulder Picnic, Center Cut Pork Loin, Virginia Ham, Swiss Cheese, Pork Butt Strips, Chicken Thighs, Beef T-Bone or Porterhouse Steaks, Beef Shoulder London Broil or Roast, Roaster Chicken, Chicken Breast, Chicken Thighs, Hot Pockets Steak & Cheese, Matlaws Stuffed Clams.

Plant Swap to be held at WPL

WILBRAHAM- Liven up your home by swapping or adopting an indoor plant!

The Wilbraham Public Library will host Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens for their presentation, Houseplants 101, on Monday, September 15 at 6 p.m. Then, on Saturday, Sept. 20 from Noon

to 1:30 pm, the public is encouraged to bring their extra houseplants, clippings, and propagations to the library to swap with others. These events are free and open to the public.

For more information and guidelines, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Book launch with Melva Michaelian Sept. 19

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Senior Center will welcome Author Melva Michaelian on Friday, Sept. 19 for the launch of her book, "Thanks for the Memories."

Melva will be here to discuss her new book that details her journey caring for her husband with Alzhei-

mer's Disease and her experience at the Hampden Senior Center Memory Café. Books will be available for purchase at the event for \$10.

Light refreshments provided by JGS Lifecare. Please RSVP by calling 413-566-5588.

Monthly Highlights for September at the Hampden Senior Center:

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens HUGE Indoor Tag Sale through Sept. 12

Shopping Hours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*****Final Sale Day: Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to Noon (no early birds!)*****

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Proceeds from the Tag Sale will benefit senior center programs and activities. Please call 566-5588 with any questions.

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Annual Rice's Farm Pie Sale Fundraiser. Order a delicious Apple or Pumpkin Pie between Sept. 2 and Oct. 17.

Pies are \$19 each, and all proceeds from the sale will benefit programs and activities at the Senior Center. Pies will be available for pickup on Saturday, Nov. 1, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. in the senior center parking lot. Order forms are available at the Senior Center front desk. We appreciate your support!

Crafts with Kim Scrapbooking Class

Every Tuesday,

from 10 a.m. to Noon

Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you may wish to use.

Kim will provide scrapbooking paper and all the tools necessary to make your book gift-worthy.

Cost is \$10 per class.

Life with Bill: A New Model of Aging

Friday, Sept. 12

at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a tasty lunch of Chicken Piccata provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services at Noon (suggested donation for lunch is \$3) and stay for a FREE program with Nick Kachulis, local author, storyteller, and professional musician starting at 12:30 pm. Nick will be here to perform his program of stories and

music, *Life with Bill: A New Model of Aging*. A heartfelt tale of taking care of a parent in their later years, *Life with Bill* is both an exceptionally educational and entertaining experience. Nick Kachulis is a published author with work appearing in several periodicals, including *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Grieving Loss and Healing*. Nick's music has been featured on broadcast television in Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, including ABC, PBS, HBO, and ESPN. Sign up today by calling 566-5588.

Sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens and BC/BS of MA. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

FREE Tech Support

Monday, Sept. 15,

from 10 to 11 a.m.

Everyday Tech Support will be available by appointment only for 30-minute sessions on the 3rd Monday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. to meet with you to address your technical questions.

Come prepared with your charged portable device: mobile phone, laptop, or tablet. Know your passwords, and have your questions written down. Time is of the essence; use it wisely. It's a good idea to bring a notebook to take notes. Appointments are limited, and pre-registration is mandatory.

Please call 566-5588 to schedule your appointment.

Hershey Chocolate Tour

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025

at 1 p.m.

Join us for a virtual tour presented by the Hershey Story Museum in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Sweet Success: The Story of Milton Hershey & International Chocolate Tasting.

Discover how Milton Hershey turned a simple cocoa

bean into one of the most iconic chocolate brands in the world! You will embark on a guided chocolate tasting and explore the delicious flavor profiles of single-source chocolates from across the globe. Limited spots available.

You must pre-register for this program by calling 566-5588. You don't want to miss this delicious experience! Sponsored in part by: Katie Krupka, Assisted Living Locators

Veteran Discounts Discussion with Jason Burgener, VSO

Wednesday, Sept. 17,

from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Come, enjoy a cup of coffee, and learn what discounts are available to Veterans and how to access these money-saving opportunities. Please call 566-5588 to let us know you're coming.

Grandparents Day/Thunderbirds BINGO

Thursday, Sept. 18, at Noon

Grandparents Luncheon Lunch: Hot Dog, Broccoli Slaw & Baked Beans Provided by GSSSI. \$3 Suggested Donation

Followed by: BINGO with BOOMER and the Springfield Thunderbirds!

We will have Thunderbirds prizes, including tickets to games, koozies, t-shirts, and more!

This is a FREE event. Come and have your picture taken with Boomer and win great prizes!

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

Greeting Cards with Ellie

Monday, Sept. 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

Come and discover endless possibilities for creating your own personal greeting cards.

Learn new techniques each month.

Cost is \$3.00 per person. All materials are provided.

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

Lobby Learning - Thursdays in September

Don't have time to come in and sit for a long presentation? We understand!

Lobby Learning is aimed at welcoming businesses and organizations to provide helpful information to you.

You are welcome to stop in to pick up information and speak one-on-one with representatives in the senior center lobby and stay for as long as you need to get your questions answered.

Perhaps there is an organization you would like us to

welcome? Please let us know.

9/11 - Retired Senior Volunteer Program (S.S.V.P.)

9/18 - Alzheimer's Association

9/25 - Kind Hands Home Care

Do you have Parkinson's Disease, or know someone who does?

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes with Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master/Holistic Therapist

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.

A Parkinson-specific exercise class that "makes function, exercise" to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms, and increase your daily activity. This whole-body, function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

Pre-paid rate for 8 classes: \$65. Drop-in rate: \$10 per class. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD

Mondays, from 12:30 to 1:30

p.m. - No meeting on 9/15.

Come join this friendly group... Share memories and learn new coping skills on how to deal with loss, loneliness, and adapting to life changes. There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome.

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you're coming.

Ukulele Classes with Amy Scott

Current session runs

through Oct. 20.

Drop-ins are welcome!

No class 10/13

New Times: Mondays

Beginner Ukulele - 11:45

a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Cost is \$50 for the session

if paid in full or \$7 per class

for drop-ins.

Advanced Ukulele - 1 to

2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$80 for the session.

Please call 566-5588 to sign

up.

Pickleball for Seniors 60 and older at Thornton Burgess,

85 Wilbraham Road, Hamp-

den, MA

Wednesday morning timeslots:

8, 9:30, or 11 a.m.

You must call the senior

center to sign up.

This program is for new

players and beginners looking

to hone their skills and learn

the rules of the game.

Please call 566-5588 to register and schedule your court time.

Living Stronger... Longer - with Lamar Moore

Tuesdays from 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Classes in September will be on the 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Join Lamar to learn about balance and how it impacts your overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

"It's never too late to start making progress on your health span. Muscles and balance are the two things you can train and improve even as you age."

The new 11-week session begins September 30 through December 16.

Cost is \$55 for the session if paid in full or \$6 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Ballroom Dance for Balance and Longevity!

Thursdays, from

2:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Current session through

Sept. 18. No classes on 9/11.

Social dance classes led by Amy Villalobos-Schold, a skilled occupational therapist. Focused on strengthening, stability, and modifications... so you can dance! Beginners and singles welcome!

The new 8-week session begins September 25 through November 13

Cost is \$60 per person for the 8-week session if paid in full, or \$10 for drop-ins.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"African Drumming" with Jason

NEW TIME** Fridays

from 2 to 3 p.m.

The new 14-week session

begins Sept. 5 through Dec. 12. No class on 11/28.

All are welcome! No previous

experience necessary.

Cost is \$80 for the 14-week

session if paid in full, or \$7 per

class for drop-ins.

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

Choral Group

Are you interested in singing

in a choral group? Please

let us know by calling 566-

5588.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Tissues.

Thank you to those who donated mouthwash last

month. Every month, we will

target a different item to help

fill monthly Personal Needs

Bags.

Due to space constraints,

Upcoming HSC Trips

HAMPDEN - The following trips are being arranged at the Hampden Sr Ctr, 104 Allen St, Hampden; prices include the driver's tip.

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor Store - \$140pp. Second Train Car Now Available!

Mon, Dec 8 - The Aqua Turf Club "Rock This Town Orchestra" - Coffee on arrival, delicious family-style lunch, Swinging '50s and '60s tunes - \$127pp.

Full Payment Deadlines are usually 2 weeks before the event. Flyers are available @ the Sr Ctr or via email. Questions call Bobbi @ 413-566-8271 or email bobbij2@charter.net.

please refrain from purchasing warehouse-sized items.

D & R Farm, Summer Farm Share

PICK-UP is on Wednesdays,

Sept. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify! New applications for Summer Farm Share are required.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$40 cash each month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

"Come What May" Boutique... is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours,

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of the Senior Center.

Did you know we offer the following services....

FREE Blood Pressure Clinic - Walk-in 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Tuesdays with Ann Mag-

gio, RN, or Ruth Haley, RN

Thursdays with Karen

Blair, RN

Chair Massage with Mindy

Tuesday, Sept. 23. Cost is

\$10 for 10 minutes.

Anyone of any age is welcome

to schedule appointments for these services.

Please call 566-5588 to

schedule your appointments.

Knights of Columbus donates to Scantic Valley YMCA

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Council 10195 is pleased and proud to announce that they have made a \$250 donation to the Scantic Valley YMCA's "Parkinson's Disease treatment program" in honor of and in the name of Father John Connors, the recently retired Pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish here in Wilbraham.

Father Connors, a US

Marine Corp Veteran, proudly served his country before a lengthy career in Human Resources for various companies for decades before becoming a Roman Catholic Priest, proudly and devoutly serving many Parishes throughout the Diocese of Springfield.

The Knights make this donation in his name in the hopes of helping others who are dealing with Parkinson's.

COOKOUT from page 4

the awesome responsibility to run day-to-day operations."

Cocchi noted that the key to keeping the event fresh and unique as the years continue to pass, by summing it up to the fact of building relationships and staying true to what you mean.

"It's about providing services to the people in the community who need help and support, to allow offenders who are incarcerated that opportunity for redemption, and give them a piece of hope," Cocchi said.

Cocchi also discussed the overall elation of seeing familiar faces and the foundational pillars of colleagues who helped pave the way for him, such as a former Correctional Officer SGT. James Rooney, who was a mentor to Cocchi when he first started, back during the days of the old York Street Prison being in use.

"It was so great to see Jimmy (Rooney)," Cocchi said. "I have had so much respect for him, since the days of when I was a young CO, and he (Jim) was one of my mentors in one of the toughest areas in the facility."

Cocchi was grateful to the community for their support.

"I'm just so grateful to see this level of support in 2025; it's extremely humbling," Cocchi said.

Providing similar comments to Cocchi's gratitude was Springfield Police Commissioner Tranghese, who kept his thoughts simple, highlighting the support and unity from the community.

"This is a great function for all of Western Mass, and it brings us all together, and it's always a big occasion," Tranghese said.

Touching upon the resilience of the community, showing up strong, despite the rainy and wet conditions, was Mayor Garcia.

"You would think with rain, you would expect low turnout, but that's not the case," Garcia said. "But this turnout is a testament to Sheriff Cocchi, and again, that has to do with good leadership, good direction, and I'm here to contribute and offer support, and everyone here in some way, shape, or capacity are doing important work in the community, and we show up to show support for each other, for the Sheriff to continue the good work of



Turley photos by Brendan Rooney
From left to right, Former Springfield PD Superintendent Cheryl Clapprod, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO.

improving quality life of people."

Offering similar sentiments to Garcia's comments was State Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

"Even when it rains, people are going to come out and support Sheriff Cocchi," Gomez said. "From the work he

and his team have been doing, it shows that the public is still with him, and they enjoy this annual event."

Gomez also noted the diversity and overall enjoyment of everyone in attendance.

"We have children here, grandparents, we have everybody, and everyone is enjoy-

ing good food and conversation, and just remember to stand tall and keep pushing our region forward," Gomez said.

Following suit in the ode of gratitude centered around Cocchi, while branding a new name for supporters of the Sheriff was Mayor Vieau, who attributed the 'Cocchi army'.

"I'll tell you that Sheriff Cocchi is just beloved by this community, and it's not just Western Mass; it's beyond," Vieau said. "And Nick (Cocchi) is a great guy, and I'm grateful and thankful to call him a great friend."

Gulluni also offered his initial thoughts about the event, sharing that the support from everyone was "phenomenal."

"It's a testament to Cocchi's community outreach and engagement due to the credibility he's achieved as Sheriff over these years, to bring out this number of people in a washout, and I'm happy to be here to support Nick (Cocchi) and his team," Gulluni said.

He also talked about the passion for being in the position he is in.

"I feel privileged to have had this job for almost 11

years, and I worked in the office as an assistant DA, so I have a great appreciation for the impact that we can have," Gulluni said.

Gulluni cited the success is due to his staff.

"I've been really fortunate to have great people around me through all the projects and the initiatives that we have, but particularly on unresolved cases, we've had a lot of success, and that is meaningful to the community, and it's obviously tremendously meaningful to the families and loved ones involved who lost someone and never got answers and that is a trauma I can't even envision, so if we can give back in that capacity, I'm really honored to do so," Gulluni said.

The all-day event kicked off with a golf tournament in the morning, and for those in attendance, they were treated to grilled foods like Italian sausage, burgers, corn, grilled chicken and BBQ ribs, along with plenty of drinks, were provided to bring a classic cookout feel. The event also featured live music, cornhole and tons of raffle prizes.

All funds from the event went towards the Sheriff's election committee.

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8 FT. MINUTE MOUNT FISHER PLOW, new 5/8" cutting bar, remote included. \$800. Call 413-388-5854.

TAG SALE

COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE. Sat., 9/13/25, 9am-4pm. Brookhaven Association Clubhouse, 8 Lakeview Drive, West Brookfield.

We have a TON of items, including new and used clothing, shoes, coats, home decor, kitchen supplies (dishes, serving platters, etc.), chandeliers, laptops, and dog supplies (clothing, collars, etc.), board games, wood, tents and camping gear, and many, many, many other things. FREE chicken coops and misc supplies!!!! Clothing: XS-XXL Female Shoes: 7.5-8.5

20 Burleigh Rd.
Hampden, MA 01036
Sept. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28
10am-5pm
Sept. 15-19, 22-26 10am-2pm
Other times by Appt. Rain or Shine
Call/text Ellie @ 413-531-5026 for questions and appointments.

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Please submit resume to:
Wilbraham Housing Authority
88 Stony Hill Rd.,
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call **413-284-0005.**

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! Email: squieroil@verizon.net. Call **413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

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Duties include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.

Qualifications: A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.

Submit resume to:
Town of Ware
ATTN: Human Resources
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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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PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 5:45 PM on the application of Mark Nowak for 1) a Special Permit (ZBA25-09) under the provisions of Sections 3.4.5.20(B) and 6.5.11 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow retail sales of used automobiles and trucks ancillary to the existing limousine transportation business and 2) a variance under the provisions of Section 15.5.2.2 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the automobiles to be parked within the front and rear yard setbacks on property owned by Nowak Family Trust at 8 Stony Hill Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/389877245 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 389-877-245). Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 09/04, 09/11/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Daniel Strum (contractor) for 1) Site Plan Approval (SPA25-02) under Sections 3.4.2.8 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow construction of an 897 square foot detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) with attached garage and 2) a Special Permit (SP25-04) under Section 3.9.2.2 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow the proposed attached garage with a building footprint of 480 square feet resulting in combined garage area in the proposed and existing garage in excess of 1,100 square feet on property owned by Christopher and Melissa Knowles located at 27 Stonegate Circle as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/637841781 or call 866-899-

4679 (Access Code: 637-841-781).

James Rooney, Chair 09/04, 09/11/2025

Wilbraham Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:30PM in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Notice of Intent filed by Nathan Moriarty under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project is for the replacement of a retaining wall and construction of a patio and additional retaining walls. The proposed project is located at 28 Mill Brook Drive. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman 09/11/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:15 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Sabbie Siniscalchi (contractor) for Site Plan Approval (SPA25-03) under Sections 3.4.2.8 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow construction of a 543 square foot attached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on property owned by Anthony Tyler and Rebecca Impionbato located at 664 Stony Hill Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/637841781 or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 637-841-781).

James Rooney, Chair 09/04, 09/11/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1837EA

Estate of: Betty-Marie Kozlowski Also known as: Betty-Marie Vincene Kozlowski Date of Death: 10/11/1987 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Gene J Kozlowski of Broken Arrow, OK requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Gene J Kozlowski of Broken Arrow, OK be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/02/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: September 04, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate

09/11/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

OBITUARIES

Patricia C. McGranaghan

1934 - 2025

WILBRAHAM - Patricia Catherine (Ferry) McGranaghan, 90, of Wilbraham, passed away peacefully on August 31, 2025. Born in Simsbury, CT to the late James and Catherine (Flannery) Ferry, Pat dedicated her life to caring for others. A graduate of Middlesex Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, she was a compassionate Registered Nurse. Pat's life was defined by her faith, family, friends and joy in simple pleasures. A faithful communicant of St. Cecilia Church in Wilbraham, she loved gardening, playing golf, skiing and any time on Cape Cod. She

was always happiest surrounded by her loved ones. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 57 years, Joseph T. McGranaghan, Sr. and her cherished daughter Kathleen McGranaghan, as well as her sister Barbara Andrews.



She leaves behind her children: daughters Patricia Murphy and her husband John of Wilbraham, Ann Bernardi and her husband Joseph of Glastonbury, CT, and her son, Joseph T. McGranaghan, Jr. of Boxborough, MA. She is also survived by her dearest sister Elaine Bruenn of Cheshire, CT; her ten beloved grandchildren; Brendan, Declan, Justin, Benjamin, Hugh, Patrick, Michael, Emmett, Rob-

DEATH NOTICES

McGranaghan, Patricia C. Died Aug. 31, 2025 Wilbraham Funeral Home

Jackson, Bruce I. Died Sept. 2, 2025 Wilbraham Funeral Home

ert and Alexandra, as well as two great grandchildren; Sophie and Logan.

A Funeral Mass was held Friday, September 5, 2025 at 10 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Burial will be at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wilbraham Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Pat may be made St. Cecilia Church Hope at Home Ministry or the charity of your choice.

Bruce I. Jackson

1931-2025

HAMPDEN - Bruce Irving Jackson, 93, passed away at home on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, with his loving family by his side. Born in Springfield, on October 6, 1931, to the late Ray and Ethelyn (Patterson) Jackson. He was a graduate of A.I.C. and Springfield College and spent his entire career in education.



He retired in 2001 from the Town of East Longmeadow's School System. He had many hobby type interests, but we all loved his gardening, apple cider making from his own orchard, and creating a variety of carvings, which were often gifted to relatives and friends. Bruce and his wife Judith (Miller) Jackson recently shared the 65th Anniversary of their marriage. Besides his

wife, he will be missed by his daughters, Valerie Rae Jackson, Jill Jackson Cyr, her husband Brian Cyr, two grandsons, Jacob King and Jared King, his wife Emily, and their daughter Jesse Rae King.

There will be a private burial at Hillcrest Park Cemetery and Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with all arrangements. There will be no formal services at Bruce's request. He also requested that you think of his life by enjoying nature and loving deeply.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and
6. Gets ready
8. Ad
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show

- 28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item corned beef
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

Mystery Room coming Sept. 23

WILBRAHAM - The Teen Department at the Wilbraham Public Library announces "Teen Mystery Room: Alien Escape" on Tuesday, September 23 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Similar to an escape room, in this mystery room teens will work together in teams using clues, puzzles and riddles. This program is

for Grades six through 12 and sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Online registration is required. Sign up as a team of up to four teens; solo registrants will be put on a team.

Register at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, "Teens", "Event Calendar" or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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2. Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
3. Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Small crossword puzzle grid.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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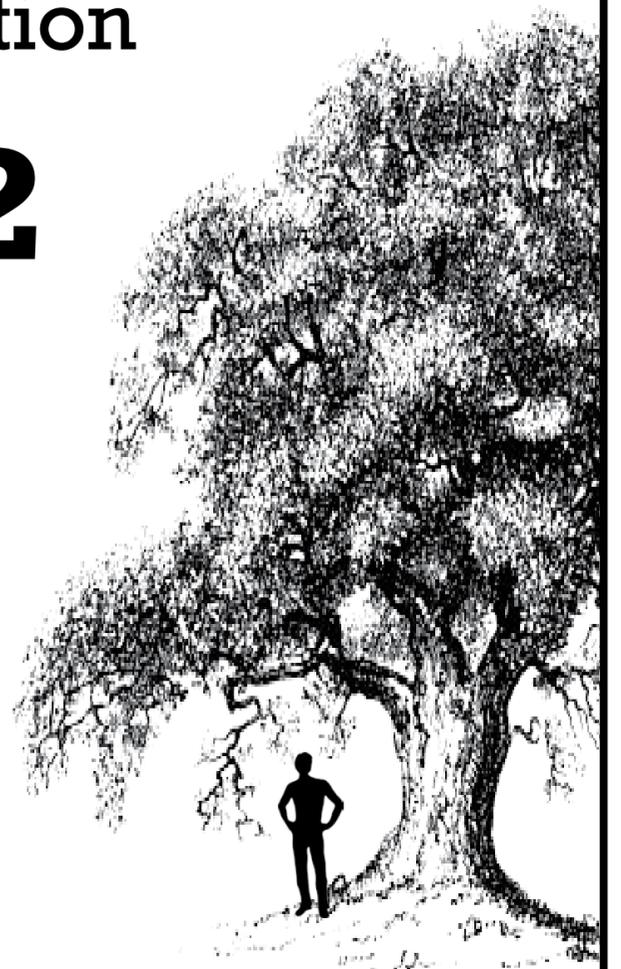
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