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Attendees work on their cupcakes.

CUPCAKE WARS held at HPL

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The library hosted a Cupcake Wars event on Sept. 5 for teens and teens to get creative with their own cupcake creations. Mila Ford won the contest with her Christmas-themed cupcake creation and received a special certificate.

Young Adult Librarian Maxie Girard explained how the attendees decorated three of their own cupcakes with frosting, food coloring, a variety of toppings, cookie cutters and more. "Just a lot of different things for them to express their creativity and their theme was their favorite season," Girard said. "They knocked it

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Mila Ford with her Christmas-themed cupcake and certificate after winning the Cupcake Wars in Hampden.

Board presents updates on traffic safety discussions

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM – The Select Board discussed traffic safety law updates about motorized vehicles within town limits on Sept. 14. The Board previously heard comments from Police Chief Ed Lennon around the vehicles, who expressed concerns around law enforceability and general pedestrian safety. Town Administrator Nick Breault began the update sharing how the Traffic Safety Team met the week before. "With the ebike safety, Chief Lennon and his staff have been working with the school department on initiatives and trying to get public safety messages out there about those items," Breault said. "So, they're working on that as part of the educational piece of that." Breault said they were "continuing to look at" what other communities are implementing as well. "We understand there's different approaches, but

those are the immediate things that we're looking to do," Breault said. On the traffic concerns on Glenn Drive, Breault explained additional speed limits signs were immediately put in for the road to emphasize the 25 mile an hour speed limit, along with an order for more. "I think it's four in total. I don't know that we're going to put all four there to start, but we're going to put traffic counters and signs that indicate the speed of the traffic going out. At least one each way to try and encourage slowdowns on that," Breault said. He next brought up a potential Special Town Meeting article that would ask if the Select Board would support a traffic study for the Glenn Drive and Brainard Road area "to get a professional third-party perspective on what measures might be most effective." "I mean, we talked at the Traffic Safety meeting there was something brought up

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9/11 25TH ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN WILBRAHAM, HAMPDEN

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN – "On the morning of September 11, 2001, brilliant sunny skies were the rule from Long Island through the I-95 corridor into Virginia, including New York City," according to accuweather.com. On Friday, September 11, 2026, the weather in the skies above Wilbraham and Hampden was identical and brought back memories of that fateful day as September 11th Remembrance Ceremonies took place at their respective Fire Departments to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of what has come to be known simply as "September 11th". In Wilbraham, where they gathered at the Fire Station on Boston Rd. to remember the first responders and all those who lost their lives, the ceremony began with an unexpected twist as some firefighters were called away from the station as they responded to a call shortly before the 9:55 a.m. start.

Present for the ceremony were Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews, Union President Jeff Kristek, Firefighters Derrick Merrill and John Monty, who joined the Wilbraham Fire Department about six months ago after being a Paramedic for the previous four years. Also present

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The Wilbraham Fire Department trucks out of bays ahead of the ceremony.



Hampden LT/EMT Brendan Kennedy with Firefighter Ryan Lafountain at the Hampden Fire Station.

Seniors enjoy T-Birds Bingo with Boomer

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – On Thursday, Sept. 17, area seniors at the Hampden Senior Center were treated to a visit from Boomer, the Springfield Thunderbirds mascot, as they gathered for an exciting edition of "Thunderbirds BINGO" in celebration of Grandparents Day. For those who wanted to begin their afternoon with lunch at the Senior Center, the menu that day was a delicious plate of Turkey Chili and Baked Potatoes provided by GSSSI. Shortly after lunch, more seniors arrived in anticipation of the events to come. They certainly

weren't disappointed as Boomer made his grand entrance to the lunchroom, waving to the crowd, much to the delight of all those in attendance, and immediately began to make the rounds of the various tables for picture taking and greetings. Ellen Pixley from Hampden, who attended with her four-year-old granddaughter Hannah, was joined at the event by Janice Munsell of Hampden and her granddaughter Emma. Pixley noted that, "the girls know who Boomer is, because all their brothers play hockey and even their cousins....Very hockey-oriented girls in the family."

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 8



Turley photo by Harold Anderson

The other Grand Prize Winner, Sylvia Joseph (Hampden).

SC ratifies Unit C contract

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The School Committee officially ratified a contract for Unit C—which is for paraprofessionals—on Sept. 18. The decision came during a brief meeting this past Friday afternoon. The item was originally on the agenda to be discussed and voted on on Sept. 10. However, after a 45-minute executive session during that meeting, School Committee Member Sean Kennedy spoke up about a change. "Before we get into that, I would like us to actually delay the vote and let us not work on that now," Kennedy said. "Right before this meeting, the union reached out to us and there is a technical is-

sue that they're working with the administration on right now. Something about the language, I guess. So, they're just working on that right now, and once that's ironed out, we'll either do it at the next meeting or, if we can, we can just always schedule another meeting in between now and our next scheduled meeting just to deal with this." Kennedy emphasized that the committee was in agreement on the contract itself. "In general, we're in agreement. It's just the union brought up something we just wanted to highlight and note," Kennedy said. That later meeting came to be on Sept. 18 in the District Office where, after a brief executive session, the contract was voted on and officially ratified.

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Scholarship Info Night coming Oct. 8

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - A Scholarship Information Night event will be taking place at the library's Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

The event is a collaboration between the library's Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts to provide information on available scholarships for high school students.

One scholarship that will be highlighted is the John M. Flynn Memorial Scholarship, which is annually awarded to one Hampden student and one East Longmeadow student. The official name of it is the John M. Flynn Family Scholarship Fund.

The online portal to apply for this and other scholarships opens in 2027 on Jan. 1 and runs through March 1 at communityfoundation.org/scholarships.

Refreshments and pizza will be served at the event along with a raffle bundle of \$150 in gift cards up for grabs.

Megan Ashe, Flynn's daughter, explained the scholarship began when he passed away in 2013, as a fund had been set up "for many many years" to provide "a significant impact" on high school students as they headed to college.

"That was his desire to really significantly fund those efforts and provide a scholarship annually to one high school graduate from Hampden and one high school graduate from East Longmeadow," Ashe said. "What we're really trying to do is share this information so kids are aware of it. There's a lot of information out there and sometimes it doesn't get to everybody. So we were just trying to leverage the Sheila Flynn Teen Center—we thought it was a nice fit, right, mom and dad—to utilize that great space and it's been visited quite a bit from students throughout the years and really set that down, share that information about this particular scholarship."

Ashe said other scholarships would be shared at the event and it will become an annual event at the library.

"We'll grow it each year and we'll just keep providing information to kids in Hampden. What's out there, what can they go and seek out for financial resources to pursue their educational dreams,"

Ashe said. "It's expensive. It's a very costly endeavor and how can we support those efforts for those kids and families."

On supporting a student in Hampden and a student in East Longmeadow, Ashe explained her father grew up and lived in Hampden and was a Selectman for 33 years, while East Longmeadow was where he grew his business.

"When I heard, working over the last couple of years with the Community Foundation, we really weren't getting the word out to potential recipients, how best to do that. So I asked the library, could we partner up with the Community Foundation, who is an incredible resource. Truly an incredible resource for Western Mass, that's the reason why my dad went to them to do this," Ashe said. "How can we leverage this opportunity and really get the word out? So, shaping this event initially will be Andrea coming in and giving it a broad stroke, sharing some scholarship opportunities that kids can go towards."

During the event, Ashe said attendees will also receive an overview of the John M. Flynn Memorial Scholarship and the process of who can apply, what it means financially, the recipient awards and how the fund will continue to grow each year.

Also, how students and families can look for financial resources on other scholarships that they could qualify for.

"Just providing a low-key event for students to come with their families or themselves and just hear what's out there," Ashe said.

She also praised Library Director Ellen Moriarty and her staff for their impact on the community and support.

"They really have the biggest hearts. They really just give and give. They're amazing, really," Ashe said. "Gems, just gems."

Ashe added that her dad was always a strong supporter of education and was also a trustee at Elms College, involved at UMass Amherst, a weekly reader at Green Meadows School and encouraged her family to pursue education and to always be constant learners.

"He really wanted to do this after his passing to ensure that his promotion of education lives on. That there is a thirst out there, a need, if you will, for that desire to be a constant learner. How do you grow yourself is through learning and whether it's in the classroom or outside the classroom to just continue to learn and grow," Ashe said.

She hopes attendees take away from the upcoming event that there are resources out there to support them in continuing their education.

"We just wanted to promote that there are some financial tools out there and leverage the Community Foundation of Western Mass who does provide, like I said, a whole host of scholarships for students to take advantage of and hopefully those opportunities support their educational journey," Ashe said.

And, also, the scholarship named after her dad is available and can make a "significant impact" in a student's educational journey, financially.

Andrea Bienvenue, program officer for Post-Secondary Education with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, shared she's worked with Ashe for the last two scholarship cycles and was excited about the upcoming event.

"We just want to make sure that not only are we getting the word out that these types of scholarships are available, but also just the accessibility that CFWM offers where when an applicant puts in an application, it's just a single application," Bienvenue said. "We would give them access to up to 160 scholarships depending on where their qualifications are and how they would answer the questions. So, we're not putting it on the student where they have to scan our website and see what scholarships they would potentially qualify for. They put in a single application and based off how they answer it, it would determine what scholarships they qualify for and we take it from there."

Bienvenue said CFWM has been around for 35 years and began with scholarships, adding that years later, scholarship recipients have come back to the organization to support it, whether through financially investing, volunteering or working with another organization.

"It's wonderful. We feel so blessed where we have such a generous community that wants to see our students thrive and are making sure that they are investing into our community and investing into our students," Bienvenue said.

On the qualifications for the John M. Flynn Memorial Scholarship, Bienvenue shared public service is a focus.

"We don't want anyone to be turned away or concerned with that wording. Public service has a very broad overview and Megan's made sure to make that clear. So, it could be maybe it's through your job, maybe it's through you're captain of a sports team, maybe you are a camp counselor, maybe you are volunteering," Bienvenue said. "So, it could be through any of those portals that would give you high consideration for it."

Over \$10,000 has also been given away for this specific scholarship, Bienvenue added, and the family also set it to one student from Hampden and East Longmeadow to have that significant financial impact.

She also encouraged people to still apply for scholarships even while in college, because there are others they can apply for through the CFWM, especially if you're post-baccalaureate, in a doctoral program, graduate school or a master's program.

Also, interest-free loans are available.

"With the demand of higher education and the educational loans just becoming larger and larger, we still know that these students need money and need to take loans out, so what we do offer every year is \$3,000 a year paid directly to the student—and they can request that up to four years or \$12,000 total—it's completely interest-free and they would not be responsible to pay it back until after they graduated or they exited school," Bienvenue said.

Ashe's message was this.

"I hope the kids are able to come and learn about these scholarship opportunities, truly. That's what we want. We want them to come and listen and hopefully there's useful information they can apply to their educational journey," Ashe said. "That's really the outcome."

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■

COMMUNITY

Selectboard approves formation of Hampden 150th Committee

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard unanimously approved the formation of the Hampden 150th Committee during its Sept. 15 meeting.

The committee would focus on planning for the town's 150th anniversary celebration in 2028.

James Smith, a former member of the board, also made an appearance for the discussion.

Chair John Flynn explained how he reached out to Smith about this.

"We've been kicking around the talk of the 150th

celebration of Hampden for a couple years. We've appropriated money over two or three years starting back with Bob. We have \$20,000," Flynn said. "Brian has told us that there's an opportunity to ask the state for another \$10,000, which they put towards events like this."

Flynn said what they don't have "is a plan going forward."

"Now, we're two years away and—if I remember correctly—the 100th one was done in the fall. Obviously, here, you see the cover of the town report, fireworks, the whole thing. Jim, I think it was like in September or October. something like that," Flynn said.

After the board and Smith noted other items, Flynn said this.

"We really need somebody to poncho it. We've had people like, kicking the tires, but I reached out to Jim because you've got a great history with the town, knows the right people, and Jim, would you be interested in, like, at least getting all the cats in a row?" Flynn said.

Smith said yes.

"I'd be interested in spearheading it and working on it," Smith said. "I would reach out to some friends and see if they're interested. I have friends that they don't want to be political, but they would participate in something be-

cause it doesn't require taking a position on something."

Flynn noted there were a couple names that expressed interest in the past as well, adding this.

"I would like to put it out there, actually. Get some younger people as well. Maybe an outreach, put something in the Scribe, that type of thing," Flynn said. "And really, you build your group up, Jim, you've run this 10, a dozen times. Too big is too many, too small is too few. The right number where everybody has something to do and bring it back. It makes it easier. You don't want a 15-member committee, but you don't want two people doing the whole thing

either."

"And I'm assuming at this point in time that you haven't defined the committee or anything," Smith said.

"Nothing," Flynn said.

"We're looking to do some brainstorming and reaching out," Smith said.

"We're looking for a leader," Selectboard Member Don Davenport said.

Flynn next added this.

"We did not appropriate anything at the Spring Town Meeting and, at this point, we don't have plans to appropriate at the fall. I think we're assuming that the \$10,000 we're getting from the state will take the place of this year's appropriation," Flynn said. "Brian,

there's no real issue with getting that \$10,000, right, from the state?"

Town Administrator Brian Domina didn't think there would be an issue.

"We just have to make sure that we apply(in) enough time to the legislature," Domina said.

"Which would give us, at this point, \$30,000," Flynn said. "So, that's where we are."

"And we might be able to get private contributions," Smith said.

"Could be," Flynn said.

The board then unanimously approved the formation of the committee, with Smith at the helm, wishing him good luck.

Fall STM set for Nov. 9

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Select Board has called a Fall Special Town Meeting for Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium. The deadline to submit all warrant articles, including petitioned warrant articles, is anticipated to be Friday, Sept. 25, at Noon. The Select Board shall confirm the deadline during their regular meeting on Sept. 14.

Confirmation of the deadline will be posted on the Town's website at: www.wilbraham-ma.gov

Petitioned warrant articles for a Special Town Meeting must have the signatures of one-hundred (100) registered voters. Petition papers must be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. Petitioned articles with signatures are submitted to the Select Board's office. Petitioned articles shall be placed in the warrant as-is, without edit by the Town.

Knights Sponsor Benefit Dinner to support Community Survival Center Oct. 17

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly impacted

by continued high inflation and cuts in SNAP benefits. "Our shelves are very bare" according to Turcotte, "and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to please help us support those in need."

The benefit dinner will be held Saturday Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm and pasta Italian

dinner complete with salad, bread, coffee and cannoli's. The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-alongs and strolling violinist. Tickets are limited and cost \$20. They may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on September 26.

Irish Comedy Show coming to Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM - The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will be sponsoring popular comedy show "JOKES MY IRISH FATHER TOLD ME" on Friday evening Oct. 2. Come relax and enjoy an evening from a much-needed break from everyday routines. Comedian Dave Kane, who portrayed Fr. Patrick Aloysius in the comedy show "Misgivings" last year will have you laughing at his one lines and jokes. Last year his show was a sell-out here, and we expect this one will be mobbed. Tickets are only \$20 and are on sale at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield St, Wilbraham, MA. Doors open 6:30 pm. Limited seating. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Stop in today. No reservations. No holds. All proceeds to support multiple programs and services for Wilbraham Seniors. For more information on either event, contact Matt Villamaino 413-896-2206 or visit the Wilbraham Senior Center.

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to us called traffic pillows, which was a new technology we hadn't as a team considered. Maybe that's a piece of something we look at," Breault said. "But as far as study, we'd like to have it considered to see what measures in total."

He concluded his thought by stating he'd imagine it would be "more than one approach to resolve as residents have suggested already to us."

"It would need a third-party study to really take a look at how best to approach that, the issues over there," Breault

said.

Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo questioned if the proposed measures could increase traffic pressure in the surrounding area and wondered if the possibility could be included in the traffic study. He expressed concerns about how the measures could increase traffic on Stony Hill Road, which already experiences traffic flow problems.

"You're putting that much more traffic on Stony Hill, which may just perpetuate an issue on Stony Hill and have this cycle of requests," Squindo said. "I'm not opposed to it, I just want to be mindful of

the immediate areas around there may be directly or indirectly impacted should any of the study results come forth as practical options and whatever that means in the consideration of going this process."

"Effectively, you're just saying you're just taking the problem and moving it somewhere else," Select Board Chair Marc Ducey said.

"I think so. Depending on what you're doing, I think you are," Squindo said. "But we just want to be mindful of that when we're looking at an isolated study."

Ducey acknowledged it was a fair point from Squin-

do, adding the traffic study could provide useful information. He then asked Breault if he had an estimation of how much the study would cost.

Breault replied how a past study the Economic Development Committee had requested \$50,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds and the study itself used about \$48,000.

After Ducey recalled with that discussion that if the committee did "a full-blown traffic study" it was going to be six figures, Breault said this.

"I think we're probably looking at least six figures,"

Breault said.

"Okay. Well, I think it's something we should probably look at when get a full Board and we talk more about it," Ducey said.

Breault added after funding is secured, the next step would be going out to bid and suggested having an estimate.

"I'm saying I think it would be six figures, but I'd want to have a better idea to come back," Breault said.

Ducey added how he drives down Glenn Drive about once a day during the week and has noticed "a fair amount of police presence, which is a good thing there."

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Caddy Shak Indoor Golf Club set to open in Wilbraham

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - Caddy Shak Indoor Golf Club is set to open its doors in Wilbraham with a tentative date of Sunday, Sept. 27.

Caddy Shak Indoor Golf Club will be located at 757B Main St., right next door to Rice Fruit Farm, and will have two indoor golf simulator bays—which also includes family games—retail, including a clothing line called Golfish—a company out of Ireland—and arcade space, grip changes and golf accessories including golf balls and gloves, with hopes to have high-end drivers for customers to rent.

There is also a Founding Member membership for \$1,000 per year, which lets members use an hour a day to compete with other customers on the calendar, with every hour after that prorated for the members as well.

Other memberships include Solo Swing for \$59 per month, Weekly Player for \$99 per month and All-Access Solo for \$189 per month.

A third indoor golf simulator is in the works to open in November and will be offered for corporate events, birthday parties, and other activities.

Discounts for first responders and veterans are also in the works.

On Sept. 27, there will be an open house with light refreshments from 8 a.m. to Noon, with tee times starting at 1 p.m. and running through 9 p.m.

Caddy Shak Indoor Golf will be open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and all bookings can be done online at caddyshakindoorgolf.com.

Cash will be on hand when processing the games at the arcade, while everything else is payment by credit card.

Co-owners Gary LaMotte and Jonathan Bousquet, who both work as firefighters, expressed excitement for the upcoming opening, with LaMotte explaining the technology.

“They’re great high-end systems. We’ll be running GS Pro with the Pro GBX Simulator. We have touchscreen monitors, fast as computers, so there’s no lag. We have a 0.3-second reaction time from the time you hit the ball to the time you see the image on the screen, so it’s very, very quick. There’s no delay or lag,” LaMotte said.

Bousquet talked about the unique design and providing



Gary LaMotte and Jonathan Bousquet are the co-owners of Caddy Shak Indoor Golf Club that’s about to open in Wilbraham later this month.



Here are the retail products that will be sold at the business.



The logo for Caddy Shak Indoor Golf Club.

An interior shot inside Caddy Shak Golf Club, slated to open very soon in Wilbraham.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

The indoor golf simulator on display for future players.

that barnboard feel to complement Rice’s.

“As you can see in our building, everything is hand-crafted. All of our lumber was locally purchased and hand-planed and burnt, so it’s a really unique feel. We want it to be a destination for our customers and we’re really excited about to offer high-quality product,” Bousquet said.

Bousquet said he has a friend who’s a property manager in town, JP McGrath, who was leasing a building. He came to look at it with McGrath to learn more.

“I thought that the space was appropriate for simulators, so kind of all came together and it was like, ‘Alright, let’s try to make this happen,’” Bousquet said. “I’m very happy with the product. I think the owners are very excited about this, about this opportunity for us to be in here and we certainly appreciate them for this opportunity. I think we really made the vision of what we

wanted come to fruition.”

LaMotte, who sparked the idea for the business, shared he wanted to originally build one at his house in his yard, but it didn’t go as planned.

“I was just talking at the table and, next thing you know, we started having a conversation and just the ball started rolling from there and then we just did it and this is what it became. So, now we’re here,” LaMotte said. “It’s been a long road. Been working on it a long time.”

LaMotte, a golfer himself, is also passionate about the sport.

“I like to get out there. I love to talk about it and watch it on TV and just like to play all the time,” LaMotte said.

One thing that was important to LaMotte and Bousquet was offering a space for everyone in the community, from families and students who play on the golf team at Minnechaug to local players.

“A lot of the simulators,

they’re in bars and things like that and young kids can’t go in and play on their own or junior golfers. So, we wanted a place where junior golfers can come and play too, because golf is a sport for everyone and we want to make sure that everyone’s comfortable in here, whether it’s junior golfers, women, men. This is the spot for everyone,” LaMotte said. “The local golf teams can have a place to practice now in the local area, which I think is a really good thing.”

“When we were growing up, there was always a place to go. I felt like that’s kind of by the wayside now,” Bousquet said.

“There was always, like, the rec center we had where you can go and play pool and we did things like that. Now, there’s nothing and kids are always around here and they’re always riding their bikes, but there’s nothing for them to do,” LaMotte said.

Bousquet added that an-

other goal was providing “an instructional atmosphere” for the young golfers.

“Hopefully, we’re going to have people in here that can help people with the swing, help people learn how to play and that also is going to build confidence and a lot of positive things come along with that,” Bousquet said. “I believe if you’re good at, like, sports and you’re working on a skill, that translates into behaviors and work and school and stuff like that. I believe everything comes full circle with just having a good environment and a good sport to play and kind of learning that as you go.”

LaMotte agreed, noting the etiquette and professionalism found in golf.

“Golf is a lot about etiquette, professionalism and tucking your shirt in, stuff like that,” LaMotte said.

Bousquet’s message was

this.

“We’re very happy and proud to be part of Wilbraham, in this community and proud to offer a product that, again, goes back to that will translate into positive reinforcement to juniors and a safe environment for all golfers and to offer, again, for the professional golfer, a place to go to get golf balls and skills, get the high-end golf balls that they want or if they want their grip changes. It’s something that’s local.”

“It’s also firefighter-veteran owned,” LaMotte added.

“We’ve been serving the community and the country for a long time, so this is what we do and we’re just happy to be here and hope to grow the business with the community,” Bousquet said.

To learn more, visit caddyshakindoorgolf.com, call 413-455-6966 or check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'm evaluating my retirement plan; what are my options?

Dear Rusty:
I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June. I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS.
The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer, which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire.

I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No spousal benefits taken yet.

Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement

Dear Reevaluating Retirement:
I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027.
If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits when your benefits start in September – you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025.
That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount.
Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027.
FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).
Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to

receive before you suspend.
As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS Full Retirement Age, you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.
Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended.
To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim.
In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.
To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish and your benefits will not be negatively affected.
And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027, the month you turn 70. You have both options.

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

Random Acts of Kindness
By Barb Turcotte

Dr. Roland and Claire Stebbins

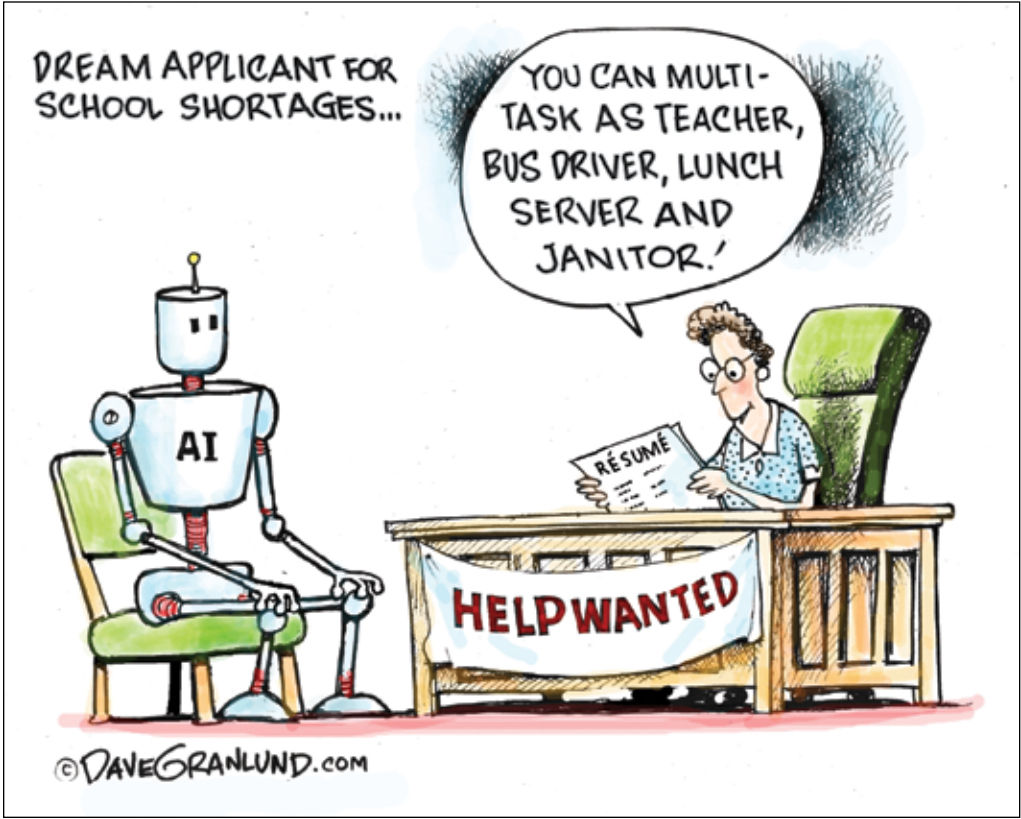
There are so many wonderful things about this couple, Dr. Roland and Claire Stebbins.
They both have jovial personalities with him joking that after celebrating 69 years of marriage this past May, they still liked each other and even enjoy doing nothing together!
They've lived very full and productive lives, he as a Pediatrician and she as a Lab Technician.
That is of course besides raising three sons and a daughter. Their four children have blessed them with nine grandchildren and Roland kidded, the family's growing with 11 and three quarters great-grandchildren, the newest addition arriving in November.
Claire also worked at Holyoke Hospital; her expertise was with pediatric patients and was often called to draw a baby's blood. She explained that Roland has what's referred to as "rolling veins" which can be difficult to draw blood from.
She chuckled saying when they went for their blood tests to get married, she offered to take his blood, being a professional. The "rolling veins" threw her a curve so had to have the specialist do it after all, but has since become an expert.
After raising their four children, Claire went back to Holyoke Hospital but as a volunteer in their gift shop.
Her eyes lit up as she explained how much she enjoyed doing that. It entailed not only helping the store customers but also visiting patient rooms.
Roland and Claire lived pretty sparsely in the beginning as she became pregnant when he was still in medical school. Luckily, she enjoyed

cooking which helped with costs, boasting that she made a delicious spaghetti sauce.
Roland shared some of his experiences, one being his first disastrous speaking engagement at Mt. Marie in Holyoke.
They were supposed to supply the movie with him answering questions after the viewing. He got there, they thought he was bringing the movie so instead, after giving a 10-minute lesson to a totally nonengaged audience, he had one of the nuns ask him some prepared questions which still brought no participation.
He considered this his worst teaching moment.
Two other pediatricians joined Roland when creating the Holyoke Pediatrics practice. Every three weeks the doctors volunteered at the "Milk Station" in Holyoke's most needy community.
He reminisced fondly about the dedication of all the nurses and staff, making sure the children and families were helped with not only their medical necessities, but offered help wherever needed. Their practice wound up with four doctors, but now has about a dozen.
Roland was also involved with the Western New England Golden Gloves boxing tournaments by volunteering with preflight exams and sometimes staying during the fights as there always had to be a physician present. Most boxers he passed through but remembered one young man devastated when he had to reject him due to a ruptured ear drum and didn't want to take the chance of further injury.
In order to play high school sports, students needed a yearly physical exam prior to participating. Needless to say, the coaches were very appreciative as they had two pediatricians from his practice doing free exams for three nights so the kids who didn't

have a regular doctor could still play.
Roland accepted a volunteer position and served for 15 years on the Holyoke Board of Health along with other medical professionals. He said here he learned more about public health than he had in medical school. His working years were when house calls happened and there were no cell phones, so had to find a land-line for all communication. When on call for the Emergency Room, with no modern technology, you just always had to show up.
Both Roland and Claire were co-chairs along with Jim and Rosalie Hobert for Holyoke's 200th anniversary festivities.

Laughingly Roland said he really only did about 10% of the work, that it was really Claire who was on the committee to organize five different venues at various locations throughout the city that included excellent food, ballroom dances and fun for all. He revealed they agreed no drinking otherwise by the fifth site they wouldn't be standing!
Roland shared when he started his practice, an Irish couple came in with the baby who had meningitis. It was touch and go, then several months later they brought in the healthy baby along with a treasured authentic Irish stein as a thank you.
He fondly reminisced while vacationing in Jamaica, they stopped by a Catholic Church unknowingly that it was a children's communion service. They were so excited to witness this, giving each child a congratulatory dollar bill and described how much fun it was to watch them giggle with acceptance.
I would have loved to have him as my son's pediatrician, how about you or maybe he was yours!

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, "just 'cause" you witnessed, you did or were the recipient of a kind gesture. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness.



in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New Brain-tree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes stayed about a week

and then left.
Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot. They are gray overall, have



Sandhill crane

red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs. Immature birds have red

dish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.
Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores, but feed on other foods depending on availability. They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.
These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and

both incubate and feed the young.
In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.
Sandhill crane's call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil into the sternum and help the

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 10

The Wilbraham-Hampden
TIMES

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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

Anniversary members honored at St. Cecilia meeting

Submitted photo and caption Sue Agnew

These St. Cecilia Women's Club members were honored for their years of service at the club's Sept. 8 meeting. Left to right they are: Carol Sibilia, 55 years; Sandy Moore and Simone Markham, 25 years; Jean Blanchard, 40 years; and Gloria Gallagher, 45 years.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Send us in your announcements! Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

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



WPL Teen Advisory Board is back!

Submitted photo Rachel Hapgood

The Wilbraham Public Library's Teen Advisory Board has returned for the start of a new year on Sept. 14.

Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. presents citation to Little Ivy Learning Academy



Submitted photos and caption Cheryl Spinks

Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. continues his support of education and local, small businesses by recognizing them and their contributions to the communities they serve. He recently presented an official citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to Owner, Director and Teacher Nicole Disa to mark the special occasion of the Grand Opening of her new preschool, Little Ivy Learning Academy, located at 2 Crane Park in Wilbraham. Pictured are Rep Puppolo (left), Nicole Disa (center) and Teacher McKenna Patterson (right) with some of the new students joining in on the celebration.



Breakfast gift for the WPD

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

Thank you LUSO Federal Credit Union for remembering us today with breakfast from Tandem Bagel Company.



WPD receives gift from Rice's

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

Thank you Rice Fruit Farm for hooking us up over the weekend. It was greatly appreciated!

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T-BIRDS from page 1

Robert and MaryAnn Cilley from Monson, who have six grandchildren—five grandsons and one granddaughter – said that they enjoyed their Grandparents Day.

“I always come for the Grandparents Day (event) and then it’s a bonus to have bingo...with Boomer!,” she said.

Boomer was accompanied by two Thunderbirds representatives, Tommy Dlugolenski, who jokingly referred to himself as “Boomer’s Bodyguard” and Kiefer Morrow, both from Connecticut. They didn’t come empty-handed, bringing with them many Thunderbirds themed prizes for the Bingo winners.

At the prize table were Thunderbirds Stress Pucks -- soft squeezable blue hockey pucks --, pens, koozies – insulated sleeves used to keep cans and bottles cool while protecting someone’s hands from getting too cold --, a special Thunderbirds poster and a pennant from the Thunderbirds’ Springfield Indians Throwback Night event. Winners were invited to select a prize from the table and could pick a second smaller item as well.

Of course, they didn’t forget the grand prize of a small, soft backpack with a four pack of tickets to an upcoming Thunderbirds game. The grand prize was saved for a cover-all bingo at the end of the event.

Tina Doran, Program & Volunteer Coordinator at the Senior Center, took to the mic to greet all the guests and kick off the hour of “BINGO with



Here is Boomer with a fan, Louise Boissy (Hampden).



Phil Hanrahan (Hampden), the Bingo caller with Boomer.

BOOMER”.

She explained that attendees would be provided with only one bingo card each so that everyone would have an equal chance to win a prize.

Phil Hanrahan from Hampden, the Center’s long-time bingo caller, was already at her usual table with the bingo balls ready to roll in their cage. She announced to the crowd that “We’re just doing a regular bingo, across, down or diagonally or four corners.” “1-30,” she called, and the games began.

The winner of the first bingo game was Tom Kavanaugh from East Longmeadow, who came up to claim his prize. He didn’t wait long to make a repeat visit to the prize table to claim more Thunderbirds items as he was also the second winner, having completed a bingo on the next game.

Always looking to have fun, Boomer then joked with two-time winner Tom by “stealing” his lucky bingo



Turley photos by Harold Anderson

Kiefer Morrow and Tommy Dlugolenski (both from Connecticut), representatives from the Springfield Thunderbirds, pose for a photo.

card and holding it up as a trophy before giving it back.

Other winners at the event were Darwin, after the third game, and Ann Hadank from Springfield, who was the next to call “Bingo!”. Teresa Syrek from Somers, CT was the fifth to claim a prize and Dolores Rauch of Wilbraham picked her prize item as the sixth winner.

The next winner was four-year-old Hannah. She picked the poster as her prize and brought it back to her table where Boomer came over to autograph it.

Someone asked Hannah, “Did Boomer speak to you?”, but another attendee wondered if the Thunderbirds’ mascot even had a tongue.

Boomer, always a good sport, didn’t speak, but held open his mouth for all to see.

The final winner of the regular bingo games was Pat Howe of Springfield, whose enjoys attending Thunderbirds’ games as well as her grandchildren.

Everyone then cleared their cards as the time came for the grand prize cover-all game. Anticipation was everywhere as people checked their bingo cards and kept track of how many numbers they were away from winning the Thunderbirds ticket package.

Finally, the call of “Bingo!”, rang out from the crowd. Not once, but twice, as Sylvia Joseph of Hampden and two-time winner, four-year-old Hanna, had each completed the numbers on their card at the same time!

As there was only one four pack of tickets on the prize



Pat Howe, one of the winners, with Boomer.



Caryn Greco (Hampden) and Ann Maggio (Hampden) helped serve lunch at the event.

table, the quandary of deciding who would take home the grand prize was quickly resolved to the delight of everyone when it was announced

by Dlugolenski, after a call to the Thunderbirds, that they generously would offer the four pack of tickets to both of the coverall winners.



Four-year-old Hannah called Bingo as one of the Grand Prize winners.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

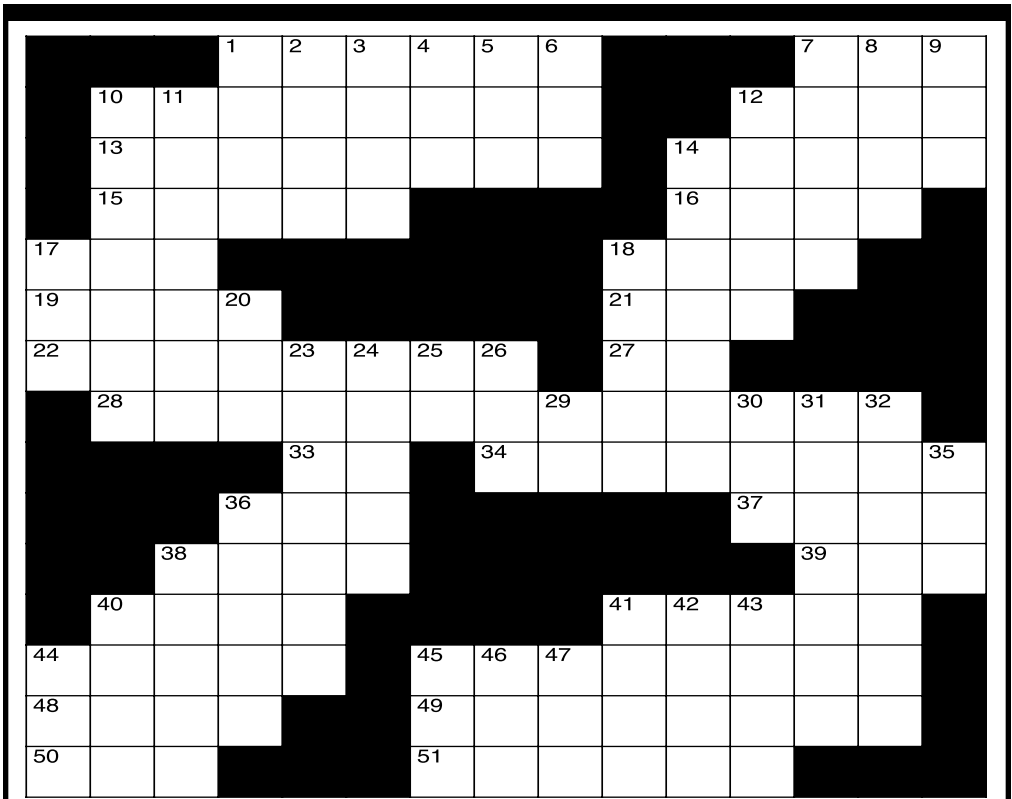
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
~ November 5, 2026 ~

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to jamie@turley.com or drop off a photo to The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 27, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo.
No photos will be accepted after deadline.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship
7. Referee declaration
10. Torsos
12. Used to introduce something
13. Healing method
14. Takes to the sea
15. Make law
16. French coastal city
17. Hawaiian dish
18. Young of domestic cattle
19. Women’s undergarments
21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
22. One after another
27. It’s a hot topic these days
28. Folk band frontman

33. They precede C
34. Heavenly
36. Fiddler crabs
37. Major Hindu deity
38. Hebrew given name
39. Cost per mile
40. ___ Romeo, car
41. Rural municipality in Manitoba
44. Narratives
45. “A tragedy had ___ him”
48. Iranian city
49. Praises publicly
50. Founding Father Franklin
51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton
3. Part of a sailing vessel
4. Part of (abbr.)
5. Polynesian garland of flowers
6. Keyboard key
7. One who steals
8. Large oven
9. Former CIA
10. Idea
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Afrikaans
14. Remove thatch
17. Television network
18. Jalen Brunson is one
20. Title of respect
23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists
26. Woman (French)
29. Expression of doubt
30. NHL legend Bobby
31. Accomplished
32. Makes slightly wet
35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
36. Not sated
38. Poe’s middle name
40. Swiss river
41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
42. “Shane” actor Ladd
43. Popular whodunit board game
44. Bar bill
45. Ballplayer’s tool
46. Indicates near
47. Feet per second

Federated Community Church of Hampden hosts Centennial Event for the community

HAMPDEN - All are welcome to come celebrate with The Federated Community Church of Hampden as it recognizes its one hundred years of history in the community. The free-admission centennial event will take place at 11 a.m. Sunday Oct. 18 on the church property at 590 Main Street in Hampden: It will include live musical performances of ten songs selected from each of the past ten decades as well as a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, cake, and more. The event will take place rain or shine, with music performances moving indoors if necessitated by the weather. Records of the church's history will be exhibited for display, showing how our church and its role in the broader community have developed over the years.

The Federated Community Church of Hampden came together in 1926 as a merged federation of two of Hampden's church congregations: one Congregationalist and one Methodist. At that time, while awaiting renovations of the church building we still worship in today, our congregation had in fact been worshipping in a Baptist church, with which there was also a deeply-rooted connection. At its foundation, our church adopted a belief still unusual for its time that all Christ-followers are welcome to worship together, carrying with them diverse denominational traditions into our church life. This remains a core value of the church: We welcome all through our doors regardless of where they may currently stand in their faith or what tradition they come

from, and we seek to bring the love of Jesus out into the community and wider world.

Attendees of our 11 a.m. celebratory event are also welcome to join us beforehand for our 10 a.m. worship services, where Pastor Eunji Lee will share a sermon of gratitude for the Federated Community Church's 100-year history in the community, reflecting on how the history of our church informs our many hopes for the future.

We hope to see you there; come as you are.

WILBRAHAM - The Reunion Committee is planning three opportunities for members of the first three classes who graduated from the "new" Minnechaug Regional High School (the "Originals"), which opened in 1959, to reconnect with classmates and renew their high school memories.

On Friday Sept. 25, they will meet at 5 p.m. at the Local Table N Tap, 2039 Boston Road in Wilbraham. On Saturday, Sept. 26, it will be at 5 p.m. at the Route 20 Bar & Grill at 2341 Boston Road in Wilbraham. The highlight will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 27 when they will enjoy a Gala Dinner at the Starting Gate at Great Horse, 128 Wilbraham Road, Hampden.

For Friday and Saturday, food and drinks are up to each attendee. The Sunday Gala Dinner is \$80 per person and requires pre-registration. There are still a few spaces left for each event. Call Judy Cmero at 413-599-0462 or email her at jacmr2013@gmail.com for more information.



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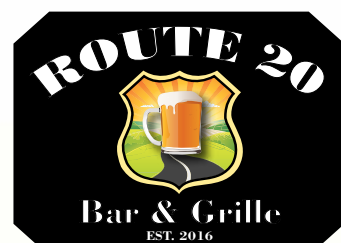
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Comprehensive Plan Group looking for members

WILBRAHAM – The Planning Board approved operating guidelines for the new Comprehensive Plan Group at their Sept. 10 meeting and are now actively seeking members to join the group.

The Comprehensive Plan Group is an advisory body created by the Planning Board to assist in the preparation, update and possible recommended implementation of the Town of Wilbraham Comprehensive Plan under M.G.L. c. 41, §81D. It exists solely to support the Planning Board’s statutory responsibility. It has no independent authority to adopt, amend, or enforce any plan, zoning, or land-use regulation.

Residents interested in serving are encouraged to submit a letter of interest (or a brief statement of qualifications and relevant experience) to the Planning Board. Applications should include the applicant’s full name, address, phone number, email, and a short description of why they wish to serve and what skills or perspective they would bring to the Committee.

Applications may be submitted by email to planning@wilbraham-ma.gov or by mail/hand delivery to: Office of Planning & Community Development Town Office Building 240 Springfield Street Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Application Deadline Applications must be received by Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 4 p.m. Late applications will not be considered.

The Planning Board will review all applications and schedule interviews with selected candidates. Appointments will be made by majority vote of the Planning Board.

For questions about the position or the application process, please contact the Office of Planning & Community Development at (413) 596-2800 x203 or planning@wilbraham-ma.gov.

Wilbraham Women’s Club Card & Game Party and Luncheon

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Women’s Club will be holding its annual “Fall Into Fun” Card & Game Party and Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check in time is 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at Noon. The donation is \$10

and there will also be a raffle for cash prizes. Come with friends and play any game of your choice (dominoes, Mahjong, bridge, Canasta, pitch, etc.) . Proceeds help to fund the club’s scholarships and contributions to area charitable organizations. For reservations call Sue Agnew, 596-9480.

9/11 from page 1

was Intern Marion Fil.

At the start of the ceremony, all remaining Fire Department apparatus at the station was rolled out of their bays, a tradition performed by fire departments across the United States during 9/11 remembrance ceremonies.

At 10 a.m., all those who were present assembled at attention in front of the apparatus and maintained silence.

What was heard next were four sets of five chimes each with a short pause between each set. Known as “Striking the Four Fives” or “Tolling of the Bell.”

Kristek explained that “the bell ringing is where there’s a line of duty death. (For) an active duty firefighter, we’re playing the bells. It’s kind of signifying the last call.”

During this time, the U.S. Flag at the Fire Station, already at half-mast, was raised by Merrill before ceremonially lowering it back to half-mast. Afterwards, a minute of complete silence was observed before this simple prayer was read by Kristek.

“Oh God, we remember before you this day our brothers and sisters lost on September 11, 2001. We thank you for their example of Courage and sacrifice. In your boundless compassion, console their families, friends, co-workers and all who mourn their loss,” Kristek read. “Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our journey and serve with honor, dignity and courage. AMEN.”

This was followed by the traditional Firefighters’ Prayer, spoken by Andrews.

“When I am called to duty,

wherever flames may rage, give me the strength to save a life, whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out,” Andrews read. “I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property. And, if according to God’s will, I must answer death’s call, bless with your protecting hand, my family, one and all. AMEN.”

Solemnly, the U.S. Flag was then raised before lowering it back to half-mast as the 5 – 5 – 5 – 5 tolling sequence again resounded through the air, signaling the end of the Remembrance Ceremony.

Meanwhile, at the Hampden Fire Station on North Rd., an identical September 11th Remembrance was taking place that also began at 9:55 a.m. with the prayers read by LT/EMT Brendan Kennedy and John Fitzgerald. Also present was Firefighter Ryan Lafountain who said he was only two years old when the events of September 11, 2001 took place.

Joining the Fire Department at the Remembrance Ceremony were Hampden Select-board Chair John Flynn and Member Donald Davenport who stood in front of the Fire Department’s Rescue Truck along with Hampden Chief of Police Daniel Bruno and two other officers representing the Hampden Police Department.

The firefighters, however, were called upon to use their Color Guard Ceremonial Flag instead of the flag flown on the flagpole.

“While servicing the flag-



At attention from the left to right, Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews, Union President Jeff Kristek and Intern Marion Fil.



Firefighter Derrick Merrill and Firefighter John Monty during the moment of silence to make 25 years of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

pole at the station and preparing for the 9/11 ceremony, the rope broke,” Kennedy said.

When asked what this yearly Remembrance meant to them, Andrews responded, “It’s important to remember and recognize all the firefighters and first responders that responded that day, trying to rescue as many people as they possibly could and ultimately losing their lives in the line of duty. So, we just want to remember it and honor them how they should be.”

Kennedy agreed.

“We need to continue to honor...the life that was lost on that tragic day, the firefighters, the first responders, the police, EMS and all of the people who sacrificed selflessly to try to save others,” Kennedy said.

All firefighters, when asked why first responders rush to a scene when everyone else is running away from it, responded with humility.

“To us, it’s part of our job. We go in there to rescue as

many people as possible and try and help them the best we can. We don’t think of it as that. We think of it that we’re going in there and doing our job,” Andrews said.

Even though he was too young for any personal remembrance of 9/11, Lafountain recounted the effect that day had on him.

“One of the reasons that I became a firefighter is because of the courses of 9/11. I saw brave women and men running into the building not knowing they were going to come out. Risking their lives to save lives that they don’t even know who they are. That has a lot of meaning to me,” Lafountain said.

As a firefighter, Kennedy agreed that the events of 9/11 “absolutely has a special meaning,” and added, “We all remember where we were that day. So, I think it’s important to talk about it and to tell the stories.....pass along these stories to the younger generation.”

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Dr. Ana Serrenho is the owner of POP Orthodontics, located in Post Office Park in Wilbraham. Dr. Ana is a Wilbraham resident and grew up in Ludlow. She completed her dental training and orthodontic residency at Boston University. In addition to her private practice, she is a faculty member at NYU Langone, where she teaches pediatric dental residents. She has been recognized by the Massachusetts Dental Society and the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists.

POP Orthodontics recently celebrated its first anniversary, and our team looks forward to continuing our mission of providing convenient, comfortable and conservative treatment. We offer both traditional braces and Invisalign, as well as interceptive treatments such as expanders. We use the latest in dental technology and offer daytime and evening appointments. We are excited to be able to provide a locally-owned option for orthodontic care to the community!



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BACKYARD from page 6

sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a “sight to behold.”

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

Scarcity of birds

I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.

She said, “Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds...any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed their feeders are full too.” One neighbor said he has seen a falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the

Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of birds. Someone stated, “On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration.” They also stated, “On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were.”

Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

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



Aidan Bean looks for a hole to run through.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School football challenges itself at the beginning of each season with independent games that are outside of the region. After beating Doherty of Worcester to start the season, the Falcons welcomed Barnstable in their home opener. Despite a fumble recovery that gave Minnechaug some momentum early, they were not able to convert it into points and would lose 26-0. Minnechaug is now 1-1 on the season and are on the road at Wachusett Regional in Week 3.

Falcons fall in home opener to Barnstable



Dylan Bean kicks off for the Falcons.



Matthew Perkins blocks on the line.



Tucker Derosia and James Gallagher combine for a tackle.



Jasper O'Connor goes for a tackle.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Jenahia Monet makes bump.

Falcons grab sweep of Brownies

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — Both the Agawam and Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity volleyball teams entered last Wednesday's Northern Division matchup searching for their first victories of the 2026 regular season.

When the dust had settled, the Lady Falcons players were celebrating a 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-20) home win over the Brownies.

"This is a very big win for us, especially by the final score of 3-0," said Minnechaug senior co-captain Haley Powers. "We graduated eight seniors and we're a little bit different team this year. We also have a very difficult schedule. All of us want to win every match and we always play for each other."

The Lady Falcons other senior co-captain is Nehir Elcin.

Minnechaug (1-3) began the regular season with a home loss to Amherst before suffering back-to-back road losses to Longmeadow and Blackstone Valley Voc./Tech.

"We only have five returning players from last year's team," Minnechaug head coach Mark Taylor. "We do have a few talented players, and we just want to keep improving."

A year ago, the Lady Falcons squeaked out a 3-2 win over the Longmeadow Lancers in the Western Mass. Class A finals. They then advanced to the sweet 16 of the Division 2 state tournament.

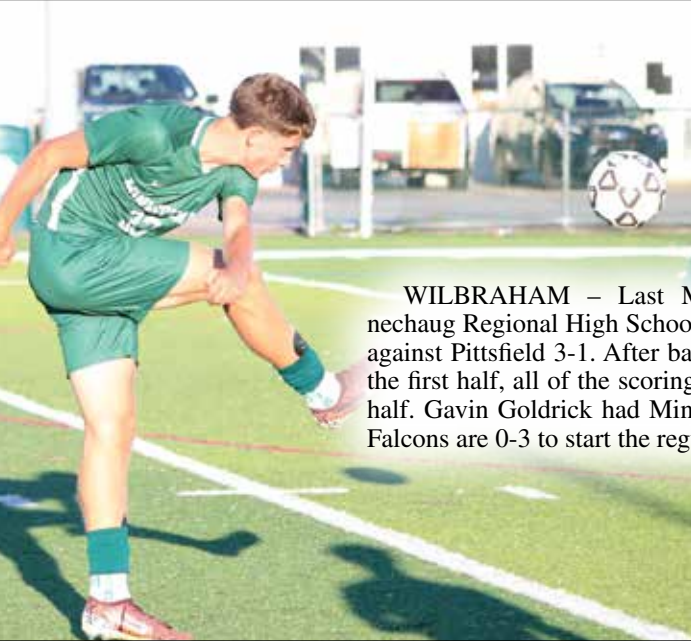
Minnechaug has also won the last seven meetings on the volleyball court against Agawam.

The last time that the Brownies celebrated a win in the series was a 3-0 home victory on September 23, 2022. They began this season with losses against Amherst and Chicopee Comp.

"This was probably our most competitive match of the season," said Agawam head coach Jess Colson. "I'm proud of the way my players kept

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 12

Boys soccer suffers third loss



Stepan Syrota sends a shot at the goal.



Liam O'Brien pursues the ball.



Kevin Wainwright throws the ball to a teammate after making a save.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Eli Childers receives a pass.



Cameron Salvador sends the free kick deep into opposing territory.



Caden Russ works near the sideline.



Gavin Goldrick watches the ball come down in front of him.

SPORTS

Chaffee, Patnode get victories

WINCHESTER, NH - Todd Patnode won't win his seventh track championship this season at Monadnock Speedway, but the Swanzey star is going all out to leave his mark on the 2026 campaign.

Slowed by a sluggish start this summer and then sidelined by an injury, he has exploded back into his championship form, winning his second Modified feature in a row Saturday, Sept. 12, and setting himself up for a threepeat bid in next week's season finale.

Patnode wasn't the only big winner Saturday, as the speedway crowned 2026 Triple Crown champions in all divisions with the third and final leg of its three-race summer series. Ty LeClerc, a close second to Patnode in the Modified main event, celebrated his triple crown championship.

Other feature winners Saturday included Limited Late Model ace JD Stockwell,, Craig Chaffee, who won a thriller in the Mini Stocks, and Dylan Zullo, who scored his first win of the season aboard the CJ Johnson ride. Young Gun whiz Dylan Stati stayed undefeated on the season in events he entered.

Following an elaborate pre-race ceremony honoring the victims of the September 11 tragedy 25 years ago, a ceremony in which all of Saturday night's drivers participated, it was Dylan Stati time again, as the Palmer, MA preteen rocketed to victory atop a six-car field in the Doug's Auto Body youth division. Quinton Perkins raced to a career best in second, and Eli Elliott trophied in third.

Rookie Kyle Kenny and Ty LeClerc sat up front as the 50-lap All States Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. LeClerc, a two-time winner a summer ago, was hungry for his first 2026 victory, and with Triple Crown points leader Eddie Gomarlo sidelined with engine issues, was in great position for that score too.

Andrew Brousseau and Todd Patnode had big plans of their own, leaning all over LeClerc in their bids for the top spot. Patnode charged into second on lap 16, but LeClerc held strong. They swapped the lead back and forth on laps 24-26, with Patnode then taking the top spot for good.

A Brousseau spin on lap 48 set up a classic in next week's Modified season finale. With Tyler Leary third on the night, just ahead of Brian Chapin and Kenny, Leary and Brousseau - sixth under the checkers Saturday, will enter the Championship Night final event only 2 points ahead in the 2026 points parade.

JD Stockwell has been the man at the front for much of the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model 2026 season, and Saturday was no exception, as the youthful Bernardston, MA star blasted to his tenth win of the summer and, with it, won his division's Triple Crown Series too. Hillary Renaud took charge on lap two and held the top spot until Stockwell lowlined to the top spot on lap 20. Renaud kept it close the rest of the way, but Stockwell prevailed. A lap-34 pass brought Daniel Petrowicz home third, just ahead of Hagar, and Zach Zilinski completed the top five.

Tim O'Shea and Kevin Clayton were front row dancing partners as Saturday's Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock feature went green. Clayton led the first trip around the high banks but then Craig Chaffee - from row two - took the lead.

Chaffee, gunning for his second win of the summer, had lots of company at the front, with past champions Jon Fultz and Louie Maher glued to his bumper every inch of the way. Fultz, the 2025 Mini Stock king, blasted to the top spot on lap 21, but Chaffee wasn't done yet.

Charging back to the front to lead lap 26 by a wheel, the second generation hot shoe then held strong to score the big Triple Crown Night win with Fultz at his bumper. Former Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour came on strong in the closing laps to earn her first Mini Stock trophy of the season in third, just ahead of Tim Paquette, who had a big night of his own.

Paquette didn't have the fastest car on this night, but ran a smart race to come home fourth, just enough to win the Triple Crown championship. One-man gang Pat Houle was fifth under the checkers in Saturday's 30-lapper.

Dylan Zullo led a star-stacked field of 25 to the green for Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. The speedway's 2025 Limited Late Model champ, Zullo had struggled through an uneven season in the Pure Stocks.

Saturday, though, the second-generation Claremont ace put it all together, leading all the way to score an easy win. Behind him, the battle was fast and furious, with both the Triple Crown and Weekly Racing Series points

Owls football gets first win

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University football rolled up 463 yards of offense and got a pair of long TD receptions from electric first-year receiver Malachi Hymes (E. Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) as the Owls downed Dean College, 26-8 at Alumni Field on Westfield State's Family and Champions Weekend.

Westfield improves its record to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 MASCAC.

Hymes finished with four catches for 166 yards and touchdowns of 61 and 46 yards. His day could have been bigger as a reverse that looked like a 89-yard score was called back by a penalty, and later he stepped out of bounds while avoiding a tackle on 53-yard reception that initially looked like a 73-yard score.

Westfield opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD plunge from QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly), who finished 6-11 passing for 180 yards and the two TD tosses to Hymes.

Hymes caught a go route down the left side for the 61 yarder, out sprinting the full defense, then out-leaped his defender around the five-yard line to with the ball on the 46-yard grab before waltzing into the endzone.

Westfield set up the big passing plays with the run as sophomore fullback Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) battered the Bulldogs for 136 yards on 18 carries, and Cole Ingham (Agawam, Mass.) added 69 yards on five carries.

Westfield senior PK Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro HS) booted a pair of 33-yard field goals and a pair of extra points to account for the final score.

Dean's lone TD of the game came midway through the second quarter on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chris Donahue to Yasir Moses. The Bulldogs tried to feature a short passing attack with Donahue connecting on 32 of 45 attempts for 186 yards with one TD and one INT. His longest completion of the day went for 12 yards.

The Bulldogs totaled just 33 yards rushing. Tay Scholtz finished with nine catches for 75 yards and seven catches for 62 yards.

Westfield's defense bent but rarely broke, allowing 219 total yards on the day. The Owls sacked Donohue eight times for a loss of 61 yards.

LB Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) led the Owls with eight tackles and 2.5 sacks. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) made eight stops and had 2.5 TFLs. Eight different players had a hand in the sack column. First-year Caedan Burns (N. Grafton, Mass.) picked off the Bulldogs late to help seal the win. Colin Brady and Herman Esquivel Menzdez led the Bulldogs with eight stops each.

Westfield State will travel to Worcester State for a conference matchup next Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 1 p.m. kickoff at Alumni Field.



Wilbraham YMCA to add two dedicated Pickleball Courts following approval

WILBRAHAM - The Scantic Valley YMCA, located in Wilbraham, MA, is moving forward with plans to create two dedicated pickleball courts, expanding recreational opportunities for members and providing much-needed space for one of the area's increasingly popular activities.

The courts have received the necessary approvals, and paving is expected to begin the week of August 24. The project will renovate a portion of the YMCA's existing parking area to create the two courts while maintaining parking for members and visitors. A final completion date has not yet been determined.

ArchitectureEL guided the project through the Zoning Board Special Permit process, assisting the YMCA in obtaining the necessary approvals and moving the project toward construction.

Currently, YMCA members interested in playing pickleball use space inside the gymnasium, which is also shared with basketball and other activities. As participation has grown, scheduling and available gym space have become increasingly limited. Creating a dedicated outdoor area for pickleball was therefore an important priority for the YMCA.

The two new courts will be available exclusively to YMCA members, offering players a dedicated place to enjoy the sport without competing for space with other gym activities.

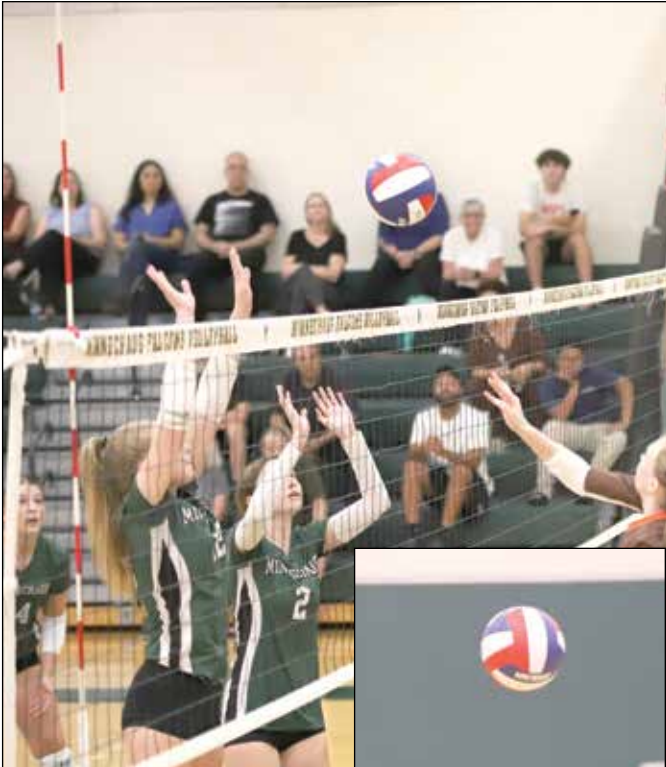
The project was made possible in part through state funding secured by State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. The funding provides the YMCA with the resources needed to bring the new courts to fruition and expand recreational opportunities for its members.

"Dedicated pickleball courts will give YMCA members a space designed specifically for the sport while also helping alleviate some of the demand on the gymnasium," said Dexter Johnson, President & CEO of the Greater Springfield YMCA. "We're grateful to Representative Puppolo for helping secure the funding to make this project possible and to everyone who helped move the courts through the approval process."

"Projects like this are about making thoughtful improvements that directly benefit the people who use these recreational spaces," said Kevin Rothschild-Shea, ArchitectureEL President and Principal Architect. "We were pleased to be a part of it."

With approvals secured and paving scheduled to begin, the new courts represent an investment in both the YMCA's facilities and the experience it provides its members.

Rendering attached. Ribbon cutting details to follow.



Mallory Grono attempt a block.

VOLLEYBALL

from page 11

battling back against a very talented Minnechaug team. We're still hoping to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments."

Colson praised the performance of junior Madeline Maharne, who's a co-captain along with senior Michelle Le.

"Madeline is our setter and I thought she played very well. She's one of our captains," Colson added. "Michelle Le is also a captain, but she didn't play in today's match."

The Lady Falcons held a slim lead at the start of the opening set.

The score was tied 10-10. An unforced error then gave the visiting team an 11-10 advantage, which was their first lead.

Minnechaug responded with a 5-0 spurt with freshman Jenahia Monet handling the serving duty. Monet had a couple of aces during that span.

"Jenahia is a very talented volleyball player," Powers said. "She might be only

very much up for grabs.

Rookie rocketman Josh Brigham, heavily wrecked a week earlier, got up for second early but had nothing for the speedy Zullo. His strong runner-up finish, though, put him back solidly into the hunt for the 2026 track championship. Coupled with top points man Jimmy Zellman's sixth-place finish Saturday, Brigham will enter the season finale only five markers shy of Zellman in their airtight battle for the Pure Stock title.

Kyle Begos, strong every week, finished third Saturday, just ahead of Maya Bell, who is surging in the final weeks of the season. Previous winner Linsey Wenzel impressed in fifth, holding off Zellman, who finished still atop the 2026 points parade but one spot shy of the Triple Crown championship.

Amherst, NH hot shoe Michael Yeaton - a six-time 2026 Pure Stock feature winner - entered Saturday's Triple Crown 30-lapper five points atop Zellman. Firing from way back in row eight, Yeaton's seventh place finish was all he needed to earn his first career Triple Crown title on the high banks.

In Saturday's Senior Tour Auto Racers Modified feature, John Jalbert of Gardner, MA drove his 1973 Pinto-bodied entry to first place. Gary Moore was second, and Chris Jarrett, aboard a 1940 Buick Coupe open-wheeler was third. In the STAR Sportsman feature, Anthony Mendoza of Taunton, MA guided his 1936 Chevy Coupe to victory. John Mulcahy was second, and Ken Archambault raced home third.



Sireen Awkal makes the serve for the Falcons.

a freshman, but she sees the game very well. She's very mature for her age."

Taylor didn't know Monet until the first day of practice.

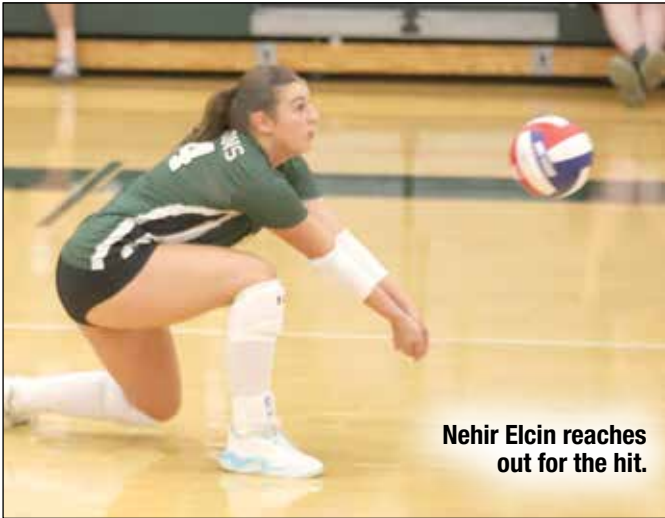
"I believe she plays volleyball for a club team," Taylor said. "The defense that her club team uses is a little bit different than the one we use. She's been picking it up very quickly."

A kill by Elcin gave the Lady Falcons a 16-12 lead.

With sophomore Sireen Awaki doing the serving, the home team won the next five



Addison Baldyga and Leah Croteau try to keep a ball from going past them.



Nehir Elcin reaches out for the hit.

points.

The Lady Falcons continued to pull away in the first set as they built a double digit lead.

A kill by sophomore Reese Glynn gave the Brownies a 9-5 advantage early in the second set.

The Lady Falcons responded with an 8-2 run, which included back-to-back aces from Elcin.

Minnechaug's largest lead of the second set was 24-15.

Agawam managed to win the next three points before a Powers kill gave the Lady

Falcons a commanding 2-0 overall lead in the match.

Just like they did in the second set, the Brownies held a 12-7 in the third set following a kill by sophomore Ella Mihalicenco.

The Lady Falcons battled back and never trailed again after retaking the lead at 16-15.

Minnechaug will be looking to sweep the season series when they travel to Agawam High School on Oct. 6. The varsity match is scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m.

Hampden Garden Club meets Oct. 15

HAMPDEN - On Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m., the Hampden Garden Club will be hosting Meghan Hastings, who will be presenting her program "Winter Gardening". Meghan is a dedicated farmer from Dave's Natural Garden in Granby, Massachusetts. The farm grows vegetables, flowers and herbs and focuses on organic methods, sustainable practices and heirloom varieties.

Meghan's experience, in working closely with the soil, the seasons and the local ecosystem, gives her a unique perspective. The program will be at our NEW meeting location at the Town Hall (formerly Thornton W. Burgess Middle School), 85 Wilbraham Rd, Hampden, Room A7.

Guests are asked to use the Library Entrance. There is a \$5 fee for non-members of the garden club.

Women's Club meets Oct. 13

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia's Women's Club cordially invites you to join us on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. for "Safety For Seniors".

Join us for an important session with experts from the bank and local police as they share practical ways

to keep you and your loved ones safe in today's world! Discover smart, simple tips to spot fraud early and stop it....before it stops you!!

We kindly ask if you can bring warm socks to this meeting for adults in need. Thank you so much! Hope to see you there.

Twelve Beauties Program at Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - The Twelve Beauties sponsored by Wilbraham Cultural Council will be hosting various cultural programs on Saturdays between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

throughout the month of September.

Come out to enjoy cultural art displays, and learn to make traditional hand-crafted bracelets.

wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com



The cupcake entries ready to be tallied.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

CUPCAKES from page 1

out of the park, so it was just a super fun, super sweet program."

Girard said the library did this program a couple years ago.

"Our food programs during summer reading are really popular, so we figured going into the fall, it would be fun to do another food-based program since that really does seem to be one of the things that our teens enjoy. So, just seemed like a good fit," Girard said.

She added that she loved that every single cupcake the attendees made was unique. If she were to make her own, she would have done a fall-themed cupcake with everything orange from the marshmallows and Skittles to M & M's.

"A lot of our participants there were overlaps in the seasons that they chose but their cupcake was different and fabulous, to be honest," Girard said.

Now that the library is heading into the fall season, Girard said there are several events local tweens and teens should keep an eye out for from the Teen Silent Book Club on the second Saturday of the month at Noon to Crafternoon on the third Saturday at Noon.

"Which is basically a chance for our teens and

tweens to bring crafts that they work on at home to the library, so if they enjoy crocheting, knitting, embroidery, they can bring their projects and we work on them together. We will also have some coloring pages and basic arts and craftsy things, so hopefully we'll catch most people's interest in some capacity," Girard said.

In October, there will also be a pumpkin painting event and the return of the highly-anticipated Teen Halloween Party.

"It's back! We have some fun things lined up," Girard said.

She also looks forward to seeing the tweens and teens during the fall for all events and to pick out their next fun read.

"Just more good books. It's the cozy reading season, so that's what we're here for,"



ABOVE: These red velvet-themed cupcakes were also hits at the event.



A close-up shot of a rainbow-themed cupcake.



The pink frosted cupcake with cute purple toppings was another fun entry.

Left: we have a fun multicolored cupcake.

Girard said.

Girard also emphasized how events like this provide an opportunity for tweens and teens to develop their creative side.

"When we do any sort of craft-type program, whether it's food-related or typically craft materials, my goal is to have open-ended types of activities where there's no wrong way to do it. Any way they want to do it, any way they want to express themselves, whatever skill level they have, all of it is perfect," Girard said. "So, we want to really foster self-expression and just an opportunity to



Here are some more festive cupcakes.

think outside the box and not to literally color in the lines."

Her message was this.

"Thank you so much for coming and I hope you had fun and come back," Girard said. "There's always programs, so come on back."

To check out future events, visit hampden-library.org or stop by their front desk.

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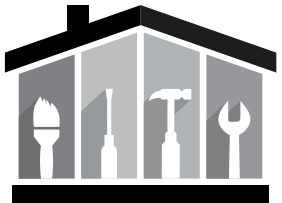
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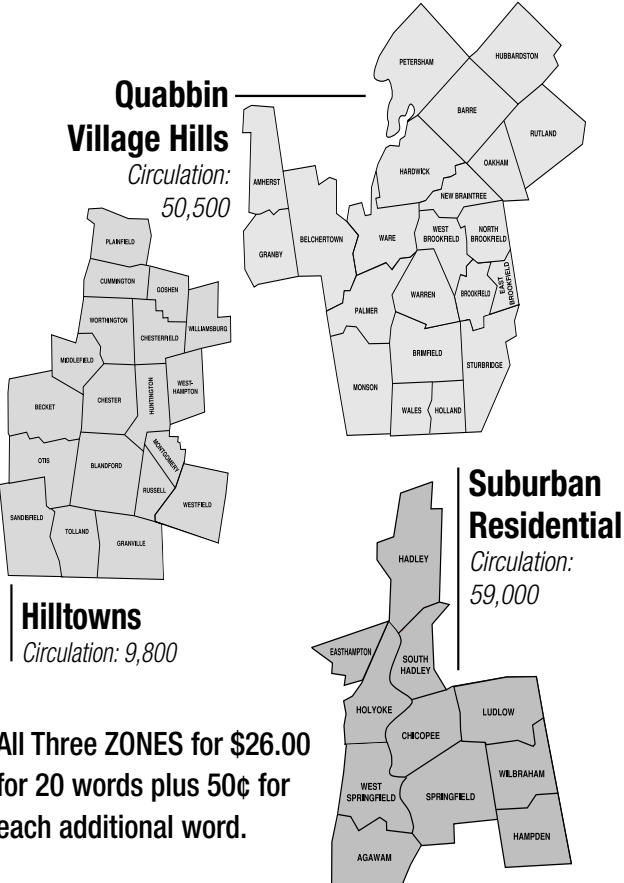
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MLT Volunteer Trail Maintenance Hikes this Fall

HAMPDEN - Mark your calendars! The Minnechaug Land Trust trail maintenance team is happy to announce TWO opportunities for maintenance hikes in Hampden this Fall 2026.

We will have a Minnechaug Mountain Fall Maintenance Hike on Saturday Sept. 26 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and a Goat Rock Fall Maintenance Hike on Saturday Oct. 10, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Our first fall maintenance hike takes place on Saturday Sept. 26 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Minnechaug Mountain. Those who have hiked Minnechaug know that after traversing the moderately steep terrain on the way up, you are rewarded with amazing views of the Pioneer Valley at the summit. With all of our warm summer weather, the shrubs and brush along

the parking lot and at the top of the mountain have started to take over. We are looking for volunteers to clear brush both at the summit overlook and at the parking lot around existing bog bridges and rock wall at the entrance.

Volunteers should plan to meet at the South Rd parking entrance on Sept. 26 at 9:30 am. The parking entrance is located roughly 0.5 miles from Main Street, Hampden, on the right-hand side of South Rd. We will split into groups and hike up the mountain from there. Hikers who are familiar with the trails are welcome to park at any of the entrances to Minnechaug and meet us at the top of the mountain during the maintenance hike. A digital copy of the trail map can be found on our website, www.MinnechaugLandTrust.org/minnechaug-mountain/

Our second fall maintenance hike takes place on Saturday Oct. 10th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Goat Rock Conservation Area. Many hikers in Hampden and the surrounding towns know and love Goat Rock and its trails. Due to the popularity of Goat Rock and its trail system, we will need volunteers to help with various tasks, including trash pickup, clearing weeds and brush from the three overlook vistas along the trails, and maintaining trail edges and boundaries.

Please meet us at the trailhead in the Memorial Park parking lot on Oct. 10 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 to 11:30 a.m. A digital

copy of the trail map can be found on our website, www.MinnechaugLandTrust.org/goat-rock-trail/ or searching Goat Rock Trail on the All-trails App..

Come enjoy stellar views of the Valley while working together to preserve and enhance two of our favorite places to explore. Thank you for your support. Without you, our lovely trail systems, serene woodlands, and iconic views would not exist. Sturdy shoes, clothes that can get dirty, gloves, water, bug spray, and a backpack are recommended; other tools will be provided. Both of our hikes are weather dependent and will be cancelled in the event of rain. Questions can be emailed to jenn.bagge@gmail.com or Charlie Thompson at tcharles344@gmail.com.

Theatre Guild of Hampden presents ‘Gypsy: The Musical’

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden will be presenting their fall production of “Gypsy: The Musical.”

Gypsy tells the story of the dreams and efforts of one hungry, powerhouse of a woman to get her two daughters into show business. Gypsy is loosely based on the 1957 memoir of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, entitled “Gypsy: Memoirs of America’s Most Celebrated Stripper.”

The memoir and the musical focus on the story of Gypsy Rose Lee’s mother, Rose, and earned Rose a place in the theatrical and literary canon as the quintessential, archetypal “Stage Mother.”

The musical features songs that have become standards of the musical theatre canon, including “Some People,” “Let Me Entertain You,” “Rose’s Turn,” and

the show-stopping “Everything’s Coming Up Roses”.

Gypsy is famous for helping launch lyricist Stephen Sondheim’s career, and features a book by Arthur Laurents that is widely considered to be one of the classic examples of a traditional “book musical.” At the heart of the musical is the gregarious Rose, whose journey made critic Frank Rich call Gypsy, “Broadway’s own brassy, unlikely answer to King Lear.”

The shows dates are Oct. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25.

The shows will be at the Hampden Town Hall, (Formerly Thornton Burgess School), 85 Wilbraham Road Hampden, MA.

The showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.

To purchase your tickets, visit theatreguildofhampden.org.

Mat Pilates at HSC

HAMPDEN – New program: Mat Pilates at the Hampden Senior Center!

Come and enjoy a FREE demonstration class on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Curious about Pilates? This is a welcoming introduction to a low-impact form of exercise that focuses on building strength, improving balance and mobility, and moving with greater control and confidence. Classes will use simple, intentional movements that can be adapted to a variety of fitness levels and abilities.

Whether you’re completely new to Pilates or already have some experience, this is a great opportunity to learn the foundations and experience the benefits of Pilates in a supportive environment.

NEW 4-week session starting Oct. 14 through Nov. 4

Cost is \$5 per class, paid directly to the instructor.

Led by Alexis Knight, a Balanced Body-trained Pilates instructor and co-founder of Degree Pilates, a new mat Pilates studio opening this fall in Wilbraham. Degree Pilates will offer mat-based classes in heated and room-temperature settings, designed for a range of experience levels and fitness goals.

Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club to host Designer Bag Bingo!

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo! This fabulous event will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at the Gremio Lusitano Club, 385 Winsor Street, Ludlow, MA.

It’s an evening of fun Bingo and a chance to win all the designer bags you want in your closet! Doors open at 6 p.m. and games

start at 7 p.m.

Admission tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Purchase a table of 10 for \$300, (a discounted rate of \$30 per ticket when purchased in advance!) Tickets include 10 bingo games, a dauber and a special lucky charm!

A cash bar will be available and attendees can bring their own snacks or order off

of the club’s menu. Extra bingo cards will be available for purchase as well as raffle tickets for our spectacular bag-themed raffle of over 30 beautiful handbags! All proceeds benefit charitable projects in the community!

Grab your friends and get your tickets at: Wilbraham-JuniorWomens.org or Contact Brenda Willard at (413) 279-1394.

New dance classes at HSC this October

HAMPDEN – Check out these two new dance classes coming to the senior center in October.

Ballroom Dance with Christine is back!

Four-week session: Wednesdays Oct 14, 21, 28 and Nov. 4 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Discover the joy of ballroom dancing!

Learn the basics and explore styles like the Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Cha-Cha, Salsa, Tango, and Swing.

NO partner required—your pro has you covered.

Cost is \$40 per person for the session. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Instructor Christine Kjellquist has enjoyed over 40 years as a trained dancer and has been a certified professional ballroom instructor since 2002 & competitor in the Rhythm and Smooth Ballroom styles.

Jazz Latin Infusion Music and Movement Class with Christine

Four-week session: Wednesdays Oct 14, 21, 28 and Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. to Noon.

Wear your sneakers and join Christine for this fun, energetic movement class designed to get you up on your feet, and give you a great cardio workout! Start with easy warm up and stretching and learn new, fun dance moves. It’s Jazz dancing with a Latin music kick!

Cost is \$20 for the session or \$6 for drop-ins.

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In the matter of:
The Anella Supplemental Needs Trust
TRUST CITATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by **Linda Young of Wilbraham, MA** requesting to Remove Lee Gadoua as Trustee and to Appoint Amanda Wuoti, Esq, as Successor Trustee, all as more fully set forth in said petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have the 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 10/08/2026**.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 10, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

MOTOR VEHICLES

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 9, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2007 Subaru Outback
VIN#: 4S4BP61C977322293
LKO: Karen Francis
1134 Worcester St
Indian Orchard MA 01151

Vehicle: 2017 Toyota Yaris
VIN#: JN1BJ1CW5MW447280
LKO: Samuel Dunham
156 Jeffrey Rd
Springfield MA 01119

Vehicle: 2024 Toyota Corolla
VIN: JTDBDMHEXR3008932
LKO: Suleyman Kocaoglu
182 Howard St

Ludlow MA 01056

Lien Holder: Toyota Motor Credit
PO Box 30203
College Station TX 77845

Vehicle: 2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F75BA016704
LKO: Aissatou Youssouf Gueys
401 Power Rd
Pawtucket RI 02860

Vehicle: 2014 Chevy Equinox
VIN: 2GNALAEK0E6218784
LKO: Katherine Galanis
152 Wilson St Ludlow MA 01056

R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374

09/24, 10/01, 10/08/2026

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