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Multiboard meeting addresses Minnechaug bleachers

The conversation was sparked by students saying they feel unsafe.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – On Oct. 9, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee held a multiboard meeting at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Participating officials also included members of each

town's Select Board/Select-board and Advisory Committee, as well as the town administrators.

A major discussion focused on the safety of the old bleachers at Minnechaug's football field, with a site visit to the bleachers also taken during the meeting to get a closer look.

School Committee Member Sean Kennedy pointed out that several students have voiced complaints, expressing that they feel unsafe when climbing them.

"We have some stu-



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

The bleachers also received a site visit during the meeting.

dents... I don't know how many of you heard what was happening. [They said] what they thought of the bleachers and the safety of the bleachers. One student was like, 'I fell through a board.' He addressed us," Kennedy said. "The students were questioning it. They say things sway and move, and it really freaks them out."

Hampden Advisory Committee member John Matthews responded bluntly to Kennedy's comments.

"Don't go up there. Don't go up if you don't feel safe.

You opened up a can of worms," Matthews said. "If you don't feel safe, don't do it."

Matthews acknowledged that he is not qualified to say if the bleachers are safe or not, so he asked Kennedy to come up with three engineering solutions to improve the safety of the structure.

"Then, we can decide from there. But just to say that you need new bleachers on the recommendation of a

Please see **BLEACHERS**, page 4



Turley photo by Natalie Proulx
Jennifer and Neve Brannon show their finished artwork.

Seahorse Pastel Painting Workshop hosted at Wilbraham Public Library

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the library hosted a Seahorse Pastel Painting Workshop led by award-winning artist Gregory Maichack.

Audience members varying from all different ages and

experience levels gathered to learn how to use pastels with the foundation of many techniques: color theory, shading, angles, and light sources. Maichack holds many workshops for both teens and adults all around New England with all the materials provided, following along with him to create a beautiful

replica in real time.

In this Seahorse Pastel Workshop, the screeching of chalk pastels were heard all throughout the room.

"It's music to our ears," Maichack said during the event while audience mem-

Please see **WORKSHOP**, page 8

Finding 'Lost in Yonkers'

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - A dedicated cast and crew are hard at work rehearsing for their upcoming performances of Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers."

The Theatre Guild of Hampden will present the Pulitzer-Prize winning play at Hampden's Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16.

"Lost in Yonkers," which premiered in 1990, is set in 1942. It tells the story of two boys who have to live with their stern grandmother and developmentally stunted aunt in Yonkers, N.Y., after the death of their mother. Their father, who owes money to the mob, has to take a job as a traveling salesman.

The play is Simon's most lauded work, receiving the Tony Award as well as the Pulitzer for Best Drama.

"It's a fabulous play," says Mark Giza, co-founder of the Guild. "It's a

Please see **YONKERS**, page 4



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The cast of "Lost in Yonkers" wears vintage 1940s costumes. Gail Weber (seated) plays Gert, Nathan Alvarez is the gangster Louie and Khara Hoyer is Bella.

A look at the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Times is taking a closer look at the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant ahead of this year's Special Town Meeting.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOV. 3 • 6:30PM
THORNTON W. BURGESS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

It should be noted that after the warrant was reopened to insert a new article during the Selectboard's Oct. 14 meeting, the date for STM has now changed to Monday, Nov. 3. It will still take place at 6:30 p.m. at the former Thornton W Burgess Middle School.

There will be 18 articles for consideration.

Article One is a consideration to amend the Hampden General Bylaws for a 6:30 p.m. Annual Town Meeting start time as opposed to the current 7 p.m. time. The change would be in the first sentence of Chapter Two, "Town Meetings," section one.

Article Two is to see if the

town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to increase the budget line item "32.4 Facilities Manager" for the town maintenance account - Facilities Manager.

Article Three is to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to increase the budget line item "7.2 Employee Benefits" for the insurance account - Employee Benefits.

Article Four is to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the budget line item "6.0 County Retirement" to "37.2 General Salary (Council on Aging)."

Articles Five through 11 focus on capital projects and equipment.

Article Five is to see if the town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 18 "Senior Center Repairs and Renovations" of the May 12 Annual Town Meeting to add the replacement of the HVAC system as a permitted use of the appropriated funds.

Article Six would be to Please see **STM**, page 3

Community enjoys 'Fall into Art' show

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The community gathered at the senior center on Oct. 11 and 12 to check out the "Fall into Art" Art Show hosted by the Scantic River Artisans.

The two-day show featured a variety of artwork including watercolor, acrylic, pastel, mixed media, photography, sculptures, pottery, jewelry, painted signs, glassworks, woodworking, books and quilted arts.

Also, the "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project which featured over 200 art pieces in varying styles created by community members. The proceeds from this project went towards the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and future programming.

The art show was sponsored by Affordable Waste Solutions, In a Flash Photography, La Cucina, Lawn Tech Lawn Care, Monson Savings Bank, the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens and RAH (the Recreation Association of Hampden). Also, in part, by the Mass Cultural Council, Hampden Cultural Council and Blick Art Materials.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Howard Odentz shows off his books.

Howard Odentz joined the SRA about a month ago and knew many members beforehand as they are, also, part of his charity, Puddleby Charities, a nonprofit organization that promotes the arts to populations in need.

Odentz was at the art show

to show off his books, including "The Dead (A Lot)" trilogy, "Bloody Bloody Apple," "Little Killers A to Z" stories in the "Wicked Tales: The Journal of the New England Horror Writers" anthologies and more.

A fantasy allegory book—

with fellow artist Karen Burke illustrating—called "The Puddleby Portraits & The Bestiary of Old Masters" has also led to a benefit art show to support Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities. The opening reception takes place on Nov. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Longmeadow Adult Center.

"I ran into Melanie Newhouse, who is Laura Salerno's sister. Melanie and I went to high school together. We went to camp together when we were little, goes way back, and we just started talking on Facebook and we remembered each other and, it turns out, our great-grandmothers were sisters," Odentz said.

After getting Newhouse and Salerno involved in his charity, he checked out an art show and got involved from there, sharing he's enjoyed the inclusive atmosphere and being among his fellow artists.

"There's an inclusive feeling when I am here with a lot of other artists. Everyone is really involved in their own work. There's a lot of amazing talent here that deserves to be seen," Odentz said.

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 8

MRHS hosts its annual Falcon Fest Pep Rally

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Friday, Oct. 10, Minnechaug Regional High School held its annual Falcon Fest with a bit of a twist this year.

At the beginning of the day on Friday morning, students showed up to school in their class colors: seniors wore black, juniors wore blue, sophomores wore red, freshmen and eighth graders wore white, and faculty and staff wore green. Although differing from previous years, in their first class of the day, students were given one beaded necklace, demonstrating which grade they were a part of, and used it to participate in a school-wide "Rock, Paper, Scissors" competition.

Students challenged each other throughout the entire day during their passing periods or at lunch, leading up to the Falcon Fest pep rally. The goal was to win the most beaded necklaces possible to later compete in the final round of "Rock, Paper, Scissors."

Students were able to challenge faculty and staff as well, only if they had more than 10 necklaces from playing with their classmates. Later on in the day, the remaining 16 contenders played against each other to kick off the Falcon Fest games.

Hannah Donovan, Student Council co-president with Evan Liverseidge, participated in the setup of this event and was one of the main announcers, ensuring every aspect of Falcon Fest was executed properly.

Falcon Fest's new all-day add-on, the school-wide "Rock, Paper, Scissors" Tournament, displayed a success with student engagement and a new way for different grades to participate together



All grade levels sitting in their sections in the Minnechaug gymnasium.

Photo courtesy of Allison Demetri

and show school spirit.

"All the grades were interacting...normal day to day, we don't see that, we don't see freshman and seniors interacting like that," Donovan said.

Considering this was the first year the school-wide game was implemented, Donovan said, "I think there were some things that may need to be changed. I think we just need to make sure our rules are a little more set."

Although overall, she mentioned that the next year's Student Council would most likely set it up again and reassess the issues to increase the school-wide participation that some school events may lack.

Before the event began, Lyric Nelson, a senior from the Minnechaug Region-

al High School Choir, sang the National Anthem. The Minnechaug Regional High School band followed, performing one of their future homecoming pieces, "Run Away Baby" by Bruno Mars.

Later on, many were recognized for their achievements over the past year. Five students from the current sophomore, junior, and senior classes who have shown outstanding expression in one of the Core Values of Minnechaug: Challenge, Honor, Adapt, Understand, or Grow, were recognized. Following this acknowledgment, Nominees for Homecoming Council were also declared.

For Homecoming King, Cal Blanchard, Aiden Dzierwinski, Evan Liverseidge, Jack Lucarelle, and Eli Web-

ster were nominated, and for Homecoming Queen, Hannah Donovan, Nolah McConell, Lyric Nelson, Nina Semanie and Elizabeth Woytowicz were also nominated as a part of the council.

Later that night, during Minnechaug's football game, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced, Evan Liverseidge and Nina Semanie.

Along with the announcement of Homecoming Council Nominees during the Falcon Fest Pep Rally, Minnechaug's 2025 Teacher of the Year was announced, Will Nickerson.

After the final recognitions, the annual Falcon Fest games began with the final standing participants in the "Rock, Paper, Scissors"

Tournament. Followed by the Inflatable Costume Race, Donut Eating Contest, Matress Sliding Race, and finally the Four-Way Tug of War between all the grades.

"My favorite part," Donovan said, "is seeing our Minnechaug community, all the grades, and seeing everyone come together in one space."

Though it's a lot of behind-the-scenes work for the Student Council, Donovan enjoys it.

"I love it. I love seeing everyone happy and all together. It's a reward for us because we put in so much behind the scenes, and then you get to see it all come together," Donovan said.

Volunteers needed for Trunk or Treat event

HAMPDEN — Hampden Parks & Recreation is seeking volunteers to decorate car trunks for its upcoming Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Thornton Burgess Middle School.

Community members, organizations, and businesses are invited to participate by decorating a trunk and handing out candy in a safe, family-friendly setting. A prize will be awarded for the most original trunk.

To sign up or learn more, please contact parks@hampdenma.gov.

Public Safety Night Out

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Fire and Police Department invite you to our Public Safety Night Out on Oct. 24 at Thornton Bridges, located at 85 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden, MA from 4 to 7 p.m.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your local first responders and connect with fellow community members.

Food trucks and local vendors will be present, along with your chance to make s'mores alongside the Hampden Fire Department. Enjoy live music, a helicopter flyover, and our fireworks display starting around 6:30 PM.

We hope you'll join us for a night filled with community engagement and fun.



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Selectboards receives updates on South Road Bridge Project

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard received an update on the South Bridge Road Project during their Oct. 14 meeting.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained the update involved seeking additional grant money to cover the project.

"So, where we are now with the bridge project itself is that it's nearing the end of Chapter 85 review. I think MassDOT has sent their final questions and comments to the engineer and, I believe, they just responded back to MassDOT," Domina said. "We also had the award letter for the Small Bridge Grant which was for \$500,000. When I was looking at the contract they had sent, it never occurred to me that I had never seen the actual grant contract—the grant agreement—before. So, I wasn't going to sign a contract with BHB without that grant contract."

Domina then went back to review the award letter.

"The award letter said once we're through Chapter

85 review, then MassDOT will send us a grant agreement for the \$500,000. So, we checked back in with them and MassDOT—through our engineer—asked if we were going to be seeking additional grant money," Domina said.

Chair John Flynn noted Mark Langone, superintendent for the Highway Department, told the board this before.

"There's potential," Flynn said.

"I think this is one of the programs where they have projects coming. Either projects get completed or a project comes in under budget," Domina said. "More likely projects aren't ready so they don't, so there's additional money in those in the fiscal year. So, we're going to make the request for the full amount. So, we're going to ask for that additional \$250,000 and we'll see what they say."

Domina added the hope was to put the project out to bid this fall, but that appears to be changing.

"I think it's going to get pushed to winter at this rate," Domina said.

After Flynn asked about the current construction number for the project, Domina

replied on the sheet of Chapter 90 projects Langone had presented to the board, "it was in the ballpark of \$450,000."

"Ideally, the grant will cover that amount and that can get reprogrammed," Domina said.

"That would be great," Flynn said.

Flynn then asked this clarification question.

"So, we're not signing the contract because we're waiting to hear the (Chapter) 85 to be finished? You need that officially finished and then we can sign the contract?" Flynn said.

"Yes, or you could authorize me to sign it, and then I'll do it once," Domina said.

"Does that constrain us if we sign it, about getting additional money?" Flynn said. "Are you worried about that?"

Domina replied no. "If I was authorized to sign it, I wouldn't sign it until the grant agreement came through," Domina said.

After that, Flynn presented a motion to authorize the town administrator to sign the South Road Bridge Project contract upon notification of Chapter 85 completion. This was approved unanimously.

More on this project as it continues to develop.

Wilbraham Women's Club Fall Shoe Drive

WILBRAHAM - Clean out your closets and donate those shoes that you no longer need.

We are collecting women's, men's, and children's gently worn shoes, boots, slippers, sandals, sneakers and athletic shoes. All proceeds will benefit our scholarship program and other charitable endeavors.

Keep your shoes out of landfills! Your shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in the lives of people in developing countries around the world.

Beginning Oct. 9, Drop Boxes will be located at Wilbraham Public Library, Scantic Valley Y, and Rice Fruit Farm.

Drive Up Drop Off Collection Days at Wilbraham Senior Center

Saturday Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 8 ~ 10 a.m. to Noon

For more information contact Linda Raffa at (413) 596-8245

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WPL presents Fourth Annual Jack-O-Lantern Contest

WILBRAHAM- The Wilbraham Public Library invites families of all ages to join us for a spook-tacular evening of Halloween fun at the Fourth Annual Jack-O-Lantern Contest!

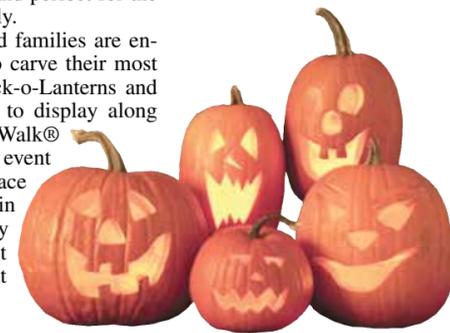
Get ready for glowing pumpkins, Halloween crafts, hot cider, and a festive atmosphere that's a little spooky, a lot of fun, and perfect for the whole family.

Kids and families are encouraged to carve their most creative Jack-o-Lanterns and bring them to display along our StoryWalk® path. The event will take place indoors in the library in the event of inclement weather.

Entries may be submitted individually or as a family, but please use LED tealights—no real candles.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 • 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. • Outdoors at the Library (weather permitting).

Registration is required. To sign up, visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call (413) 596-6141.



Theatre Guild of Hampden presents 'Lost in Yonkers'

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is proud to present Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play "Lost in Yonkers," directed by Rick Rubin, stage manager Steven Weber.

The year is 1942, and Eddie Kurnitz (played by David Martin) needs to take a job as a traveling salesman to pay off the medical bills incurred after his wife died. He decides to ask his stern mother, Grandma Kurnitz (played by Trish Neil Barry) from whom he is estranged, if his two young sons can live with her and their Aunt Bella (played by Khara Hoyer) in Yonkers. She reluctantly agrees.

Jay (played by Josh Barry) and Arty (played by Aidan Quin) don't like their new living situation as they're afraid of their Grandma and find it difficult to relate to

their crazy Aunt Bella, who has two other siblings: Louie Kurnitz (played by Nathan Alvarez) a henchman for some gangsters, and Aunt Gert (played by Gail Weber) who struggles with speaking due to her mother's harsh parenting style.

Over the course of the play, the boys learn about love, responsibility, and the importance of family that will carry them into adulthood.

Location: Thornton W. Burgess School, 85 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden.

Show dates and time: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at theatreguildofhampden.org or at the door.

STM from page 1

see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to replace the HVAC system at the senior center.

Article Seven would be to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase and install new HVAC systems at the new Hampden Town Hall, formerly the Thornton Burgess Middle School.

Article Eight would be to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to extend the electrical service to the Transfer Station shed and to install new signs to better

direct users through the facility.

Article 9 would be to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a new police cruiser for the police department.

Article 10 would be to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a compact wheel front loader for the Highway Department.

Article 11 would be to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a pickup truck for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Articles 12 and 13 center on Community Preservation Act Funds.

Article 12 would be to see if the town will appropriate a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for the replacement of sidewalks at Centennial Commons at 26 Springmeadow Lane.

Article 13 would be to see if the town will appropriate a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for the construction of a cul-de-sac in the southwest section of the Old Cemetery.

Article 14 - a Local Acceptance Statute - will be to see if the town would vote to adopt the local room occupancy excise tax under Mass General Law Chapter 64G Section 3A at the rate of 6%.

Articles 15 through 18 are financial transfers.

Article 15 is to see if the town will vote to transfer

from unappropriated funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying costs of the previously approved expansion of the Scantic River Valley Water District.

Article 16 is to see if the town will vote to transfer from unappropriated funds a sum of money for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for FY26.

Article 17 is to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the General Stabilization Account for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for FY26.

Article 18 is to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds into the General Stabilization Account.




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Wilbraham United Church holds Annual Pumpkin Patch

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Church Annual Pumpkin Patch will be selling pumpkins daily through Oct. 31.

Shoppers can pick their perfect pumpkins or decorative gourds Monday through

Saturday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays between Noon to 6 p.m. A wide variety of large and small pumpkins and specialty gourds will be available.

The pumpkins were picked from a Native Amer-

ican reservation in New Mexico and trucked straight to the church in time for the patch to open. Pumpkins are fresh! This fund raiser benefits both the farmers on the reservation as well as the mission of the church.

Pumpkin sales benefit the missions and programs of the Wilbraham United Church. Cash or Credit Cards will be accepted.

Wilbraham United Church is located at 500 Main Street in Wilbraham.

YONKERS from page 1

beautifully written script that explores family dynamics and relationships. We've wanted to do a comedy/drama for some time."

Rick Rubin, co-founder of the Guild with Giza, who previously directed Simon's "The Odd Couple" and "The Sunshine Boys" for the troupe, is directing "Lost in Yonkers."

"It's more of a drama than others I've done," Rubin said. "Neil Simon brings his memories of growing up during the war in the 1940s to this play. He writes with deep humanity; it's a terrific script and it is very relevant today."

The cast, who all come to Hampden with many years of experience in local theater, gathered for rehearsal and publicity photos on Oct. 16 and shared their insights on their characters.

Aiden Quinn of Southwick, Mass., 11 years old, plays 13-and-a-half-year-old Arty. "Lost in Yonkers" is Quinn's first nonmusical. He discovered his love of acting while appearing in "The SpongeBob Musical."

"I've made a lot of friends—even teenagers!—and now grown-ups," through acting, Quinn said.

He describes his character as kind of sly.

"He doesn't speak a lot but speaks his mind. He likes joking around and brings the comedy to the play," Quinn said.

Josh Barry of Enfield plays Arty's older brother, Jay. Barry is exactly the same age as his character, 15-and-a-half.

"Jay shows his emotions, he's skittish and moves a little like a bunny rabbit," Barry said.

Barry comes from a theatrical family and is already a veteran of many local productions.

"I've been acting since age seven," Barry said. "It's fun to play someone else and all the people in theater are



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan
Josh Barry is Jay, Trish Neild Barry is Grandma Kurnitz and Aiden Quinn is Arty in Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers."

super cool."

Barry says the play's blend of drama and comedy is a bit tricky for an actor but that Rubin's clear vision for the show has helped him develop his role.

Wearing a gray wig to age her, Barry's mother, Trish Neild Barry, portrays his grandmother in "Lost in Yonkers."

"Grandma Kurnitz is very, very stubborn," she says. "She's had a hard life, but her grandsons bring new energy to her world. She has a dry sense of humor which you barely see, but it's there. It's actually a lot of fun to play someone most people don't like."

Khara Hoyer of Vernon, Conn., has her dream role in the part of Bella, the boys' aunt.



David Martin portrays Eddie.

"Bella is so sweet. She has the mind of a child and is developmentally behind. It's hard not to love her," Hoyer said.

She found inspiration for the part in a relative with similar difficulties.

"It's a very emotional role. It can be exhausting to put yourself in Bella's shoes," Hoyer said.

Speaking with a New York accent he picked up from Detective Carisi of "Law & Order," David Martin of Springfield plays Jay and Arty's father, Eddie.

"I love this role," Martin said. "It has some unique, emotional aspects to it because the character is someone who has experienced a great loss."

Gail Weber of Hampden, a longtime Theatre Guild of Hampden actress, plays Aunt Gert. Weber's husband, Steven Weber, is stage manager for the production.

"Gert's mother made her neurotic; she's so nervous that she gasps for breath before she talks," Weber said. "I've been going around our house trying out different ways of doing this weird character parts."

With his hair slicked back and wearing a natty suit, Nathan Alvarez of Springfield is the gangster Uncle Louie.

"He's a bullying, controlling narcissist on the run from the Mafia," Alvarez said. "It's so much fun playing him!"

"Buy your tickets," Alvarez urged. "This cast is phenomenal."

Show times for "Lost in Yonkers" are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday Nov. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

The play's location is Thornton W. Burgess School, 85 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden. Tickets can be purchased online at theatre-guildofhampden.org or at the door.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The bleachers at Minnechaug Regional High School were a hot topic during the Oct. 9 School Committee meeting.

BLEACHERS from page 1

student... I'm sorry, I'm not going for it," Matthews said.

Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey added that the town's building inspector analyzed the bleachers during a visit on July 30. This came after a School Committee member visited a Select Board meeting to inform the board members that the bleachers are being held together by "bubble gum."

Ducey read aloud the final report of the building inspector, John Walsh.

"Structurally, they are very safe," Walsh's report reads. "I did not observe any conditions that pose an immediate hazard. At the time of the inspection, I did not observe any indication that the bleachers were being held together by 'bubble gum.' That said, I would recommend some basic maintenance going forward like scraping and painting the steel framing to preserve longevity, replacing any damaged or worn boards as needed, continue to cover the seating areas ideally with vinyl tech material type of surface."

School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi pointed out that once a certain amount of money is invested in the rehabilitation of the bleachers, they will have to become ADA-compliant. Currently, due to their age, the structure can exist without being in line with the modern code.

"Personally, for me, my biggest problem with the bleachers is that they're not up to current code, which I know by law, they are not required to be until we spend a certain amount of money to renovate them, and then they will be," Tirabassi said. "The only way to make them up to code would be to replace them."

Superintendent Dr. John Provost said that the district attempted to search the value of the bleachers and was informed that it depends on how much they weigh with the boards removed.

He said any work would "very easily meet that threshold to trigger ADA compliance."

Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell asked if structures such as bleachers fall under the scope of ADA.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Doug-

las Slaughter answered her question.

"My understanding is that ADA-compliance is for any facility structure. Obviously, in the circumstance of renovating a building that would be true, but it's also true for any other facility that we operate," Slaughter said. "If we were to work on the snack shack or those types of things, that would also be true for renovation as well. It doesn't necessarily have to be a habitable space."

When someone asked why the bleachers weren't replaced when the new high school was built over a decade ago, Hampden Advisory Committee Chair Doug Boyd noted that the only conversation regarding the bleachers was whether to replace them.

"That was the extent of the involvement, and the determination was made for financial reasons to not touch the bleachers," Boyd said. "There was no discussion about whether there were any ADA implications to the structure."

MRHS Principal Stephen Hale added that district leadership at the time did not delve into enhancing the bleachers because they wanted to put forward a proposition that would be suitable to residents in both towns.

"Those are things that were not put into the project because they wanted the project to have a chance to be approved by both towns and keep the cost as reasonable as possible. That was my recollection," Hale said.

Still, some members participating in the meeting were concerned. Among them was School Committee member Timothy Collins.

He expressed reservations about the bleachers not being up to code and said the town will have to pay if something bad happens there.

"They may be structurally sound. That doesn't make them safe. Those gaps are dangerous," Collins said. "I have come to an age where I appreciate certain handrails. There are no handrails there... If you're talking about expenses, if something should happen and someone comes after us for some catastrophic accident, due to the fact that these are not up to code, I wonder what the liability would be there. It could be much more expensive than actually dealing with the problem."



THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."
— Beth from Belchertown

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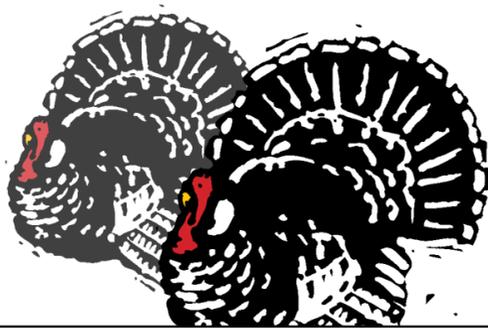
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Library Page Gracen Moriarty created this pumpkin that started off as a tomato but later became a strawberry.



This action shot shows a pumpkin being painted black and covered in many googly eyes.



WHT Editor Kristin Rivers also painted her own pumpkin, adorned in random patterns, doodles and colors, with the eyes and mouth painted pink, of course, her favorite color.



A nice rainbow spread of colors decorate this pumpkin.



Nemo from "Finding Nemo" in pumpkin form!



Attendees get to work on painting their pumpkins.



Jake Vanderleeden shows off his pumpkin.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Pumpkin Painting at HPL



Kayla Vanderleeden works on her pumpkin.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN – It was a fun, spooky day at the library on Oct. 11 as attendees gathered around to paint their own pumpkins.

The pumpkin creations varied in color, pattern, size and creativity from Nemo from "Finding Nemo," a tomato becoming a strawberry, random doodles and patterns, a pumpkin wearing a suit with top hat on the stem, a fully painted black pumpkin with many googly eyes and more.

The activity also served as the library's main Halloween event as this year's Halloween Party will not be taking place due to the library's move to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

Regardless, the pumpkin painting provided a touch of fall, relaxation, letting imagination run wild and laughter among the attendees as they talked about what they plan to dress up as for Halloween this year and their favorite things about spooky season.

Enjoy this photospread featuring these amazing pumpkin painting creations!



This pumpkin was ready for a formal occasion with the suit and top hat to boot!

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I navigate the Social Security maze?

Dear Rusty: I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you. **Signed: Ready to Claim**

Dear Ready: Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I'll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67 and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement, a permanent reduction. If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your "primary insurance amount" you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your work earnings are more than \$1,950 after

your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won't get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit. FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working and your marital status. If you are or were married, you might be eligible for a spousal or ex-spouse benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Question and Answer section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1-888-750-2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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.

More review; what worked what didn't

Last week I wrote about two new winter squash varieties I grew in this past summer's garden, as well as a Barbie doll sized melon.

According to Mom, it made for a good read. Let's keep the momentum going with more "new to me" varieties in this column.

As dedicated readers may remember, this past summer's garden was to accomplish the goal of growing more food, food that would cut down on the grocery bill and feed the family through the winter. I took my chances growing a hybrid paste tomato by the name of Plum Regal. Its accolades were many: late blight resistance, moderate resistance to early blight, and the promise of a good yield and a tasty outcome.

Typically only grow heirlooms, so this tomato really had to prove itself. My only dilemma was that I sometimes have issues with blossom end rot, and specifically on paste types.

I tried a new fertilizer formulated specifically for members of the Solanacea family, aptly named "Tomato Sauce." You know what? It worked.

No blossom end rot and a freezer full of sauce, tomato chucks and roasted tomato blends. I will be ordering both the seeds and the fertilizer from Fedco (fedcoseeds.com) in anticipation of next year's garden.

With every success comes not quite a success. I'll call Muskmelon "Melonade" one of those adventures. I was intrigued by the description in the Fedco catalog, "firm orange flesh is tart, punchy and

refreshing," and had hoped it would keep our family in melons for a month or so. Not exactly.



I couldn't get over the fact that what looked like a cantaloupe tasted like a lemon! No one in the house liked it. I'm not going to call it a failure, because if anything, I learned that I could grow a muskmelon successfully.

I worried I would harvest them too early, or too late, but I harvested them just right, and they grew exceeding well on black plastic down the middle of my heat retaining rock wall raised beds. Next year I will search for a variety with a more typical flavor and it could just be a win-win.

I have always wanted to grow Indian corn as a fall decoration, but was leery of the space needed for such an endeavor. The experts talk about growing corn four rows deep for proper pollination and kernel formation.

I threw caution to the wind and decided I'd grow a popcorn. I enjoyed the commentary in the Fedco catalog in the description of a variety named "Calico:" "you can hang it on your door in fall and pop the very same batch come Thanksgiving." Sold.

I grew only eight plants, set out in a four by two pattern. Shucking the corn felt a lot like Christmas morning with the surprise factor

involved. Will the kernels be gold, blue, mottled or bronze?

I ended up with enough to decorate with and come Thanksgiving I will indeed try and pop some. I've had some experience popping eared corn before.

At our family vacation my sister in law tried it out. She put the dried ear she had purchased in a paper bag and folded it shut, placed it in a microwave on high for about 3-4 minutes and yum!

What else worked out well in my garden this year? The succession planting of green beans seeded immediately after my garlic was harvested worked out superbly. No additional fertilizer required.

I was able to freeze a lot of beans from that second sowing. I guess I always wish there are more to freeze, so maybe next year the row will be longer.

I didn't utilize the wide row method this year. Two parallel rows with a walking row down the middle made the harvest easy.

I hope you had your share of successes this past summer, and if you are anything like me, you are already scheming next year's veggie garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



By Ellenor Downer

On Monday, Oct. 6, an Oakham resident watched a kettle of 28 black vultures circling above the Harrington Hospital in Southbridge.

He said, "As you may know, the species is expanding its range northward into Massachusetts." A kettle is a large group of vultures circling in a thermal, using the rising air to conserve energy during migration.

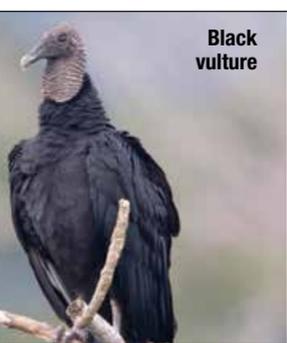
The black vulture has sooty, black plumage, a featherless black head and neat white stars under the wingtips.

Turkey vultures are lanky birds with a teetering flight. Their cousin the black vultures are compact birds with broad wings, short tails and powerful wingbeats. Turkey and black vultures often associate together. The black vultures have a poor sense of smell, but by

following turkey vultures by following them to carcasses. They often soar high in the sky in search of lower soaring turkey vultures. When the turkey vultures descend on a carcass, the black vultures follow them.

Black vultures are highly social and share food with relatives, feeding young for months after they've fledged. In the United States black vultures are more plentiful than turkey vultures. Black vultures lack a voice box and their sounds are limited to hisses and grunts.

The oldest black vulture on record was a least 25 years, six months old when it was found in 1965 in Louisiana. It was banded there in 1940. They may live even longer in captivity.



Black vulture

Brimfield resident

On Sunday, Oct. 5, I received an email from a Brimfield resident commenting about my seeing a moose in Oakham. He said, "Seeing a moose in Massachusetts is exciting. My wife and I saw a moose in Canada, it ran across the road in front of the car and disappeared into the woods. My wife said 'look a horse with no rider, similar to your reaction.'"

Eagle sighting

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, I received an email from a reader. He said, "I was in my car last evening around 6:30 when I saw a huge, black-winged bird come over Main Street in Barre Plains. When we were kids it was called Canal Road.

It was flying low over the street and was trying to gain altitude. The bird appeared just before Rich's Pond and it had what looked like a recent kill in its talons. It accidentally dropped the dead animal, which appeared to be a rabbit, onto the road and what I thought was a vulture turned out to be an adult Bald Eagle."

He said, "Its stark white head and white fanned tail, along with its bright yellow feet and beak were clearly seen and it was startling to be only 25 or 30 feet away from it. The eagle's wing span was enormous. It made an attempt to recapture its prey by diving quickly back to the road and it had to widely fan out its tail feathers to slow its descent and gain flight control."

He said, "The Bald Eagle then flew high up into a tree along the road near the pond and was waiting for me and all cars to pass before descending on its prey. It was breath taking. We never saw such things as kids."

Cedar waxwings

The Barre resident said on recent warm September days he also has been seeing a small flock of cedar waxwings in

Gilbertville, along the Ware River, taking bugs in midair over the river and also working trees and bushes that still have some fruit on them.

Helping birds

People may also help birds by keeping their cats indoors. Many birds are killed by cats. It is safer for people's pet cats to kept indoors as they also succumb to predation. If a cat is an outdoor cat, people may put a bell collar on their cat with a quick release mechanism if their pet's collar should get hung up on something.

Dark-eyed Juncos

An Oakham resident reported seeing a dark-eyed junco in his yard last week. I saw a small flock of juncos along the road where I live on Oct. 13. Their white tall feathers identified them as they flew up from the side of the road. It was my first sighting this fall.

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

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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.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

The Mom Walk Co. hold anniversary event



Submitted photo and caption Samantha Regan Co-Hosts of The Mom Walk Co. - Wilbraham (Kayla Reed, Samantha Regan, and Chloe LeBlanc) smile at their One Year Anniversary Family Event held on 10/11 at Spec Pond. Photograph by Lauren Hourihan Photography.

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



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

WPD takes part in Job and Internship Fair

On Tuesday Oct. 7, Sgt Moore attended the Westfield State University Counseling, Government & Criminal Justice Job & Internship Fair hoping to attract young, talented, educated individuals for future positions. The fair hosted 75 local and national law enforcement and public safety/service agencies.

WPD hosts Coffee with a Cop



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department Thank you to everyone who came out on Oct. 2 for our Coffee with a Cop at Cumberland Farms. We look forward to doing this again in the future.

Firefighter Jim Royce retiring after 18 years



Photos and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

After 18 years of dedicated service to the town of Wilbraham, Firefighter Jim Royce is retiring. As a department mechanic and a member of various committees, Jim's commitment and expertise will be greatly missed. Best wishes for your next chapter!



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

WFD responds to gas leak

On Oct. 7, Wilbraham firefighters were on scene dealing with a high-pressure gas leak in the Mohawk Street area. Eversource Gas was also on site to address the situation, later able to shut down the gas line and begin making repairs. The area was blocked off during the gas leak.

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A shot of the "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project at the "Fall into Art" Art Show in Hampden.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



Joe St. John and Sandra Howell pose for a photo as they catch up during the art show.

ART SHOW
from page 1

Sue Bluestein, a soft pastel artist, moved to Hampden about three years ago and joined the SRA after checking out one of their shows. She got into the art after visiting a thrift store and finding a box.

"So, I've since learned that they are pure pigment in a binder, so that it's the same pigment that you'll find in oil paint, watercolor, all the other paints. The thing is that, generally, you're not mixing your colors. You're choosing sticks so you have a variety of many sticks," Bluestein said. "You don't have to necessarily mix a color, you pick a color and you immediately get that."

Bluestein said there are many reasons she enjoys being part of the SRA, including how friendly everyone is when she first moved to town and seeing people coming year after year, bringing community together.

"But, also, here, it's really good to be among a group of like-minded people and if you have questions, we support each other," Bluestein said. "Everybody is just so willing to help and support and I think they do a really great job on



The metal sculpture, "Cheesy Moon" by Brian McQuillan.

these shows. There's a lot of work that goes into them."

SRA President Laura Salerno was excited about the "Reflective Musings" project, including helping parents looking for artwork their kids did and the artists getting a chance to show off their pieces.

"It's been a great turnout, so I'd like to double what we did this year," Salerno said. "We're getting the community involved and they love this. We've had stained glass on these canvases, we've had poems, photography, paintings, pottery, a variety of different mediums. Craft paper, collage, very creative. Very, very creative, so I'd like to see more of that and inspire more of that next year and, hopefully, we can break out some



Jeffrey and Ray Hoess-Brooks show off the painting they just bought at the "Fall into Art" Art Show.

more workshops to influence that and to teach people how to do that."

Reflecting on the year, Salerno had praise for the artists and excitement for new members joining.

"Ending on a note like this with our community project, though, and all these new vendors, fantastic," Salerno said. "Overall, I think we're on the right path. I hope I'm doing this group justice because I'm still learning, but I'm always open for suggestions. I'm always looking for new vendors, new contacts."

Odentz encouraged the community to check out future

art shows. "It's not a big art show, but there's so much here and there's so much talent and it's worth the time to come and see. If you have an empty space on your wall, it's a great place to find some really good art and also support the community," Odentz said.

Salerno thanked the community for their continued support of the art shows.

"Thank you to everybody who's blessed us with their presence today. We hope you enjoyed it," Salerno said. "Stay posted for more to come for 2026."



Nan Hurlburt of Tangled Vine Jewelry shows off her latest pieces to attendees.



David Gilfor, one of the new artists with the Scantic River Artisans, shows off his glasswork pieces.

WORKSHOP from page 1

bers sketched and shaded the anatomy of their seahorse. Going all around the room, he learned the names of every member, taking time to connect to his audience.

Maichack teaches at Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College and Westfield State College but in the majority of his classes, "I only allowed eight people, so having 24 it's a bit difficult."

To help everyone at once during the event was a challenge but he still made everyone feel heard.

Explaining how to hold and use an oil pastel, Maichack held the canvas horizontally and demonstrated proper technique.

"I want to get a grip so the corners are going down the side of the pastel," Maichack said, while rocking the chalk back and forth with his fingertips in a motion he likes to describe as a seesaw, "unstable

and on the edge" rocking it and pinching it until the pigment smoothly glides across the paper.

"You just try to graze the paper...It's almost like a film of pastel on top of the paper," Maichack said as he described the effect achieved by this technique, also referencing the techniques of Leonardo da Vinci and Vincent van Gogh.

While tabletop references were provided for the audience's convenience, he also expressed his admiration for creativity and expression through color, allowing members to be creative with the anatomy of their seahorse paintings.

"You can't make a mistake in art," one of the members said to another, supporting creative decisions and what can be seen as a "mistake" as a creative choice.

A lot can be taught in one simple painting. In addition to creating the artwork, he incorporates the expression of

light sources in art.

"It's not good to have, twelve and six or three and nine because a light usually follows an angle," Maichack said.

Maichack explained the points at which each highlight should be from a light source in realism art.

"It could be one o'clock and seven or eleven and five... and consistently keep this angle," Maichack said.

And alongside a light source lesson, he also made this art workshop into a lesson on seahorses and anatomy.

"Seahorses actually have this ability to camouflage themselves," Maichack said, connecting the significance in a seahorse's color to their survival for hiding in coral to protect themselves from predators.

"This seahorse," Maichack said, "doesn't have a stomach, so it eats all the time. Imagine that, imagine eating all the time."

While the crowd bursted



Turley photos by Natalie Proulx

Audience members work on their masterpieces .

into laughter and discussion, Maichack incorporated an interesting fact about seahorses not known by many.

In addition to a seahorse lesson, he turned it into a bit of a chemistry lesson.

Maichack explained the composition of some pastels, why they work the way they do, and what ingredients each pastel and type of paper con-



Gregory Maichack walks the audience through each step.

tains in order to produce the desired pigment and effect. Also, why some pastels blend better than others.

"It has more calcium carbonate," Maichack said, along with why some have more defined pigments, glow, and smudge.

Walking through each line simplifying the process of drafting a sketch to finishing the piece, Maichack, "goes

really step by step," one of the audience members mentioned, "he gave us something to trace, you got to watch his strokes while he was making them, so what looks overwhelming is not overwhelming."

If you're interested in Gregory Machiack's work, workshops, and would like to learn more, visit gregorymaichack.com.

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Falcons edge Lions girls soccer

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—The final score of the previous four meetings on the soccer pitch between the Ludlow and Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity squads was 1-0.

When they battled each other for the only time during the regular season on Columbus Day, the outcome was a 1-0 once again. The Minnechaug Lady Falcons celebrated a home victory with the help of a corner kick goal in the middle of the second half on a windy and rainy afternoon.

"Whenever you have two rivals playing against each other, it's normally a very close game," said Nundi Gonçalves, who's been the girls' varsity soccer coach at Minnechaug Regional for the past 30 years. "I would rather play a close game than win a game 8-0. I thought the weather conditions was a factor in today's game. We wanted to have the wind at our backs during the second half."

Prior to this season, both teams were members of

the Coombs Division. They would meet twice during the regular season.

While Minnechaug is still a member of the Coombs Division, the Ludlow Lions moved into the Kurty/Fielding Division prior to the start of the regular season.

The new league has benefited the Lady Lions, who had a 10-2-1 overall record and were ranked 10th in the MIAA Division 3 power rankings. Their only other loss came at Northampton, 2-1, in late September. They also tied Agawam, 3-3.

The home win helped the Lady Falcons reach the .500 mark (5-5-4), for the first time this season.

"This is a huge win for us," Gonçalves said. "Ludlow is a very good soccer team this year."

Minnechaug has gone 4-1-3 since losing against West Springfield, which was their only home loss, on September 17. They have moved up to 21st in the Division 2 rankings.

The Minnechaug seniors, who have only lost one game to Ludlow on the pitch during the past four years, are Zorih Wray, Zoe Pinnock, Ava Kearney, Alexis Carreira, Cailin



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Zorih Wray looks to get the ball before it goes out of bounds.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ava Eggsware nears midfield with the ball.

Disappointing finish for field hockey

AGAWAM – Last Monday night, Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey was defeated 2-0 by Agawam. The Brownies got two goals from Alyssa DaSilva to lead Agawam to its ninth victory of the season and a likely berth in the Western Mass. tournament. Minnechaug fell to 1-12-3 and is likely in nonplayoff action this week. Agawam's final regular season game was Monday against Greenfield.

a couple of scoring chances during the first 40 minutes of the match.

During the 15th minute, a breakaway opportunity by Donais was knocked over the end line by Horne resulting in a corner kick.

About ten minutes later, the Lady Falcons had their first corner kick.

Kearney sent the ball into the box from the right corner,

Please see **GIRLS SOCCER**, page 10

Taylor Bartosz goes for the free kick.



Sophia O'Connor looks to change directions with the ball.



Zoe Pinnock looks to balance the ball.



Isabella Usher eyes oncoming pressure as she heads up the sideline.



Makenna Sacco runs into traffic.



Colleen Basch sends a hit toward the Agawam circle.

See more **FIELD HOCKEY** photos on page 10.

Lions, Falcons battle to 1-1 draw

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Eight of the 21 matches that the Ludlow boys' varsity soccer team played a year ago ended in draws.

The Lions played their

fourth tie of the 2025 regular season in a non-league match at Minnechaug Regional on Columbus Day. The visitors took a 1-0 lead during the 58th minute before the Falcons netted the tying goal eleven minutes later. The contest, which was played on a windy after-

noon, ended in a 1-1 tie.

"We've been playing a little bit better in our last few games and we've been creating some more chances," said Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who'll be inducted into the Ludlow Athletic Hall of Fame as a coach

on November 9. "We might need to win a couple games in the Western Mass. tournament just to qualify for the state tournament. We're going to work hard and if we can get to

Please see **BOYS SOCCER**, page 10



Gavin Goldrick tries to squeeze a pass by a couple of opponents.



Tyler Supczak takes the header.



Brady Laliberte heads the ball away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Benjamin Lopez goes for a throw-in.

Thunderbirds come back to bash Hersey Bears

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-2-0-0) rebounded in a big way from a defeat the night before as they dispatched the Hershey Bears (1-2-1-0) by a 5-1 score on Sunday inside Giant Center.

For the first time in the young season, Steve Konowalchuk's team finally vaulted to a lead at the 7:06 mark of the first period off a clean rush. Corey Schueneman carried the puck deep into the Hershey zone before slipping a perfect drop pass onto the blade of Jakub Stancl. The rookie connected off the inside of the post, beating Clay Stevenson on the stick side to give Springfield a

1-0 lead on Stancl's first professional tally.

Springfield dodged a dangerous chance from ex-Thunderbird Calle Rosen, who emerged from the penalty box and skated in on a breakaway against Vadim Zherenko, but Rosen missed the target on the blocker side.

Both teams failed to connect on power play chances, but Springfield was not done on the offensive end. With just 24 seconds left on the clock, Hunter Skinner joined a rush, one-timing a Nikita Alexandrov pass through Stevenson to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission. Mat-

thew Peca also picked up an assist on the play for his first point of the season. In the process, the T-Birds captain became the first player in the T-Birds' 10-year history to record 200 points as a member of the Thunderbirds.

Zherenko stood tall through the opening half of the second period, with Hershey linking lengthy shifts in the offensive zone, threatening to cut into the Springfield lead. After surviving the onslaught, Otto Stenberg alertly spotted Matt Luff coming off the T-Birds' bench, and the veteran winger roofed a breakaway snapper over Stevenson's glove to

make it a 3-0 score at 11:45.

Dalibor Dvorsky joined the scoring party next at 14:11, as the 20-year-old got a fortunate bounce to cash in his first of the season. He was hoping to slip a pass to his left side, but the puck ricocheted right back onto his stick in the low slot, giving Stevenson no chance to defend it. Alexandrov picked up his second assist on the tally.

Hershey finally broke the four-goal blitz at 15:24 as Henrik Rybinski crashed the blue paint to chip a loose puck over Zherenko for his second goal in as many nights, cutting the margin to 4-1.

Still, the T-Birds offense was not finished, and with a power play in the closing minute, Theo Lindstein rifled home his first goal in the AHL with just 23 seconds left in the frame to make it a 5-1 score. Luff picked up his second point and Alexandrov garnered his third assist on the rookie's first North American tally.

Zherenko had a sizable lead, but the fourth-year pro slammed the door shut in the third, as Hershey failed to pierce the netminder on 14 third-period offerings. Zherenko has now stopped 47 of the last 49 shots he has faced.

Disappointing finish for field hockey



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Peyton Lee shoots during a penalty corner.



Katherine Britt goes after the ball heading for the sideline.



Reese Magee clears the ball out of Minnechaug's end.



Tess Morrow takes the insert pass.

BOYS SOCCER

from page 9

states, we have the group that could make some noise."

The Lions, who also played a 1-1 tie at East Longmeadow High School last Thursday night, entered their regular season finale home match against Chicopee High School with a 4-6-5 overall record, on Monday afternoon. They'll be playing two other games.

Because the Lions were ranked 35th in the MIAA Division 1 power rankings, they'll need to have at least a .500 record to qualify for the state tournament for the fifth time since 2021. The top 32 teams in each division automatically qualify for the state tournament.

The Falcons (6-4-5), who entered the home match against the Lions riding a four-game winning streak, have already qualified for the Division 2 state tournament for the third consecutive year. They were ranked 23rd in the Division 2 power rankings.

"We can't be happy settling for ties," said Minnechaug head coach John O'Keefe. "We were missing eight players due to injuries, so we're banged up. I've never dealt with so many injuries before during my coaching career."

Minnechaug junior Eli Childers suffered a right knee injury in the 15th minute of the first half and was sidelined for the rest of the match.

The Falcons celebrated their annual senior night with a 2-0 loss to Churchill Division rival Northampton last Thursday night. They also lost the first meeting of the regular season at Northampton on Sept. 24.

The weather, especially the gusty winds, played a major factor in the only meeting of the regular season between Ludlow and Minnechaug.

"There wasn't any rain, but the wind was brutal," Kolodziej said. "We had the wind in the first half, and it seemed like we were able to



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jack Parastatidis sends a shot away.

keep possession a little bit more.

It was opposite in the second half."

"The wind was definitely a factor," added O'Keefe. "They put some pressure on us in the first half, and it was like playing against two extra guys out there."

The Lions shots on goal during the first 40 minutes were by sophomore Ivan Cruz, senior Sam Pontes, and sophomore Anthony Schuko.

In the middle of the opening half, a free kick taken by Minnechaug senior Nick Cianflone sailed wide.

The contest remained scoreless until Ludlow junior Jayden Premo, who was a starting defender, scored a goal following a corner kick.

Senior Ethan Love booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Premo flicked a

shot into the back of the net past Minnechaug senior goalie Chase Henderson (4 saves) giving his team a 1-0 lead.

"I'm always trying to score a goal whenever the ball comes my way," Premo said. "I'm also playing some defense now. I just want to do anything to help my team win."

The Falcons scored the equalizer when senior Nate Wesloski fired a shot into the right corner



Nicholas Cianflone looks ready to shoot.

past Ludlow junior keeper Nick Dion (7 saves). Cianflone was credited with the assist.

Neither team was able to put the ball into the net during the final ten minutes of regulation.

There is a very good chance that the two squads could be facing each other for the second time during the Western Mass. Class A tournament.

GIRLS SOCCER

from page 9

and it was headed by junior Makenna Sacco.

During the 27th minute, a free kick was taken from the top of the box by Ludlow junior Valentina Molinari, but the shot attempt was deflected away by a Minnechaug defender.

The match remained scoreless until the 58th minute when the Lady Falcons scored a corner kick goal.

Kearney normally takes all the corner kicks, but this time Goncalves had sophomore Sophia O'Connor, who had just entered the match, take it from the right corner.

"I decided to make a change because Sophia is a lefty and it's a little bit easier for her to kick the ball from the right corner," Goncalves said. "I always want Ava to take it from the opposite corner because she's a righty."

O'Connor lofted a shot towards the goal and Ludlow junior goalie Maddy Riley couldn't handle the wet ball and it landed in the net for her first varsity goal.

"It felt great scoring my first varsity goal," O'Connor said. "I took advantage of my

opportunity to take the corner kick."

O'Connor, who has two assists this season, made the varsity team as a freshman, but she only played in a few games before suffering a season-ending injury.

The weather might have been miserable, but it was a beautiful day for O'Connor and her Lady Falcons teammates.

The weather, especially the gusty winds, played a major factor in the only meeting of the regular season between Ludlow and Minnechaug.

"There wasn't any rain, but the wind was brutal," Kolodziej said. "We had the wind in the first half, and it seemed like we were able to keep possession a little bit more. It was opposite in the second half."

"The wind was definitely a factor," added O'Keefe. "They put some pressure on us in the first half, and it was like playing against two extra guys out there."

The Lions shots on goal during the first 40 minutes were by sophomore Ivan Cruz, senior Sam Pontes, and sophomore Anthony Schuko.

In the middle of the opening half, a free kick taken

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
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62						63									

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Remark
- 5. Upper body part
- 8. Expression of dismissiveness
- 12. Alternate name
- 14. Popular beverage
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Step-shaped recess
- 18. Rocker Stewart
- 19. Bright shade of color
- 20. Popular "street"
- 21. Wrath
- 22. Heat units
- 23. Nocturnal omnivorous mammals
- 26. Fall back into
- 30. Remove from the record
- 31. Sound a splash made

- 32. Popular Dodge pickup model
- 33. Jamaican river
- 34. Notable event in Texas history
- 39. Cool!
- 42. Subset of Judaism
- 44. Newly entered cadet
- 46. Duct in urinary system
- 47. Exterminator
- 49. Snatch quickly
- 50. Have already done
- 51. Less healthy
- 56. Therefore
- 57. What couples say on the altar
- 58. Mysteriously
- 59. Look angry or sullen
- 60. Bird's beak
- 61. Taco ingredient
- 62. Square measures

- 63. Google certification (abbr.)
 - 64. Singer Hansard
- ### CLUES DOWN
- 1. Pubs
 - 2. Wings
 - 3. Popular BBQ dish
 - 4. Small sponge cake
 - 5. Open-roofed entrance halls
 - 6. Organize anew
 - 7. Type of wine
 - 8. Forums
 - 9. North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)
 - 10. Pond dwellers
 - 11. Large integers
 - 13. Signaled
 - 17. Brief
 - 24. Type of student
 - 25. Tibetan monasteries
 - 26. Revolutions per minute

- 27. NY Giants great Manning
- 28. Local area network
- 29. Residue from burning
- 35. Illuminated
- 36. Vasopressin
- 37. Notable space station
- 38. Wood sorrel
- 40. Adhering to laws
- 41. Chose
- 42. Hovel
- 43. Stood up
- 44. European city
- 45. Works ceaselessly
- 47. Mistake
- 48. Sun-dried brick
- 49. Sicilian city
- 52. A steep rugged rock or cliff
- 53. Murder
- 54. Other
- 55. "Deadpool" actor Reynolds

COMMUNITY

PV Financial Group recognized as one of the states most charitable companies in 2025

WILBRAHAM – The Boston Business Journal has named Pioneer Valley Financial Group an honoree in its annual 2025 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region’s top corporate charitable contributors. This prestigious honor highlights companies that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to giving back through both financial support and community involvement.

As one of Massachusetts’ most charitable companies in 2025, PV Financial Group earned recognition for contributing \$100,000 or more to local nonprofits and charitable causes in 2024. These contributions reflect not just corporate giving, but also the generosity of the company’s charitable foundation and the hands-on involvement of its employees through volunteerism and in-kind support.

The Boston Business Journal annually publishes its Corporate Citizenship

list to spotlight organizations that prioritize community impact and exemplify corporate responsibility. PV Financial Group will be celebrated alongside other honorees at the BBJ’s 20th Annual Corporate Citizenship Awards, to be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at Big Night Live, 110 Causeway St., Boston.

At the heart of PV Financial Group’s mission is a deep commitment to service and impact:

“We believe in helping our clients and community live better. As a team, we are driven to offer excellent client experience, thoughtful financial plans and caring advice. Our legacy is the people and the lives that we have touched.”

For more information on the 2025 Corporate Citizenship Awards, visit <https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2025/07/10/bbj-most-charitable-companies-in-massachusetts.html>.

Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club to host community Fleece Blanket Making Event

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club is hosting a community Fleece Blanket Making Event.

All are invited to attend and help out.

This community get-together will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 10 a.m. to Noon. at The Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street Wilbraham, MA

It’s an opportunity to meet new people and come together to create warmth

for those in need. No sewing experience is required and all supplies will be provided.

Bring a friend (or two!), lend a hand and make a difference! Every blanket made will be donated to local shelters, nursing homes and The Ronald McDonald house.

Contact Kathy (413) 478-1185 for questions or more information.

Let’s wrap our community in kindness – One blanket at a time.

Gravestone carvings talk at Old Meeting House Museum

WILBRAHAM – Have you ever strolled through Adams Cemetery on Tinkham Road and wondered about the story behind those old gravestone carvings? There are familiar historical names like Noah Merrick and Deacon Nathaniel Warriner buried there with elaborate gravestone markers. If so, be sure to attend the Sunday, Oct. 26 Open House of the Old Meetinghouse Museum at 2 p.m. to hear historic gravestone expert Derek Strahan describe the stories behind them.

Refreshments will be served and the Gift Shop will be open. Derek Strahan is the managing editor and primary author of the web-

site “Lost New England”, the host of the “Western Mass History” podcast, and he is the author of two local history books: “Lost Springfield, Massachusetts and New England Then and Now”.

Strahan runs the “Gravestones of New England” pages on Facebook and Instagram, where he tells the stories of the carvers who made early New England gravestones.

His presentation will feature over 50 slides featuring old gravestone styles and stone carvers.

For more information about the Open Houses or the Museum, search “Old Meeting House Museum” on Facebook or Instagram.



Derek Strahan, author of “Lost New England”, will speak at the Old Meetinghouse Museum in Wilbraham on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee seeks community input on municipal facilities

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham announces the ongoing work of the Building Utilization Committee and invites community participation through a public survey on municipal building usage.



The Wilbraham Select Board formed the Building Utilization Committee in early 2025 in response to the need to optimize the town’s facilities amid growing demands for efficiency and

cost savings. Comprising nine members, including six community residents and one

representative each from the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Planning Board, the committee’s primary purpose is to assess current town-owned buildings and properties, identify opportunities for improvement, and recommend cost-effective solutions to enhance functionality, repurpose underuti-

lized spaces, and improve overall operational efficiency.

As part of its mandate, the committee is required to report its findings, analyses, and recommendations directly back to the Select Board, providing actionable insights to inform future town planning and budgeting decisions.

To ensure the committee’s recommendations reflect the needs and perspectives of Wilbraham residents, a municipal building usage survey has been developed to gather community feedback on how town facilities are currently used and potential improvements. The survey is quick

and anonymous, covering topics such as building accessibility, usage frequency, and ideas for optimization.

Community input is vital to shaping a more efficient and responsive town infrastructure. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey by Dec. 1 to help guide the committee’s work.

Contact: Jeffrey Smith, Chairman Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee Phone: (413) 596-2800 Email: townhall@wilbraham-ma.gov or Wbuc@Wilbraham-ma.gov.

OPRO presents !Bailamos! Oct. 24

WILBRAHAM - The Old Post Road Orchestra kicks off 40 years of bringing quality symphonic music to the community with our first concert on Friday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wil-

braham. The program (titled !Bailamos!) brings the audience on a musical journey through Spain and Latin America. Come dance with us and celebrate 40 years of community music at its BEST!!

Veterans Day Breakfast, Nov. 6

WILBRAHAM – The town of Wilbraham will hold their annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 6.

This event is open to all Wilbraham Veterans or Surviving Spouses and one guest.

When: Thursday, No-

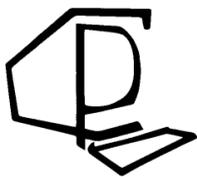
vember 6th at 8 a.m. Where: Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street

Breakfast is Sponsored by the Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club.

Please register by Nov. 3. Call (413)596-8379.

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APARTMENT: WEST SPRINGFIELD, \$1775. Private, quiet, dead-end street, kitchen, living area, 2 bedrm., 1 bath, sunroom or extra living space. Stackable washer/dryer, patio. NO PETS! Storage! 2 entrance ways! Driveway parking! All utilities included. **413-231-7757**.

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

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for October at the Hampden Senior Center:

Please call 566-5588 to register for all events or classes at the senior center.

If you plan to have lunch on the day of the event, please reserve your lunch by 11 a.m. at least one day before the event.

Crafts with Kim:

October Scrapbooking Class "Everything Autumn" Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to Noon. Drop-ins are welcome! \$10 per class. Choice of 12"x12" or 8"x8" page will be provided. Tape runners, archival pens, and other supplies are available for purchase.

Greeting Cards with Ellie

Monday, Oct. 27, 1 to 3 p.m. Discover endless possibilities for creating your own personal greeting cards and learn new techniques each month. Cost is \$3 per person. All materials are provided.

60s Themed Halloween Luncheon with Musical Guests: The 60s Experience

Friday, Oct. 31 at Noon Put on your tie-dyed shirts and join us for a fun afternoon that will transport you back to the 1960s. "The 60s Experience" band has reunited for this event to provide us with the sounds of the 60s. Lunch is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Bread provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services, and Becky and Wendy will prepare a delicious Tie-Dyed dessert! Cost is \$6 per person (\$3 suggested donation for lunch and \$3 for entertainment).

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

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes with Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master/Holistic Therapist Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m. A Parkinson-specific exercise class that "makes function exercise" to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility.

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

Pre-paid rate for 8 classes: \$65 Drop-in rate: \$10.00 per class. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD

Mondays, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Come join our friendly group... We share memories and learn new coping skills on how to deal with loss, loneliness, and adapting to life changes. There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome. Please call 566-5588 to let us know you're coming.

Ukulele Classes with Amy Scott

Current session runs through Oct. 20. No class on 10/13. Drop-ins are welcome! New session: Mondays, Oct. 27 through Dec. 15. Beginner Ukulele - 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$50 for the session if paid in full or \$7 per class for drop-ins. Advanced Ukulele - 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$80 for the session.

Choral Group

Are you interested in singing in a choral group? Please let us know by calling 566-5588.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore

Tuesdays from 2:15 to 3 p.m. Next class is Oct. 28th. New 11-week session: Sept. 30 through Dec. 16. Cost is \$55 for the session if paid in full or \$6 per class for drop-ins. Join Lamar to learn about balance and how it impacts your overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility. "It's never too late to start making progress on your health span. Muscles and balance are the two things you can train and improve even as you age."

Upcoming HSC Trips

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

Mon, Dec 8 - The Aqua Turf Club "Rock This Town Orchestra" - Coffee on arrival, delicious family-style lunch, Swinging '50s and '60s tunes - \$127pp. Full Payment Deadlines are usually 2 weeks before the event. Flyers are available @ the Sr Ctr or via email. Questions call Bobbi @ 413-566-8271 or email bobbi2@charter.net.

Ballroom Dance for Balance and Longevity!

Thursdays, from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Current session runs through Nov. 6. Drop-ins welcome! Social dance classes led by Amy Villalobos-Schold, a skilled occupational therapist. Focused on strengthening, stability, and modifications... so you can dance! Beginners and singles welcome! Cost is \$10 for drop-ins.

"African Drumming" with Jason

Fridays from 2 to 3 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome! Current session runs through Dec. 12. No class on 11/28. All are welcome! No previous experience necessary. Cost is \$7 per class for drop-ins. HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes. Thank you to those who donated tissues last month. Every month, we will target a different item to help fill monthly Personal Needs Bags. Due to space constraints, please refrain from purchasing warehouse-sized items.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays with Ann Maggio, RN, or Ruth Haley, RN

Thursdays with Karen Blair, RN

Chair Massage with Mindy - by appointment

Tuesday, Oct. 28. Cost is \$10 for 10 minutes.

Gift Cards are available. Anyone is welcome to schedule appointments for these services.

Please call 566-5588 to schedule your appointments.

SAVE THE DATE:

Veterans Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of gratitude as we honor Veterans for their dedicated service.

In preparation for our annual Veterans dinner, we are collecting photographs of Veterans in uniform that will be used as decorations for this event. If you have a photograph of yourself or a family member to share, please drop it off at the front desk. Please include your name and phone number on the back of the photograph so it can be returned to you after the event.

Enjoy a dinner of Chicken Francaise, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, and Bread from Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant, followed by a delicious dessert made by Becky & Wendy.

To attend the Veterans dinner, please call 566-5588 to RSVP. Veterans are FREE; non-Veterans \$5.00

This event is being sponsored by Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant, VSO Jason Burgen and Rick Green.



Rice's Fruit Farm, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center Team Up to Thank Nurses

WILBRAHAM - Rice's Fruit Farm—famous for its apple cider, sugar-and-spice donuts, and homemade ice cream—is adding something new to its menu: heartfelt appreciation for nurses.

On Wednesday, October 30, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Rice's Fruit Farm is teaming up with MiraVista Behavioral Health Center to celebrate the nurses who care for our community every day. All nurses are invited to stop by, enjoy a complimentary cup of cider and a donut, and take a moment to relax, recharge, and feel appreciated.

This collaboration with MiraVista is a simple but meaningful way to say "thank you" to healthcare professionals for their compassion, dedication, and commitment to healing.

"Nurses are there for all of us on our best days and our hardest ones," said Anthony Maloni, owner of Rice's Fruit Farm. "If a warm cider and a fresh donut can bring a smile or a moment of calm to someone who spends their days caring for others, then that's the least we can do. We're honored to partner with MiraVista to say, from our whole team: thank you, nurses."

Event Details

What: Complimentary

cider & donut for nurses When: Wednesday, Oct. 30 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Rice's Fruit Farm, Wilbraham, MA Who: All nurses (please bring work ID or badge)

Cost: Free for nurses; one cider and one donut per nurse, while supplies last

According to Kimberley Lee, Chief of Creative Strategy and Development for MiraVista, nurses anchor our healthcare system with skill, heart, and resilience. By welcoming the nursing community, Rice's Fruit Farm is helping create a simple moment of respite—one that recognizes the essential, often unseen work nurses do across hospitals, clinics, schools, long-term care facilities, behavioral health programs, and more.

MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is proud to join in this expression of gratitude and to uplift caregivers who are central to the well-being of individuals and families across Western Massachusetts.

Stop in. Take a seat. Have a sip. Because kindness—like cider—is best shared warm.

Community partners and residents are encouraged to share this invitation with nurses in their networks and on social media.

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Daniil Gerasimchuk (contractor) for Site Plan Approval (SPA25-04) under Sections 3.4.2.8 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow construction of a 672 square foot detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on property owned by Michael and Laura Barcome located at 579 Main Street as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board

page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/593817805> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 593-817-805). 10/23, 10/30/2025

LEGAL NOTICE Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A

Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on **10/31/2025 at 2:00 p.m.** to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses

of Notices of Sale. Kevin Leblanc 687 Frank Smith Rd. Longmeadow, MA 01106 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN: 1J4GR48K26C200963 10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0309CA In the matter of: William Luis Enrique

Pramberger CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **William Luis Enrique Pramberger of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Luis Enrique Toc IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/12/2025** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you

must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 14, 2025 **Rosemary A Saccomani** Register of Probate 10/23/2025

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION (Posted October 14, 2025) **The hearing will begin at 7:10 PM, November 3, 2025** The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7:10 P.M.** in the Town Office

Building, Select Board's Meeting Room, 240 Springfield Street, for the purpose of explaining, and soliciting comments relevant to, the establishment of the property tax rate for fiscal year 2026. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25. Residents may comment relative to the adoption of the tax levy percentages required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended. Anyone wishing to testify or comment should participate, virtually or in person, at the hearing at the time and date noted above.

Wilbraham Select Board 10/23, 10/30/2025

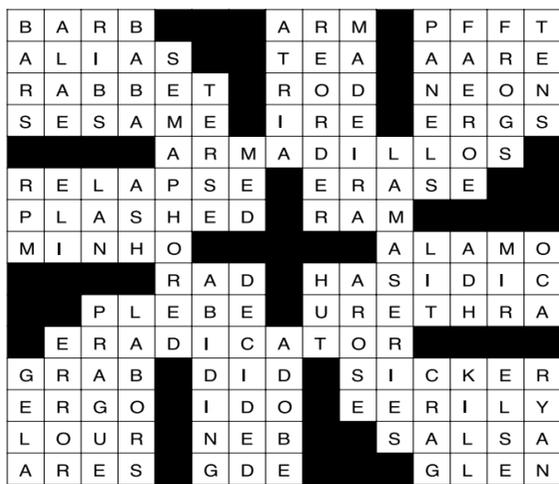
Wilbraham-Hampden Times **OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

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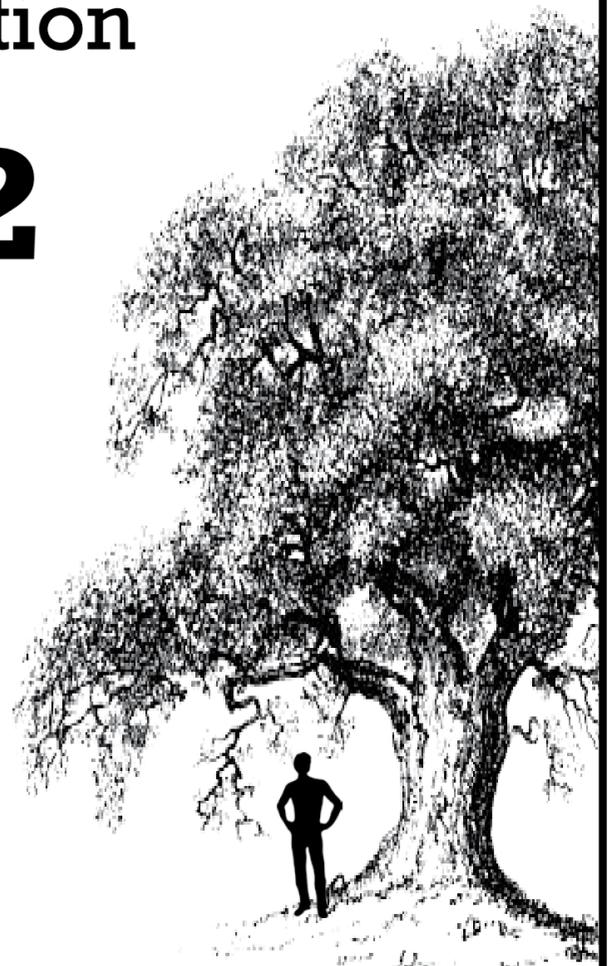
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