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Parks & Rec host Trunk-OR-Treat



Photos courtesy of Dan Blanchard
A Cookie Monster-themed trunk was amongst the group of trunk or treaters in Hampden.

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Days before Halloween, on Oct. 25, local residents could attend the Hampden Parks and Recreation's very first Trunk Or Treat event.

The event ran from 4 to 6 p.m. and families could attend and experience trick or treating in a small, safe environment.

Dan Blanchard, the director of the Hampden Parks and Recreation, put on this event

as a way to bring the community closer.

"Usually, the Parks and Rec does a small Trunk Or Treat with Safety Night, another event run by us, but I wanted to bring out Trunk Or Treat more," Blanchard said. "The Trunk Or Treat at Safety Night only had a few cars, and it wasn't the main focus of the event. The goal for this specific event was to have around 15 to 20 trunks, and

Please see **TRUNK-OR-TREAT**, page 8



A family photo from the Hampden Parks and Rec Trunk Or Treat.



Minnechaug Key Club's Witch booth.

Key Club holds its 11th Annual Halloween Night

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Oct. 28, Minnechaug's Key Club held its 11th Annual Halloween Night. Children from grades pre-K to grade four were invited to go play games and trick or treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

This was a mandatory event for all the Minnechaug club members, creating student-run booths with all different themes for children to enjoy. This take on the classic trunk or treat helped to raise money for the Eliminate Project.

Partnering with UNICEF and Kiwanis International, the Key Club wants to help eliminate and prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide, by providing vaccinations and health care to those in need.

Minnechaug's Key Club has another mission as well. One of the student members mentioned, "It's all about giving back to local organiza-

tions."

The club pitches in to provide volunteers to any local events that need people to help run them, such as events at Spec Pond, setting up for concerts, and also helping in community clean ups.

Lea Fitzgerald, one of the advisors of Key Club, stated that the students hold about 90% of the responsibility when it comes to the production of this event.

"The kids have taken full ownership. Every booth is a kid-led booth, they come up with their games, they come up with their themes, it's pretty awesome!" Fitzgerald said.

The Key Club hosted over 30 different booths where you could find almost every sport run by members of Minnechaug's sports teams, as well as themes like Easter, witches, Greek mythology, winter wonderland, superhe-

Please see **KEY CLUB**, page 9

Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk Contest hosted by WPL

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - The library hosted its Fourth Annual Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk Contest to great fanfare on Oct. 29.

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

Besides displaying this year's featured jack-o-lan-

tern creations out on the StoryWalk, families—including some decked out in costumes—also enjoyed a seasonal craft, games and apple cider in the Brooks Room.

At the end of the event, awards were announced for this year's entries.

Also, this year's entries were on full display for all to enjoy at the library leading up

Please see **STORYWALK**, page 5



Photo courtesy of Jaime Hageman
This jack-o-lantern featured a koala carved into it.

Public Safety Night Out goes big

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Big attractions attracted a big crowd at this year's Public Safety Night Out.

There was an enormous American flag, a giant s'mores flame pit, a 107-foot firetruck ladder and an inflatable great pumpkin.

The annual event, held at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on the evening of Oct. 24 and run by the Hampden Fire Association, brought in an estimated 1,000 people from Hampden and surrounding towns and ended with a spectacular fireworks display.

The Hampden Police Association traditionally organizes the event, but the firefighters took the lead this year.

"We do this every year to give the public the opportunity to meet local first responders and connect with fellow community members," Fire Chief Ed Poulin said.

Firefighters and police officers talked with families and gave the many children in attendance opportunities to explore new and vintage fire trucks. Local businesses and organizations filled booths behind the school. The Wilbraham Fire and Police Departments brought their staff and equipment to Hampden and the Massachusetts State Police made a helicopter flyover.



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan
An estimated 1,000 people attended Hampden's Public Safety Night Out.

Hampden Police Sergeant Jason Roath said that the police department wants the community, especially children, to know that they are here to help. The police taught children about calling 911.

The autumn air filled with sounds and smells. The Chain provided lively music and lines formed for treats from Rice Fruit Farm and burgers

Please see **NIGHT OUT**, page 10



Photo courtesy of Gale Candaras
Joyce Rockwell with Congressional Medal of Honor prior to ceremony honoring Darby's Rangers, WWII, Washington, D.C.

Rangers Lead The Way

Submitted by
Gale Candaras

WILBRAHAM - For one Wilbraham family, this Veteran's Day evokes special memories of a remarkable summer and a never-to-be forgotten hero!

Local attorney and Wilbraham resident, Joyce Serknis Rockwell, received a much-anticipated invitation this past June to attend a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., honoring her father, Private Carl Andrew Serknis, with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor for his

Please see **RANGERS**, page 9

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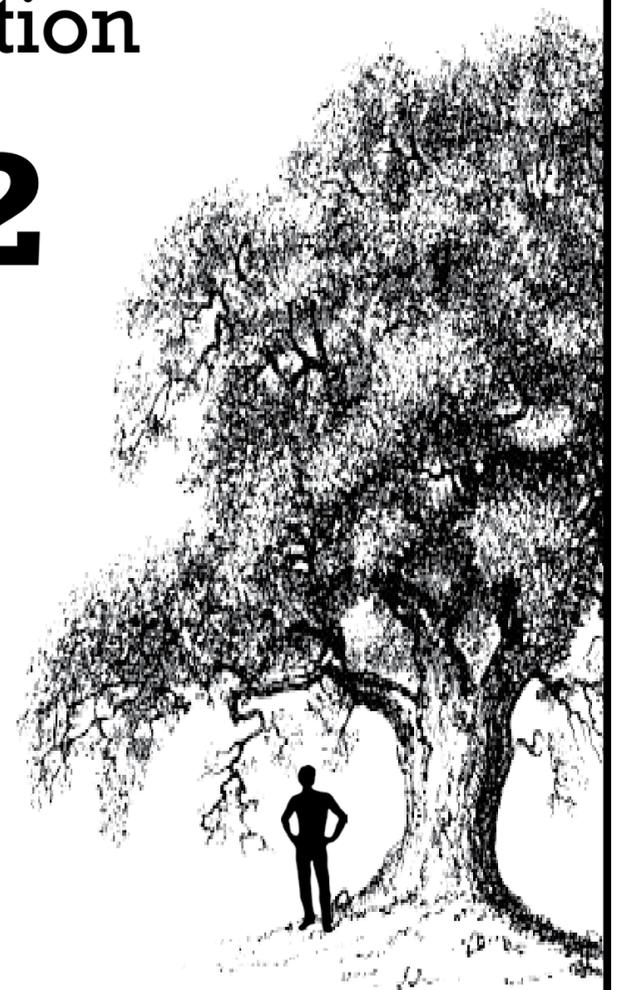
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Selectboard receives update on tree lighting

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard received an update on this year's Tree Lighting during their Oct. 27 meeting.

As readers know, the Annual Tree Lighting to kick off the Christmas season usually takes place on the first Sunday of December at the Town House.

Paul Marcelina shared there's a new tree planted at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, where the new town offices will be.

"Obviously, this has taken a few twists and turns. The original plan of lighting up Allen Street from Hampden Road, East Longmeadow Road, Wilbraham Road, was derailed by Verizon," Marcelina said. "So, we took a step back, thought about banners, but banners—being at night—you can't see them. So, we pivoted. Then we met last week or two weeks ago at TWB, and I'm pleased to say that we had a tree planted today on or around the same space that we talked about while on site."

Marcelina said he was in

Connecticut last week and looked at lighting "that's at our disposal, at no charge."

"I just have to get it here. I sent a link to I think Brian and you might have been on that email of a family that had this lighting display up in Nashua, New Hampshire. It rivals Bright Nights, really great quality," Marcelina said. "So fast forward, I think this year we can light a tree. I can get some mechanical trees, if you would, with some rope lighting on it. We'll get those in place. We can do some really nice stuff around the gazebo."

He added he would need to have an electrician look at the gazebo.

"I think that was a question that we had as far as, I think, capabilities at that facility. He's agreed to donate some time and materials to kind of get that where we need it. We can utilize it in a safe manner," Marcelina said. "What I need to know is what your timeline is, when you're looking to have your tree lighting festivities take place, so I have a calendar to work against and go from there."

Chair John Flynn said during last week's meeting,

Town Administrator Brian Domina, himself and Parks & Rec Director Dan Blanchard met with Marcelina to look over the gazebo.

"I think I mentioned the work that Parks, the Garden Club, some community members as well have done to improve the gazebo is incredible. We saw it this weekend a couple of times, both at the Trunk Or Treat—which was a great event, Dan—and for the Hampden Night Out," Flynn said. "What Paul's proposed here is pretty much upgrading the gazebo to make it ready for the tree lighting ceremony. We talked about having some display there, potentially having the choir that Green Meadows provides sitting in the gazebo, perhaps singing from there."

Flynn explained, typically, the date for the tree lighting "has always been the first Sunday of December," which would put this year's event on Sunday, Dec. 7.

"We're still looking for who can, basically, honcho that because we had a terrific person who pretty much ran the tree lighting for the past few years and, right now, this will be on Lauren (McCor-

mick) and she has a lot on her plate right now," Flynn said. "So, we're investigating that, but I would say tentatively, Dec. 7 would be that date that we have the event there."

Flynn said the Highway Department is willing to plow in case there's snow, they'll continue meeting with Marcelina and how the tree will be lit will be looked into.

"We don't expect him to donate everything. If he says, 'Look, I'm happy to wire it for you. If you buy the PVC to get it out there and the parts, I'll put it in for you,' I'm sure the board can find a way to make that happen. We have town event money, things like that," Flynn said. "So, if he's saying, 'Look, I'll do the labor but I'm not going to be out parts,' come back to us, please. I think if it was all controlled from the gazebo, that would be the way I think we'd like it."

Domina will also reach out to Marcelina regarding transportation of the lights, with Marcelina replying he's also meeting with a mover in Springfield that coming Sunday about what this would look like.

Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off Abatement Program seeks applicants for 2026

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham is accepting applications for 43 positions under the Senior Citizen & Veterans Tax Abatement Program. Senior Citizens and Veterans selected under this program will work during calendar year 2026 to receive an abatement on their property tax bill for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

Basic requirements are that taxpayers must be an assessed owner of property in Wilbraham, and must have owned and occupied a home in Wilbraham for at least five years. To be eligible for the Senior Citizens program the resident must be over 60 years of age. To be eligible for the

Veterans program the resident must be a Veteran defined by MGL (a copy of your DD 214 is required).

The current compensation is calculated at \$15.00 per hour, and the maximum allowable abatement is \$1,500.00 per property. Abatement workers will need to work 100 hours to receive the full abatement of \$1,500.00 (less federal income tax and Medicare deductions).

The 43 positions being offered are:

- Clerk's Office:** 4 Office Assistants
- Treasurer/Collector's Office:** 2 Office Assistants
- Public Access Television:** 5 Production Producers

- Library:** 4 Library Pages
 - Library:** 1 Local History Assistant
 - Senior Center:** 15 Office Assistants
 - Select Board Office:** 1 Office Assistant
 - Parks & Recreation:** 3 Assistant Gym Supervisors
 - Facilities:** 2 Facilities Laborer/Helpers
 - Facilities:** 4 Gardeners
 - Engineering:** 1 Engineering Assistant
 - Veterans:** 1 U.S. Flag Custodian & Veteran Event Support
- Hours are flexible and will be worked out on an individual basis between the department director and the abatement worker, but must be completed by November

30, 2026.

This program is beneficial for both senior and veteran residents and Wilbraham taxpayers. Seniors and Veterans have an opportunity to lower their property tax bill, and taxpayers are benefitting from the superior talent and work experience these individuals bring to the job at a very low cost to the town.

Interested residents can pick up applications and information packets at the senior center, library, or Select Board Office, or print it from our website: www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Applications should be submitted to the Select Board Office no later than December 12, 2025.

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Storyteller to talk about 'The Hessians'

WILBRAHAM – Well-known storyteller Dennis Picard will return to Wilbraham to talk about “The Hessians from the Revolutionary War at the Old Meeting House Museum’s Open House on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

The talk is free and refreshments will be served at the Old Meeting House Museum after Picard’s talk. The Gift Shop will be open.

“Folklore holds that the Hessians soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were blood thirsty mercenaries purchased by King George III to fight in the rebellious colonies,” says Picard. They are often associated in our mind’s eye with the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow fame. “But is that a truthful depiction of these citizens of the German States?”, he asked.

“Even though there were no battles during the American Revolution in Western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians here. I will tell folks at the Old Meeting House Museum how these men got to our area, why they we here, who they



Photo courtesy Dennis Picard
Folklorist Dennis Picard will come to Wilbraham to speak at the Old Meetinghouse Museum on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. His topic will be The Hessians and their connection to Western Massachusetts.

really were, and in the end, why some remained in our region,” said Picard.

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



Bobbi Grant, Claudia Kapinos and Carolyn Dunsmoor pose for a group photo.



Janet Goodman and Judy Brodeur were sporting their 60s colors and hippie attire during the luncheon.

HSC hosts a 'Hippie' Halloween Luncheon

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The senior center got into the “Hippie” Halloween spirit during their annual Halloween Luncheon on Oct. 31.

The event featured a lunch of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and bread provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services and a tie-dyed themed cake dessert prepared by the senior center staff.

The 60s Experience was the musical entertainment, appropriately fitting the 60s-themed event.

Dawn Dumas, the lead singer for The 60s Experience, was decked out in 60s-themed attire she found online, sharing she was excited to perform for the seniors.

“We’re here to just share that music and peace and love and all that stuff from the 60s!” Dumas said.

Dumas explained the band has been together since 2019 and went through a couple transitions since then, but they regrouped.

“It’s pretty exciting to have a sold-out crowd in the middle of a Friday afternoon. Definitely worth me taking the day off from work to do this kind of work instead, which is far more enjoyable,” Dumas said.

Dumas said the group is always dressed up for their performances, which makes it all the more fitting for Halloween.

“Our message is just to keep that message of peace and love and harmony alive, especially now in the circumstances that we are, and just keep sharing that feeling of



Attendees get out on the dance floor, rocking out to the 60s hits.

community. So, this lends itself perfectly to that. It enables us to share that with everybody,” Dumas said.

Her favorite 60s songs to perform are “White Rabbit” by Jefferson Airplane and “Me and Bobby McGee” by Janis Joplin.

Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles said the staff looks forward to this event every year and they were thrilled with the turnout.

“We love it. I mean, that’s why we do it so that we get people out of the house, that they can come and socialize, listen to some music and have some laughs, and that’s what they did,” Cowles said. “We’re thrilled.”

Cowles said this year’s theme was thanks to The 60s Experience.

“We try to do a theme around the food and the decorations on the table and our costumes,” Cowles said. “So, as we were looking for entertainment and we found The 60s Experience, they were really what we found first and then said ‘This is what we’re doing.’ So, thank you to them for a lot of things and for giv-

I was doing this or that,” Cowles said. “One woman actually had a picture of herself pinned on her from the 1960s, so she said, ‘I didn’t dress up, but this is what I was doing in the 1960s.’ So, it’s kind of cool and you hear stories and reminiscing, which is great.”

Looking ahead to November and December, Cowles shared that there are several events residents should keep an eye out for.

“We have the Veterans Dinner which is next Thursday the 6th, we also have our Annual Thanksgiving Grab and Go that is on the 26th of November. It’s free, you just need to call and sign up and it’s a full Thanksgiving with everything turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes to dessert,” Cowles said. “In December, our Holiday Luncheon we are doing Dec. 19 and we actually going to have the Carolers here from The Fort in Springfield. We also have a Ukulele Concert, we have a Drumming Holiday Concert, we have a ballet performance coming in, so yes, lots going on in December as well. Check The Scribe, check The Times! It’ll all be listed there and we welcome everyone.”

Dumas encouraged the community to enjoy themselves this Halloween and spread the love.

“Remember that we need to take care of each other and peace and love and let’s enjoy everything that’s good in life!” Dumas said.

Cowles wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

“We hope to see you at all the upcoming events!” Cowles said.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Wendy Cowles, outreach coordinator at the Hampden Senior Center, shows off her 60s-themed costume.

ing us the theme!”

She added the theme is important to the seniors as they lived during the 1960s.

“They enjoyed the music, they enjoyed our crazy costumes, so it just brought back memories. Lots of people were talking about ‘In the 1960s,

Wilbraham Womens Club November meeting

WILBRAHAM - Sip N Paint: A Holiday Painting Workshop with Donna Boucher and Michele Axtmann.

Please come and join the Wilbraham Womens Club on Thursday Nov. 13. Get ready to unleash your creativity! Donna and Michele will guide us step by step as we paint a festive holiday scene on canvas using vibrant acrylics. No need to bring a thing. ALL

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Members \$13 for the luncheon. Soup and Sandwiches provided by the Village Store Cafe.

We are located at St. Cecilia’s Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham..

Lunch served at Noon. Our presentation, which will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m. Limited space available.

Call Bobbi-Lee with your reservations by Nov. 7.

We will also be collecting miscellaneous items and cash donations for our Veterans at this meeting.

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The Boody Family came in full costume to celebrate Halloween during the contest.



The winner of this year's Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk Contest and the three judges.

STORYWALK from page 1

to Halloween.

Children's Librarian Jaime Hageman explained the Friends, Director Melissa Harter and the Board of Trustees collaborated to plan the event together, also crediting the many volunteers who helped make it a success.

"We had 57 attendees this year—our largest crowd yet! Families enjoyed cider, a seasonal craft, and fun activities while viewing the creative pumpkin displays along the StoryWalk. It's wonderful to see how this event continues to grow each year and bring our community together," Hageman said.

Hageman also praised this year's entrants for their creativity.

"This year's contest featured a wide range of imaginative pumpkins—from spooky and funny designs to intricate artistic carvings," Hageman said. "Our first-place finisher stood out for her creativity, originality, and use of unique materials. Other awards included 'Dynamic Duo,' 'Scariest,' and 'Funniest.'"

On what she and the library staff enjoy about hosting this event every year, Hageman said this.

"We love hosting this event because it brings families together in a creative, festive and inclusive way. It's a chance for community members of all ages to showcase their creativity, celebrate the season, and enjoy the library's



The Ayers Family pose for a photo with their Jack-O-Lantern on the StoryWalk.

outdoor StoryWalk. The Jack-O-Lantern Contest perfectly blends art, literacy, and seasonal fun—three things we value deeply at WPL," Hageman said.

Also, this advice on how to carve the perfect jack-o-lantern.

"A great pumpkin starts with a good plan! Sketch your design before you start cutting, and consider using simple tools like a serrated knife or small saw for precision. And don't forget to use LED lights instead of candles—they're safer and help your pumpkin last longer," Hageman said.

In addition to wishing everyone a Happy Halloween, Hageman wanted the community to know how much she and the library staff appreciate their support of its events from the seasonal and festive to the ones held all

year round for all to enjoy.

"We're so grateful for everyone who joined us this year—participants, volunteers, judges, and families who came out to enjoy the festivities," Hageman said. "Events like this remind us how special our Wilbraham community is. We hope everyone continues to take part, help us grow this tradition, and celebrate the joy of reading and creativity together each Halloween season."

To learn more about upcoming events at the library, check out wilbrahamlibrary.org. Some events readers should check out this month include "Paint Your Partner" on Nov. 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., The Art of Origami on Nov. 15 from Noon to 1 p.m. and Teen Canvas Tote Bags with Paint Sip Fun on Nov. 18 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Hartsprings Truck event a success

HAMPDEN - On Saturday Oct. 18, a very successful Hartsprings Truck event was held at the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street in Hampden.

Shown in pictures are volunteers from the Minnechaug National Honor Society and the Key Club along with volunteers from the senior center. This event is a fundraiser to support programs and activities at the senior center.

Without the wonderful volunteers' help, this event could not take place. They are valuable to the senior center in every way and their help is appreciated!

The Hampden Senior Center partnered with Hartsprings Foundation to raise funds for us and also to benefit Hartsprings. Their purpose is to fund Big Brothers and Big Sisters mentoring programs in Massachusetts as well as Connecticut.



A group photo of the volunteers for the Hartsprings Truck event in front of the Hartsprings Truck.

Joan Shea, vice president of the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, thanks everyone who stopped by to donate from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with both bags and boxes of usable items and also for the monetary donations!

"Your wonderful support is valuable to us!" Shea said.

For all the programs and activities that are held at The Hampden Senior Center please refer to The Scribe, a monthly newsletter. For a copy of this please call 413-566-5588.



Emilio from Hartsprings poses for a photo inside the truck.



Volunteers pose for a photo smiling with the carts to help lug donations to the Hartsprings Truck.



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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

Should I ask for retroactive benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 70 next month, Oct. 3 and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026.

I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026?

Signed: Turning 70

Dear Turning 70:

I must ask why claim your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn't gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC's, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits, which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the "Remarks" section of your application that "I do

not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age."

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the "Remarks" section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

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.

The trials of the Appalachian Trail

"BEEES! RUUUUN!" It was midafternoon on the fourth day of our backpacking trip through New York State on the Appalachian Trail. A 93-mile hike from the New Jersey border to the Connecticut border in early October.

The first three days had confirmed what others had warned us—the trail through New York would not be easy. Especially this year, when most of the 'reliable' streams were bone dry due to the drought. Many days, we were forced to de-tour off the trail and hike into towns to procure water. With temps in the 80's, dehydration was an ever-present worry. In addition, the added weight of up to 6.6 pounds of water on our backs made the technical scrambles up steep rock ledges even MORE precarious.

On day 4, we were hustling, intent on hiking as many miles as possible so that we could reach a reliable water source—a water spigot at a pump house—before pitching our tent for the night. We were 12 miles into our day when the unimaginable happened.

Tom was about 75 feet ahead of me, when he suddenly paused and turned back to make sure that I was still behind him. When he saw me a short distance away, he continued on.

Fifteen seconds later, I reached the spot where he had momentarily stopped, and I felt a red-hot sensation on my right arm, followed by another on my left arm. Before I even looked down, I knew that I had just been stung by Yellow Jackets... the most despicable spawn of satan that has ever inhabited this planet.

Tom must have unknowingly stepped on a ground nest, and they were coming out for vengeance as I walked past.

I screamed in agony as a swarm of them descended upon me—stinging my ankles, thighs, and arms. It felt as though someone was shooting red-hot flaming arrows directly into my skin. A sound that was unrecognizable even to my own ears came out from somewhere deep inside of me. A guttural sound. Like a deep moan intermingled with a high-pitched wail. It bordered on primal. Tom turned at the sound—later telling me that he thought the sound was coming from a wounded animal.

I screamed to Tom to "RUUUUN!" at a decibel that could be heard from miles away, since Tom is deathly allergic Yellow Jacket venom. With adrenaline coursing through my body, I raced along the rock-strewn path like an Olympic medalist, waving my arms to ward off the monsters that were attacking me.

When it seemed as though I was no longer being chased, I finally stopped and bent down to swipe off a dozen Yellow Jackets that were still clinging to my merino wool socks. The pain in my ankles was excruciating, and I began screaming



and crying all at once.

I unclipped my pack and dropped it to the ground so that I could pull out my first aid kit. Within seconds, more yellow jackets were upon me. "They smell the pheromones!" Tom yelled. With no thought of his own safety, he flailed his arms to ward them off and screamed, "RUN Julie!"

Leaving my pack behind, I ran like the speed of light until the wasps finally gave up their chase.

A few minutes later, Tom came barreling up the trail with my enormous backpack in hand. His concerned face was filled with desperation when he saw me. I had been stung over 2 dozen times. Tears were rolling down my face. My arms and thighs were already swelling from the venom, and my ankles were so swollen, they were unrecognizable.

Tom insisted I use his EpiPen, since I had a severe reaction to Yellow Jacket venom in the past. I refused. "We still have 4 more days out here. If YOU get stung, it's life or death. If my throat starts to close, you can inject me. If not, we're saving the EpiPen in case you get stung."

Fortunately, we were only a mile and a half from the water spigot at the next road cross-

ing. Once we got there, I took off my shoes and socks and ran cold water on the stings in a vain attempt to reduce the pain and swelling. I even went so far as to text my kids to ask them to google whether or not urine could reduce the pain and swelling of Yellow Jackets venom. (Desperate times call for desperate measures!) Alas, they responded that it was just a fallacy. Tylenol was my only option.

Needless to say, I spent a pretty sleepless night in our tent that night due to the pain. The intense itching would begin the following morning. Oh, the joys!

Our 7-day hike through New York State was definitely the single most challenging backpacking trip we have ever taken. But each trial made us even more grateful for the blessings we encountered along the way. The sunrises and sunsets. The conversations with fellow hikers around a campfire. The enormous trees. The rare flowing stream. Even the bear encounter while we were brushing our teeth at a primitive tent-site on our second night on trail seemed like a gift.

But that's a story for another day. Let the adventures continue!



Garden Lady follow up

Martha wrote in after my column on Stinging Nettle. As you may recall, a reader had reached out about this plant and how it had begun to grow rampant in her field.

She was nervous about coming in contact

with it, and nervous for her dog, as well, who likes to run in the tall grass. Her main concern was eradicating it, and although I gave her some advice on how to do that, I should have also given the plant a little more well-deserved recognition.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

This is what Martha had to say: "I did, indeed, plant nettles; they are in a part of the yard where their growth will be somewhat controlled. But are they not an excellent source of calcium, and have plenty of other health benefits, besides? It seems we are quick to 'eradicate' the less tame plants, which, upon investigation, can prove to be beneficial."

Martha, your point is well-taken! I guess it goes along with the old saying, "one person's trash is another person's treasure." Or better yet, how about "one person's weed is another person's medicine?"

Along similar lines, this question came in from Steven, who lives in Becket. He wrote to the Garden Lady curious about the late blooming perennial, Monks-

background; "My wife was starting to clear a small flower area we have next to the driveway two weeks ago. She was cutting down daisies that we didn't even plant there. I saw a flower next to the daisies, which I had never seen before and asked her what it was. She said she had no idea, that she'd never seen it before either. I took some pictures, and every search I did on them said that they're Monkshood. I told her that the search said they're poisonous."

I walked away and then read a little more and found out that they're poisonous to the touch. I went back to tell her and she had cut them down without touching them because she was scared our dog would get into them. We just left them where they're lying. The stems are still sticking out of the ground. What are your thoughts? Is that what you think they are too? My research didn't show them growing in this area. Also, thoughts about how we should handle them if they are indeed poisonous?"

Monkshood (Aconitum) is a pretty perennial that has blue "hooded" flowers along two-four foot spikes. It is a cottage garden favorite because it is one of a few flowers that do bloom in blue shades, and it blooms towards the end of summer, when few others plants are in their glory.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

Please see **GARDEN**, page 9



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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

Children enjoy Halloween Storytime

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Photos courtesy of Hampden Free Public Library Facebook page

Families enjoyed a festive Halloween Storytime at the Hampden Free Public Library on Oct. 28. From there, the children—decked out in costumes—enjoyed trick or treating with the town employees, who also got dressed up for the occasion.

A group photo of the children during Halloween Storytime.



Families were eager to line up for trick or treats from the town employees in Hampden.



The town employees were also all smiles as they gave candy to the kids.



Halloween greetings from these two folks dressed as pink and purple crayons!



Families walk through the Town House as they go trick or treating.



These kiddos walk about to collect treats.



These little girls get treats from a town employee dressed as a navy blue crayon.

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Parks & Rec host Trunk-or-Treat



Photos courtesy of Dan Blanchard
A shot of the crowd of families as they get ready to trick or treat.



Callan Blanchard with his Jellyfish costume and ocean-themed trunk.



Ashley Barnes dressed up as Olaf from "Frozen" with her themed trunk.



This trunk or was recognized as the very best of the bunch.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT from page 1 we ended up with 19, which was perfect." Callan Blanchard, a local high school senior passing out candy explained what the event was. "Trunk Or Treat is an event where local people can come together and kids can trick or treat in a safe area. It's really just a fun way for the community to be able to celebrate Halloween with each other," he said. Some of the 19 volunteers that were passing out candy

to trick or treaters included My Magic World Daycare's Leighan Williams, who was present at the Trunk Or Treat event at Fern Valley Farms on Oct. 19. "I work at a daycare, so I have a strong passion for children and seeing kids just being happy. I also really love this time of year because the kids and families costumes are so cute, I enjoy all of it," Williams said. Another volunteer was Ashley Barnes, who was dressed up as Olaf from the popular Disney movie "Frozen".

"I've never done a Trunk Or Treat before, but I did this for my daughter. She's four and absolutely loves 'Frozen,' so I thought I'd try this out for her," Barnes said. Blanchard explained how he got the word out to the community. "We put an ad in the newspaper and had some social media posts to gather interest for volunteers and for people to know about it," Blanchard said. "I'm really happy with the turnout for both volunteers and families coming to trick or treat. I've heard lots of good things from parents

and family members, everyone seems like they're having a great time." Blanchard hopes more community events like this can happen in Hampden. "I think we need to have more events happening for the community, even if it's just a few every season. Events for the whole family, that are free to attend, are things that help enrich the town and pull us all closer. Maybe in the future, we'll expand Trunk Or Treat to have other small Halloween-like things happening too, but the smaller event is nice because it's just one quick spot for families to hit," Blanchard said.



This trunk featured a creepy doll inside; look closely to find it.



A group of excited trick or treaters ready to get candy.

Small town events like these are incredibly important to Blanchard, as he recalls. "As a kid, I lived in a rural town, and because of that, trick or treating wasn't super popular. I always wanted to hand out candy to kids, and this event made that possible not just for me, but for other Hampden residents who might not get the chance to see many trick or treaters," Blanchard said. The Hampden Parks and Recreation's Trunk Or Treat was an overall success, with many families able to spend meaningful moments together, and create spooky, and fun, Halloween memories.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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Turley photos by Natalie Proulx

Minnechaug Key Club's Scooby Doo booth crew.

KEY CLUB from page 1

roes, Scooby Doo, Finding Nemo and lots of fun surprises.

"With this there's activities and I feel like the typical trunk or treat, you just get candy versus getting to play a game or get a temporary tattoo." One of the club's student members mentioned the impact this event makes compared to the standard trunk or treat event.

Many students also agreed this event was more interactive for both the kids and participants. Another unanimous agreement between the student KeyClub members is their favorite part of the event: getting to see the smiles and joy of the children who come to Halloween Night.

This event has evolved over the years.

Jonathan Steiner, a co-advisor of the Key Club stated the pivoting the club needed to do during COVID that ended up making the event 10 times better.

"We started inside the school and then during COVID, we moved it outside and it's so much better and... it's really evolved into a great Wilbraham and Hampden event," Steiner said.

He also mentioned that a lot of the students who participated in hosting Tuesday's event also got to experience it

when they were younger.

"It's fun because it's been around long enough that they remember it," Steiner said.

Other than the shifting of scenery during COVID and evolving booth themes, a lot has stayed consistent throughout the course of the many years they've held the Halloween Night.

Although, this year there was one new addition to the event: baby goats! In "thing one" and "thing two" costumes, goats Maple and Sugar greeted guests of all ages.

This Halloween event is heavily planned for. Beginning early in the school year, students are informed and begin planning by the second week of school.

Steiner discussed the most difficult part of hosting a student-led event like this.

"The hardest part is making sure that all the students sort of think about their groups prior...because we only have so much emergency equipment. But they're all really enthusiastic," Steiner said.

Another student member of the club said, "I think this helps us as teenagers to want to help out the community and actually participate when we're adults."

Another hidden mission of the Key Club: creating leaders.



Minnechaug Key Club's Greek Mythology group.



Baby goats, Maple and Sugar in "thing one" "thing two" costumes.

GARDEN from page 6

Due to the unique flower shape, the plant is mainly pollinated by "long tongued" bumble bees, who pry open the flower to get at the pollen. With all this said, the plant sounds great!

Now here comes the "but..." Caution should indeed be exercised around Monks-hood. It goes by other common names that are more telling of its true nature, Wolfsbane and Devil's Helmet among others.

The plant contains a deadly toxins, aconitine and diterpene alkaloids that can result in death if ingested. It is even advised to use gloves when handling the plant, even its roots if you were to dig it up, because

of absorption that can occur through the skin.

Most experts recommend not growing it in gardens that pets or children may frequent.

I hope this answers your question, Steven. I do think that you were on target to be concerned, especially because of your dog.

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.

November Art Show at Wilbraham Library through Nov. 27

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Art League will be showcasing original artwork in the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, from Nov. 6 through the 27. The library is open Monday through Wednesday 9 am to 8 pm, Thursday and Friday 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 2 pm. There will be a reception from noon to 1:30 pm on November 8.

On display will be paintings in a range of styles and sizes. The League has members from various towns in the area, who work in watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, graphite, photography, and other media. They have held shows in numerous local venues with many of their members winning awards for their work. Two of the artist who will have their work in show are Trish Pilon from Springfield and Joanne from Wilbraham.

Trish Pilon, a newer

member of the WAL, lives in Springfield. Even as a small child she was interested in art. She says, "A painted picture to me has always been like a snapshot in time. I like all works of art and I am inspired by it." She creates her art with a mix of mediums from oil pastels, watercolors, aquarelle crayons, acrylics, embossed inks, distressed, gel pens, and colored pencils. "I used to only paint realistic paintings. Now I enjoy painting abstract art that represents a variety of objects. It took a while to trust myself to be free to create art using a variety of colors, textures, whimsy and so much more." Some of her inspiration comes from Monet, Picasso, Rembrandt, and Matisse. She says, "I love the use of colors and the vividness of their paintings." Trish has a studio in her house and spends at least 20 hours a week creating art. You will see her work at the upcoming

Library show.

Joanne Bell from Wilbraham uses photography as an art form. Her parents gave her a Polaroid camera when she was 11 years old. Her interest in photography as an art form was rekindled when she took a course at the Palmer Library over 20 years ago that introduced her to DSLR cameras. She bought a Canon Rebel and got out in the field as much as she could. Joanne joined the Wilbraham Art League. She says, "I was greatly encouraged by many of the artists that are still members now. For continued education in photography, I read a great deal and participate in webinars and workshops." Her favorite subject is nature photography. In 2023 she was awarded best color photograph at the Big E in the adult age group. Since then, she has won a number of other awards. She gets out to photograph regularly. "My

go-to photography spots are Shelburne Falls, Quabbin Reservoir, and Old Sturbridge Village. It seems that whenever I go out to shoot a particular subject, something entirely different presents itself, and it becomes the "shot of the day."

The group was founded in 2007 and continues to meet the second Tuesday of the month, except for July and August, at the Wilbraham Senior Center at 250 Springfield Street. It is an opportunity to meet other artists, exchange ideas and encourage one another. Meetings begin at 6:30 and most include an art-oriented program. Any interested non-member is welcome to attend. In addition to supporting each other the group seeks to bring art to their local communities.

For more information about the Wilbraham Art League visit their website at <https://wilbrahamartleague.org/> or their Facebook page.

RANGERS from page 1

service during WWII with "Darby's Rangers."

Colonel William Orlando Darby was among the most celebrated heroes of WWII and the soldier about whom General George S. Patton said, "He (Darby) is the bravest man I ever knew." Facing some of the fiercest fighting of the War, Private Serksnis volunteered for Battalion 1 Company D, the first of 6 Battalions of "Darby's" Rangers. "Darby 1" soldiers fought their way through Europe, North Africa, Sicily, and Italy sustaining heavy losses in the Battle of Cisterna.

Attorney Rockwell said, "My sisters and I knew little about the extraordinary sacrifices our father made during his service to our country. We did know that he was immensely proud to serve and had formed a tight and lasting bond with his fellow surviving Rangers. We



Photos and captions courtesy of Gale Candaras

Joyce Rockwell and sisters in front row, several of their children behind them. D.C., June 25, 2025.



The Rangers Congressional Gold Medal reads these famous World War II battles: Normandy, Anzio, Arzew, Lucata, Gela, Leyte Gulf and Salerno.

were so proud to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor on his behalf knowing that his service to our Country will never be forgotten."

"Rangers Lead The Way,"

is not only the Ranger's motto but also the Rockwell family motto! 60 years later, from 2003 through 2012, Private Serksnis' grandson, Graham Andrew Rockwell, born and raised in Wilbraham, served as an Officer in the Army's 10th Mountain Division. He graduated from Ranger School and, thereafter, served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, where Captain Rockwell received a

Purple Heart. Captain Rockwell will hold his grandfather's Medal of Honor in trust for future generations of the Rockwell Family.

The June 26 event in Washington, D.C., was attended by many legislators, dignitaries and hundreds of descendants and friends of "Darby's Rangers." The event was part of the celebration of the Army's 250th birthday!



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Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee seeks community input

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 underutilized 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.

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 Aiden 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, November 9, 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15 at 7:30 pm; Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at theatre-guildofhampden.org or at the door.

Wilbraham Community Chorus 2025 Concert Series

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Community Chorus, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and directed by Raymond Drury, will perform two concerts this December. Sunday, Dec. 7 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Wilbraham at 3 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 13 at First Church of Christ in Longmeadow at 2 p.m.

Drury has chosen a varied and compelling program

including classical masterworks of Vivaldi, Lauridsen, Purifoy and Navarud plus a selection of folk tunes, pop songs and seasonal numbers. Of particular interest will be a performance by both Jackson and local keyboard artist Todd Rovelli of music for piano four-hands, and a chamber choir consisting of WCC members singing music of the incomparable P.D.Q. Bach.

Admission is free, but a free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

Find us on Facebook @ Wilbraham Choral Society

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Longmeadow Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

NIGHT OUT from page 1

from Big Riff's Food Truck.

Kids eagerly brought down a heavy hammer on a high striker to test their strength.

Eventgoers collected freebies from vendors.

Paula Tranghese of East Longmeadow pushed her grandson, Enzo, in his stroller. They picked up a fire helmet, coloring book, bubbles and a balloon.

"It's good to get out because it will be dark out at four o'clock before you know it," Tranghese said.

Allison Mastrangelo of Wilbraham and her two small children had an eventful evening.

"They got yo-yos and ate some mac and cheese," Mastrangelo said. "They were scared by a siren and learned how to drop and roll in a fire and had fun running in the field."

Would they stay for the fireworks?

"We'll see how long they last," Mastrangelo said.

The large crowd who saw the 6:30 p.m. fireworks had a perfect vantage point of the impressive 20-minute show from behind the school.

"We had a great turnout and everything went well," Poulin said. "We couldn't have done it without our sponsors. We're very grateful



Hampden's Public Safety Night Out ended with a booming fireworks display.

for the support." Poulin also expressed thanks to the night's attendees and volunteers.

Sponsors of Hampden's Public Safety Night Out were GreatHorse, Monson Savings Bank, Polish National Credit Union, McNamara Waste, Casa Bella, La Cucina, Gio's

Pizzeria, Village Food Mart, Corby's Auto, Medeiros Realty, Rick Green Insurance, Bob's Country Auto, Bilton's Farm Stand, Wilbraham Fire Local 1847, LUSE Federal Credit Union, Maxillofacial and Implant Surgery and Hampden Septic.



Mae Mastrangelo, age 3, toasts a marshmallow alongside Hampden firefighters.

Vincent Mastrangelo, age 5, focuses on s'more assembly.

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Chaug football cruises to win over Longmeadow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM —All the Minnechaug Falcons needed to do to clinch a berth in the Division 3 state football playoffs for the fourth time since 2021 was defeat AA Conference rival Longmeadow.

After falling behind in the first quarter, the Falcons responded with 35 unanswered points leading to a 35-6 victory on a rainy and windy night in Wilbraham, last Thursday.

"I tried to be the weatherman all day and tried to predict what was going to happen weather-wise. The players did a really good job of adapting to the game plan," said Falcons head coach Will Nickerson. "We practiced with a wet ball all week, and having no bad snaps on the ground was huge."

The home victory evened the Falcons overall record at 4-4 and they earned the 13th-seed in the Division 3 state tournament.

Just like the other three times that they've qualified for the Division 3 state tournament, the Falcons will be making a long bus ride to Eastern Mass. where they'll be facing the fourth-seeded Hingham Harbormen (6-2) at



Aidan Dzierwinski tries to get through several tacklers.

7pm on Friday night. "We played a very challenging schedule during the regular season," Nickerson said. "This is a huge win for us. We're hoping that it clinches a playoff spot. We also won by more than 14 points, which is also very important."

The pairings for the state football tournament was re-

leased last Sunday afternoon. Five of the 16 teams in the Division 3 state tournament have a .500 or below record. Both of Hingham's losses were by one point. Prior to the start of last

Thursday's contest, the Falcons seniors were recognized in a ceremony, along with the senior cheerleaders. The ten seniors



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Max Baroni goes for the tackle.

listed on the Falcons football roster are Donovan Belton, William Vezina III, Cal Blanchard, Lincoln Stiles, Zach Kozub, Max Baroni, Mason Jones, Aidan Dzierwinski, Jack Lucarelle, and Vinh Nguyen.

"It's a small senior class and two of them are out for the season with ACL injuries," Nickerson said. "The guys who were out there did

Please see **FOOTBALL**, page 12



Aidan Bean heads for the sideline on a carry.



Aidan Bean heads for the sideline on a carry.



Liam Howe makes a block.

Boys soccer falls in WMass finals

NORTHAMPTON — Last Monday night, Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer suffered a 2-1 defeat against Northampton in the semifinals of the Western Mass. Class A Tournament.

The Falcons matched the Blue Devils for 80 minutes, forcing overtime when the Falcons were defeated.

With the defeat, Minnechaug fell to 7-5-6 on

the season. The Falcons went 5-3-2 in the Churchill League this year and defeated rival Ludlow in the Western Mass. quarterfinals. Minnechaug drew a road game in the Round of 32 of the State Division 2 Tournament. The Falcons were scheduled to travel to Sharon High School earlier this week. If victorious, the Falcons would likely play against Nov. 6 or 7.



Brooklyn Manning is pressured near the sideline.



Isabella Usher tries to beat her opponent to the ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Isabella Usher attempts to get around an opposing player.



Gabrielle Cooper sends a pass away

Falcons girls soccer defeats Terriers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Prior to their non-playoff home match against West Springfield on October 28, the Minnechaug girls' soccer team was ranked 20th in the Division 2 state tournament power rankings.

Following the 2-0 shut-out victory over the Terriers, the Lady Falcons players and coaching staff thought they had played their final match of 2025 at Falcon Field.

"It was very special for us seniors to play one final time

on our home turf tonight," said Lady Falcons senior Elizabeth Woytowicz, who's a second-year varsity player. "We also needed to win tonight's game to help our state power rankings."

Minnechaug, who had a 6-7-5 overall record following the home win, wound up moving up four spots in the final power rankings and earned the right to host a round of 32 home match.

The 16th-seeded Lady Falcons were slated to face 17th seeded Melrose High School on Tuesday night. The

Red Raiders (11-5-2) finished the regular season with a five-game winning streak.

"I was very surprised because I really didn't think that we would move up that many spots in the rankings," said Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves after the state tournament brackets were released last Saturday afternoon. "It goes to show that strength of schedule is very important."

The Lady Falcons, who lost, 1-0, to Northampton in the Western Mass. Class A quarterfinals, played a non-

league road match against Wachusett Regional, who's the 18th-seed in the Division 1 tournament. They also played two matches against Coombs Division rivals Longmeadow, who's the second seed in the Division 2 tournament, and East Longmeadow, who's the eighth seed in Division 2.

Minnechaug has qualified for the state tournament every year since the MIAA changed the postseason format in 2021. They entered last year's

Please see **FALCONS**, page 12



Kelly Cronin makes a quick pass back.

SPORTS

T-Birds pick up point against Islanders

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-6-1-1) rode a terrific afternoon from their starting goaltender into a shootout before falling 2-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (2-5-1-0) on Sunday afternoon inside Total Mortgage Arena.

Bridgeport entered the game as one of the league's most potent first-period offenses with 14 tallies in its first eight opening frames of the season. That trend continued at 8:54 of the first when rookie Joey Larson deflected a Sean Day point shot through Vadim Zherenko, giving the Islanders the 1-0 advantage.

The T-Birds once again showed good resilience and timely power play success at 17:03 to tie the score. Matthew Peca won the opening draw of the advantage, allowing Samuel Johannesson to get a shot into the blue paint. Marcus Hogberg made the first stop, but Matt Luff was on the scene to jab a backhand rebound home to tie the game, 1-1. The goal, Luff's team-leading fourth of the season, was also his fourth point in the last two games.

Zherenko and Hogberg rose into the spotlight in the second period, as neither team could take advantage on a plethora of power play opportunities. Bridgeport went 0-for-4 on man advantages in

the first 40 minutes, including an 0-for-3 spell in period two. Springfield, meanwhile, was unable to break the 1-1 tie on their one chance in the middle stanza.

Zherenko and the T-Birds' penalty kill continued to rise to the occasion in the third, stonewalling the Bridgeport power play once more in the final period to complete a perfect 5-for-5 day. Zherenko went the final 51:06 of regulation without allowing a tally.

As the 1-1 tie carried into overtime, the netminder only raised his game further, as Zherenko came up with high-danger saves on both Marshall Warren and Alex Jefferies in the 3-on-3 proceedings, allowing the T-Birds a chance to win in the shootout. After Chris Terry and Luff traded shootout goals through the first two rounds, the game came down to the third round. After Hogberg turned away Nikita Alexandrov, former T-Bird Matthew Highmore stepped up and whistled a perfect forehand off the inside of the post to ice the game for Bridgeport.

The T-Birds and Islanders renew acquaintances as the two clubs meet at the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 7 for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

Railers fall against Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers fell Saturday night with a 5-1 loss to the Reading Royals.

Worcester's lone goal was scored by Drew Callin to make it 3-1 in the third period. There was a little bit of history there, since it had been 1,411 calendar days since his last goal for the Railers on Dec. 8, 2021.

Callin spent almost all of that span in the American Hockey League.

Reading got two goals from Carson Golder. Massimo Rizzo, Brandon Saigeon, and Sawyer Boulton each had one apiece.

Vinnie Purpura got the win in net with 25 saves. Tristan Lennox took the loss and stopped 27 shots.

The game ended in messy fashion with altercations all over the place late as the teams totaled 103 PIM in the third period. The 117 PIM overall were the third most in team history, the most ever at the DCU Center.

Including two video reviews, the game time was 2:51, second most in team history for a regulation game and tied for the longest at the DCU Center.

The Railers seek to regroup next weekend as they play their first three-in-three of the season. All three games are with Maine. Friday night the teams are in Portland, the next two at the DCU Center.

Worcester was outshot by two and outscored by two in the first period.

Rizzo scored from between the circles at 9:12. There was a lot of

traffic in front of Lennox and the officials looked at possible goalie interference, but the score was still 1-0 after the review.

The Royals increased their lead to 2-0 at 15:37 on a goal by Saigeon. He got the puck against the far left board, perhaps 40 feet from the net, and sent a wrist shot inside the far post. In between the goals,

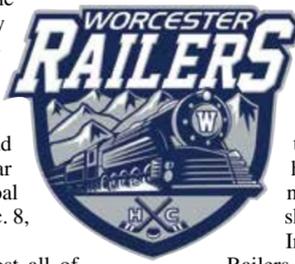
Railers forward Lincoln Hatton took on Reading's Boulton in a quick, intense fight. How time flies. Boulton is the son of Eric Boulton, a legendary battler whose career pro PIM totals were in four figures.

Eric Boulton spent part of 1998-99 with the AHL Kentucky Thoroughblades. On Jan. 29, 1999 in Kentucky he and IceCats forward Reed Low engaged in arguably the best fight in Worcester hockey history, a Rocky vs. Apollo Creed battle.

Coincidentally, or maybe not, Kentucky's coach that season was Roy Sommer.

Golder finished off the odd-man rush that made it a 3-0 game in the second period. Reading played the break perfectly as Golder converted Cam Cook's pass with a re-direct that Lennox had no chance on.

Callin scored from in close with Worcester on a power play at 4:51 but Boulton blunted any chance at a comeback by popping home a rebound at 7:40. Reading got a 5 on 3 chance later in the period and took 11 seconds to convert it for the game's final goal.



Championship event returns to Connecticut

THOMPSON, CT — The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) announced Thursday afternoon the 2026 Whelen Modified Tour schedule ahead of the 2025 championship event at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. Included in the 16-race schedule will be three events contested on the 0.625-mile Thompson Speedway here in Connecticut including the all-important finale in the heart of Modified country.

The roar and rumble of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will open the 2026 season at the 52nd Icebreaker Weekend, headlining the Sunday, April 12 portion of the iconic start to New England's racing season. The NASCAR stars will return to the ever-popular midweek Thompson 150 on Wednesday, Aug. 5 and finish out the season by crowning the 2026 NASCAR Whelen Modified Champion at the Sunoco World Series 150 on Sunday, Oct. 11.

"Both Tom (Mayberry) and I are glad to have the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour back at Thompson for three great shows in 2026," said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. "The NASCAR Modifieds put on some great racing for the fans and they are certainly some of the highlights of our 2026 plans for the Thompson oval, especially with the championship event back at the Sunoco World Series."

As announced at the World Series, the Thompson Speedway oval will continue to operate under the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Stars Series sanctioning bodies in 2026. The rest of the 2026 schedule continues to be in negotiation, expect a complete schedule of events for the Thompson Speedway oval to be released around Thanksgiving.

FOOTBALL from page 11

a great job in tonight's game."

Following the ceremony honoring the seniors, Minnechaug sophomore Trey Appleby III did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem in the press box.

The Falcons won the coin toss and elected to receive the opening kickoff.

After failing to pick up a first down, the home team was forced to punt, which was blocked by Longmeadow junior Maddux Gottschlicht at the Falcons 35 yard line.

The Lancers (4-4) needed ten plays before sophomore Maury Garrett plowed into the endzone on a one yard run with 3:59 remaining in the opening quarter.

The extra point attempt sailed wide left.

The Falcons took the lead 15 seconds later following a Dzierwinski 69-yard touchdown run on the second play of the series.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Lincoln Stiles for the tackle on the quarterback.

at the end of the first half, but they still held a slim one point lead at halftime.

After the Falcons defense forced the Lancers to punt on the first series of the third quarter, Lucarelle called his own number and scored a 46-yard rushing touchdown.

With 32 seconds left in the third quarter, Baroni capped off a ten play drive with a one yard TD run. He also scored on the two-point conversion play giving the Falcons a 22-6 lead.

Sophomore Aidan Bean scored the Falcons fourth rushing touchdown on a 12-yard scamper.

Then Baroni sealed the deal by returning an interception 67 yards for a touchdown with a little more than four minutes left in the final quarter.

The weather was miserable, but the Minnechaug players were still enjoying themselves following the game.



Jack Lucarelle passes the ball away.

Dzierwinski finished the game with a total of 148 rushing yards on 15 carries.

The PAT was made by sophomore Connor Walbridge

making the score 7-6.

Walbridge also made two other extra points.

The Falcons offense led by Lucarelle, who's the starting QB, put-together a long drive



Carson Humphries clears the ball out of the defensive end of the field.

FALCONS from page 11

Division 2 state tournament as the 19th seed and made a trip to Eastern Mass. They upset 14th-seeded Scituate in a penalty shootout before losing at third-seeded Westborough, 1-0, in the round of 16.

The last time Minnechaug hosted a state tournament match was two years ago when they defeated Bishop Stang, 3-0, in the round of 32.

The Lady Falcons lost five games during the 2025 regular season by one goal. One of those close matches was a 2-1 home loss to the Terriers on September 17.

The other Lady Falcons seniors are Zorah Wray, Zoe Pinnock, Ava Kearney, Alexis Carreira, Cailin O'Brien, and Kelly Cronin, who has verbally committed to playing basketball at Amherst College.

"I've been fortunate to coach a lot of talented players during the past thirty years," Goncalves said. "This year's senior class is very talented, and I'm very glad that they'll be playing at least one more home game."

Minnechaug took a 1-0 lead in the non-playoff match during the third minute of the opening half.

The scoring play began with Pinnock sending a pass to Woytowicz, who fired a shot into the left corner of the net past sophomore goalie Andriana Lakarczyk.

"Scoring an early goal gave us a lot of confidence,"

Goncalves said. "It took the pressure off of us and we were able to relax."

Woytowicz, along with freshman Brooklyn Manning, and junior Makenna Sacco, entered the state tournament with a team-leading three goals.

A couple of minutes later, a shot attempt taken by West Side senior Kelsey Turner was saved by Minnechaug freshman goalie Isabel Horne (10 saves).

Horne, who posted her seventh shutout of the season, also made another save on a shot by junior Marley Porter in the middle of the first half.

"Isabel has improved a lot this season," Goncalves

added. "We also have a young defense."

Horne received plenty of support from her defense, which is led by sophomore Taylor Bartosz, junior Carson Humphries, junior Gabby Cooper, and Wray.

The Lady Falcons held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

In the middle of the second half, a couple of juniors helped the home team take a 2-0 lead.

Katelyn Hoar scored her first varsity goal by putting a low shot into the right corner. Humphries was credited with the assist.

The Lady Falcons had a 4-2-3 home mark before the round of 32 contest.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Sophia O'Connor heads up the field for the Falcons.

Hampden Town Offices moving to 85 Wilbraham Road

HAMPDEN - Hampden Town Offices will Close on Thursday (Nov. 6) and reopen on Tuesday (Nov. 18) at 85 Wilbraham Road.

The Hampden Selectboard has announced the schedule for moving the Town Offices from the current Town House to the former Thornton Burgess School at 85 Wilbraham Road.

Town Administrator Brian Domina stated, "We ask residents for patience while we effectuate this move. The goal is to minimize public inconvenience, but it is essential given the importance and volume of the public documents that care is taken each step of the way." The Selectboard is confident once completed the

new offices will enhance service to the Town residents.

Starting at the close of business on Thursday, November 6, 2025, the Hampden Town Offices at the Town House will be closed to the public. There will be no in-person services available after this date until the office move is completed. Any person who needs to conduct business with the Town is advised to plan ahead and visit the Town House prior to the move.

Affected Town Departments will operate remotely during this time. Email is the best way to contact department staff. Department specific email addresses and phone numbers can be found on the

individual Board/Committee or Department webpage at www.hampdenma.gov. The Town's phone system will be inoperable for a period of time during the move; however, callers will be able to leave voicemail messages at any time. The drop boxes outside the Town House will remain available for use until Friday, November 14, 2025, for those needing to submit documents or payments.

The Town Offices will reopen to the public at 85 Wilbraham Road (former Thornton Burgess School) on Tuesday, Nov. 18, for regular business hours.

The Highway Department, Police Department, Fire Department and Senior Center

will operate on a normal schedule. For emergencies, please continue to call 911.

The Hampden Public Library will continue to operate at the Town House with modified hours. Closed - Wednesday (Nov. 12), Open - Thursday (Nov. 13, 4 to 8 p.m.), Closed - Friday, Open - Saturday (Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). The Library anticipates moving the first week of December.

For questions during this time please email the individual Board/Committee or Department that you need or you can email townadmin@hampdenma.gov. The Selectboard extends its gratitude for your patience and understanding during this time.

WSC hosting Senior Bus Trip

WILBRAHAM - The senior center will be hosting a Senior Bus Trip on Dec. 4.

The trip costs \$50 per person.

Here are the details: Depart: Memorial School at 9 a.m. (310 Main Street, Wilbraham); arrive by 8:45 a.m. and estimated drive time is one hour.

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Yankee Candle; enjoy 2.5 hours of shopping at your leisure. Guests should be back on the bus by 12:30 p.m. for a 12:45

p.m. departure.

1 to 3 p.m. at Treehouse Brewing; one mile down the road is Treehouse Brewing Company. Each guest will receive a voucher good for one drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and a slice of Treehouse pizza. Guests will board the bus at 3 p.m. for the ride home. Expected arrival time at Memorial School is 4 p.m.

Limited space available. Call 413-596-8379 to reserve your spot!

St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle

LUDLOW - The St Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle will take place at Christ the King Church at 41 Warsaw Avenue, Ludlow on Saturday Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have many talented crafters along with our Gift Raffles and of course the 50/50. This year we will be offering a new menu. Please come and join us for a fun-filled day.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Bella!



Maria Puppolo of Springfield rescued Bella in June 2020 during the height of COVID-19. She is a 9-year-old beagle. She's very friendly and very sweet! She loves inhaling the ocean breeze, long car rides, cuddling on the couch, going on walks and all sorts of adventures! She sure is a cute pie!!

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One Word to Instantly Calm Your Dog

From Dr. Marty Goldstein
Integrative Veterinarian

Dogs can stress out over many things — storms, fireworks, even kids running nearby. And seeing your dog so scared can be heartbreaking, especially when nothing seems to calm them down. However, there's one word that can relax a dog instantly. I call it their "Safety Sound."

The science behind it goes back 100 years ago. You may have heard of a scientist named Pavlov, who made a simple discovery, he would ring a bell right before feeding his dogs; after repeating this many times, the dogs began

to react to the sound of the bell on their own. They would drool and get excited, even if no food appeared.

Your dog's brain works the same way. A gentle word, paired with calm moments, can teach them to feel safe whenever they hear it. That's because a dog's brain is wired to form "emotional shortcuts." When something scary happens, their body floods with stress hormones, and logic goes out the window. But when you teach their brain that one special word means calm, it overrides the fear. Your dog instantly relaxes, as if a weight is lifted off them.

In other words, you can train your

dog's brain to feel peace when they hear one word — no matter what's happening outside. It's simple, but incredibly powerful. Here's the easiest way to teach your dog their "Safety Sound":

Step #1: Pick one gentle, unique word (such as... "safe," "peace," or "snuggle").

Step #2: Say it softly only when your dog is completely relaxed — during cuddles, naps, or quiet moments.

Step #3: Repeat it consistently until that word becomes linked with calm.

Step #4: Then, in a storm or stressful moment, whisper it again — and watch your dog reconnect with that safe state.

All it takes is a few seconds here and there, during the moments you and your dog already share. It could be belly rubs, snuggling on the couch or quiet mornings together. Over time, your "Safety Sound" becomes like a lifeline they can always count on. And when you pair the "Safety Sound" with gentle touch, the effect is even stronger. A hand resting softly on their chest or behind the ears tells their body, "You're safe," while the word reinforces the message. Over time, these two cues blend together, creating a powerful sense of calm your dog can rely on — even in the scariest moments.

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SAT. & SUN., NOV. 8 AND 9 9AM.-3PM EACH DAY.
 Located at **89 SKIVERA LANE NEW BRAINTREE**

Featuring artwork, Hall Red pottery, collectibles, kitchenware, Fiesta ware, furniture, Schwinn bike, books and much more. Rain or shine, cash & carry.

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DRY FIREWOOD: Oak/maple, cut/split/delivered, \$300 a cord, \$285 for 2 or more.
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ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

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Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

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ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
 Fully insured.
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 Call (508)867-2550.

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GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

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AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
 Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

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A&M TUNE-UPS
 Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair. Work done at your home.
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 Accepting students Gr. Pre-K - 6th for individualized math instruction. Located near Hampden, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow. MA Certified \$30/per 1/2 hour
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SERVERS WANTED
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HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC - In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us! **RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA 413 583-8393**

CREW LEADER
Sturbridge Department of Public Works

The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Crew Leader. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$34.11/hr, with yearly step increases.

Key Requirements:

- Valid Class A or B CDL
- Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)
- Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months)
- Effective communication skills.
- Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.
- Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.

Application Details:

- Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>
- Interviews will begin on November 4, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.

Additional Information:

- The DPW operates as a union shop.
- The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at **508-347-2515** or dpw@sturbridge.gov.

Job Posting: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Town of Sturbridge, MA

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking a dynamic, experienced, and highly qualified professional for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a senior-level, management position that will support the Director of Public Works in overseeing the planning, administration, and daily operations of the Public Works Department.

About our community
 Sturbridge is a welcoming community known for its picturesque landscapes, historic charm, and vibrant local attractions. As Assistant DPW Director, you will play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the Town's infrastructure, ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

Key responsibilities
 The Assistant Director will provide a variety of engineering and administrative services under the guidance of the DPW Director, with a primary focus on:

- Conducting plan reviews for subdivisions, site plans, roadways, water, sewer, and stormwater designs.
- Managing all stormwater permitting activities associated with the NPDES MS4 General Permit.
- Supervising and overseeing the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Coordinating snow and ice removal activities.
- Addressing resident inquiries related to town projects, utilities, and permitting.
- Presenting engineering reports to and responding to inquiries from town boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission.

Qualifications

- Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is required. Candidates must have two to five years of related public works experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of Technical Knowledge: Knowledge of public construction bidding and Massachusetts procurement laws is essential.
- Computer Skills: Proficiency in spreadsheet software, GIS software (such as ESRI), and word processing software is required.
- Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary to interact effectively with town staff, other agencies, and the general public.
- Licenses: Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Benefits
 The Town of Sturbridge offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Salary up to \$100,000 DOQ
- Health Insurance,
- Paid time off and paid holidays
- Retirement Plan

How to apply
 Submit a cover letter, resume, and Town job application to Frances Wychorski, Constituent Liaison in the Town Administrator's Office, via email at bosadmin@sturbridge.gov or via mail at **308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566**. This position will remain open until filled. *The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

WARE: 2BR, 2nd Fl. Walk-up, Walk to BigY/McD, W/D, Off-street Parking, Utilities Not Incl., 1st/Last/Security, Avail +- Dec. 1, \$1,100/mo. **508-277-6044**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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 Circulation: 9,800

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 Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

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

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

Teen Canvas Tote Bags with Paint Sip Fun

WILBRAHAM - The Teen Department at the Wilbraham Public Library announces a tote bag painting workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 5 to 6:30 pm. Erin Boughamer, owner of Paint Sip Fun, will lead grades 6-12 through creating their own unique painted tote bag.

"We are excited to be painting on tote bags for a change, and teens will have a choice of images, either 'Citrus Fruit' or 'Colorful Fish,'" said Teen Services Librarian Rachel Hapgood. "Erin of Paint Sip Fun created both images specifically for our teens, and will be offering step-by-step

instructions on each design at the event. Art and painting programs are some of our most popular teen programs."

All supplies will be provided; each teen will receive 1 tote bag. No experience necessary. Lemonade and water will be available. This program is free to attend and sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Registration is required as space is limited. Both painting choices can be seen on our website when registering. Register at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, "Teens", "Event Calendar", or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Paint your Partner at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM- Bring your partner to the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, November 10 at 5:30 pm for a fun evening of painting! Inspired by the viral trend, participants will pair up with a best friend, family member, or loved one to paint a self-guided portrait of each other. This is not an art class, but rather a chance to socialize with

other adults and share a laugh. We provide the space and supplies, you supply the artistic vision (or lack thereof).

This free event is for ages 18+ and is open to the public. Registration is required as space is limited. Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Wilbraham Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Park

WILBRAHAM - The town's Veterans Day Ceremony, hosted by the Wilbraham Department of Veterans Services, takes place at Crane Park on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

Join us in honoring all who have served and all who continue to serve our

nation.

The ceremony will include remarks from local officials, a flag tribute and recognition of Wilbraham's Veterans.

All community members are encouraged to attend and show support for our Veterans.

OBITUARY

Kenneth Dwight Walker 1940 - 2025

WILBRAHAM - Kenneth Dwight Walker, 84, died peacefully on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at Baystate Medical Center. Born in Springfield, MA to the late Kenneth David and Dorothy (Dubie) Walker, Ken grew up in Chicopee and attended Chicopee schools. He was a proud Army veteran of the Vietnam era and worked as a Service Engineer for National Cash Register for many years until his retirement. Ken was a member of the VFW #3104 in South Hadley, the American Legion #266 in Granby and the Wilbraham Hampden Rotary Club. In addition to his parents, Ken was predeceased by his beloved wife Carol Ann (Doyle) Walker in 2023 and his son John Walk-

er in 2024. He is survived by his son Thomas Walker and his wife Cheryl of Chicopee, MA, his daughter Brenda DeWilde and her husband Richard of Pittsburg, NH, John's wife Denise, her daughter Amber McWalker and her wife Ryan of Springfield, MA, 2 stepchildren; Suzanne M. Croteau and her husband George, and the late Jonathon Everett, daughter-in-law Tammy Everett and 2 grandchildren; Alyson Rose and Madysen Ann Everett.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Nov. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Rd., Wilbraham, followed by burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Springfield.



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.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Daniil Gerasimchuk (contractor) for a special permit (ZBA25-10) under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the expansion of a pre-existing non-conforming structure on property owned by Michael and Laura Barcome at 579 Main Street as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/389799037> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 389-799-037).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
10/30, 11/06/2025

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 **11/21/2025 at 2:00 p.m.** to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

Priscilla Texidor
128 Wood Lawn St.
Springfield, MA 01108
2008 Nissan Sentra SE-R
Vin# 3N1BB61E78L666287

York Tree Service
210 Thayer Rd.
Higganum, CT 06441
2012 Ford F450 Super Duty
VIN# 1FD0X4HTXCEB81726
Kevin Leblanc
687 Frank Smith Rd.
Longmeadow, MA 01106
2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GR48K26C200963
10/30, 11/06, 11/13/2025

Town of Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6 PM** in the Hampden Town Hall (formerly Thornorton W. Burgess Middle School) located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, for those interested in the petition of the Minnechaug Land Trust Inc., Sherry Himmelsstein, Board Member, for a variance/special permit for the minimum lot frontage requirement on Lot A, North Road (Parcel 23-47-0) owned by the Minnechaug Land Trust. The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours. For the Board, L. Jed Berliner, Chair. Published November 6 and 13, 2025 in the Wilbraham/Hampden Times.
11/06, 11/13/2025



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

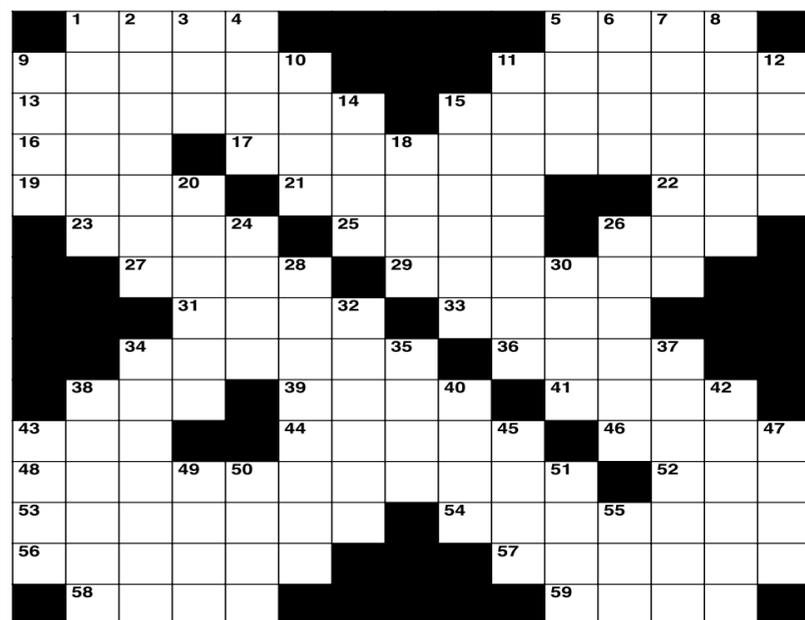
- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the "world"
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. ___ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students'
- ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell



Happy Thanksgiving

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING**

There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

Place your advertisement no later than

Thurs., Nov. 20, 1 p.m.

— A TURLEY PUBLICATION —

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Sue Rheame
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Dot Lortie
478-1940



Dawn Rodgers
478-2605



Nick Ferrara
386-4523



Eileen O'Sullivan
505-9244



John Mollenbrey
427-5176



Zoe Czaplicki
519-9224



Linda Alston
246-8616



Sandy Wegrzyn
519-1056



Kathi Calabrese
374-5867



Shari Lokey
218-8811



Luci Giguere
575-2837



Ann Paquette
626-6871



Maria D'Angelantonio
575-2898



Ann Marie Martin
206-1161



Art Ferrara
348-5827



Alyssa Rhodes
896-9269

CALL US FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE PROPERTIES

SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	31 Canterbury Cir., East Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 2h bath Colonial	\$649,900	
ACT	30 Athol St., Springfield	8 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$284,900	
ACT	7 Ashbrook St., Springfield	10 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$379,900	
BOM	61 West Street, Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Cape	\$290,000	
CTG	92 Juniper Ridge Dr., Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 2f, 1h bath Ranch	\$799,900	
CTG	142 Amherst St., Ludlow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Cape	\$334,900	
CTG	95 Weaver Rd., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Cape	\$259,000	
CTG	41 Brookside Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Cape	\$499,900	
UAG	25 Hillcrest St., Agawam	6 room, 2 bed, 1f, 1h bath Ranch	\$349,900	
UAG	178 Penrose St., Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch, Bungalow	\$139,900	
UAG	11 Ina St., Springfield	8 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Bungalow	\$219,900	
UAG	74 Blanche St., Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$319,900	
SLD	58 Bennett Rd., Hampden	6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$329,900	\$351,000
SLD	19 Deerfield Circle, Hampden	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$389,900	\$439,900
SLD	211 Butler Rd., Monson, MA	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$675,000	\$650,000
SLD	53 Wood End Road, Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$275,000	\$290,000
SLD	30 Beauchamp, Springfield	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Colonial	\$289,000	\$289,000
SLD	131 Endicott St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,900	\$321,500

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

ACT	86 Mansion Woods Dr., U:A, Agawam	4 room, 2 bed, 1f, 1h bath, Townhouse	\$274,999	
ACT	140 Chestnut St., U:819, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$94,999	
ACT	140 Chestnut St., U:210, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$99,900	
SLD	88 Tall Pines Rd U:88, Hampden	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Garden	\$424,900	\$445,000
SLD	140 Chestnut St., U:402, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$88,900	\$92,000
SLD	2205 Boston Rd., U:i 82, Wilbraham	7 room, 2 bed, 2f, 1h bath, Townhouse	\$289,900	\$265,000

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS

ACT	3145-3147 High St., Palmer	2 unit, 10 total, rooms, 4 total, bedrooms 2 Family	\$279,000	
SLD	40 Rittenhouse Terrace, Springfield	Forest Park, 2 unit, 12 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Up/Down	\$425,000	\$446,000

LAND LISTINGS

ACT	7 Old Reed Rd., lot: 6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
UAG	Lot 16, Woodhill Rd., Monson	2.17 Residential acres (94,525 SqFt)	\$72,500	

COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

ACT	599-609 Page Blvd., Springfield	3278 SqFt Mixed Use Building	\$850,000	
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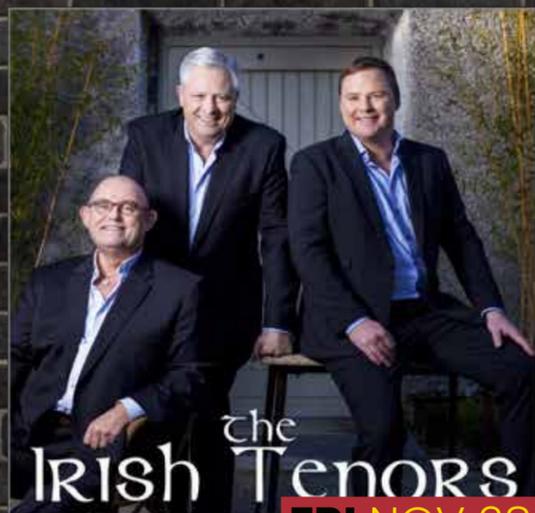
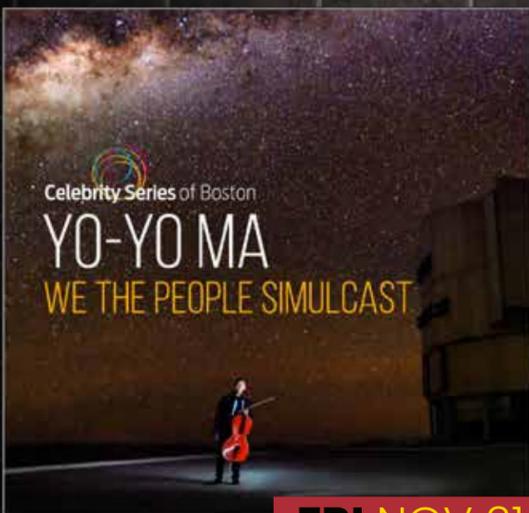
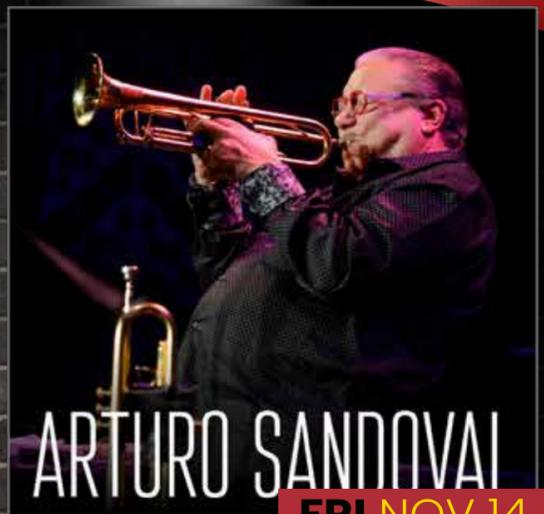
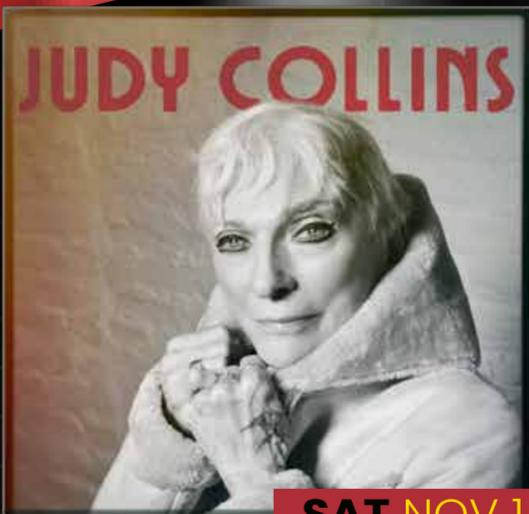
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