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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Town Moderator Richard Green announces the Special Town Meeting is postponed on Oct. 29 at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

STM Shocker: Postponed due to overcapacity

Will now take place on Nov. 12

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - In an unexpected twist stunning residents on Oct. 29, the Special Town Meeting was postponed to two weeks later--Nov. 12--due to overcapacity at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

Town Moderator Richard Green made the shocking announcement

roughly 15 minutes after the Special Town Meeting was supposed to have been called to order at 6:30 p.m.

"Ladies and gentlemen, as the moderator, I am calling an end to tonight's proceedings. This room's capacity is determined by the State Fire Marshal and the fire department. It's 300. We are easily going to exceed that number tonight," Green said. "The only other alternative we will exercise on Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the same buildingwith the expectation that all of you will come back--is we will utilize the gymnasium. It will be wider and

screened, so that way everyone either in this room or that room will be able to do voting and hear the presentation and all of the information in the same way in real-time."

Green summed it up this way.

"As moderator, what I'm telling you is that this is not an environment conducive to a fair presentation of the arguments. It is not an environment that will not allow all voters to participate fairly and with transparency," Green said.

Green ended the announcement by saying this.

Please see **STM**, page 5

Veteran Services Director Jered Sasen departs after six years

His last day is Nov. 15

By Kristin Rivers

Editor krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, is leaving his position after six years of service to the Town of Wilbraham.

Sasen's last day is Nov. 15 and his new role will be as the Western Massachusetts National Service Officer with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, serving as a resource for community veterans service officers by assisting them with their federal workloads to the Department of Veteran Affairs on the state side.

Where the job will be located is to be determined at

Please see **SASEN**, page 7



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, salutes in his office at the Wilbraham Senior Center. After six years in the role, Sasen is leaving his position to become the Western Massachusetts National Service Officer with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services.

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

1968 was an eventful election year

Wilbraham was brimming with promise 56 years ago

By Charles F. Bennett *Times Editor Emeritus*

No sooner had the trick or treat candies been gobbled down by the goblins at the 20th Annual Halloween Celebration, Costume Parade, and Bonfire at the Memorial School Baseball Field on Halloween Night Oct. 31, 1968 sponsored by the Lions

Club when the Wilbraham United Church Women's Guild scheduled the Holiday Fair in the Fellowship Hall for Nov. 2. That would kick off a busy month in the growing

President John F. Kennedy



had been dead for five years when the Town of Wilbraham got ready for the holidays in 1968 with the Wilbraham Grange putting on a roast beef supper Nov. 23 in the basement of the

Club when the Wilbraham United Grange Building on Main Street.

Church Women's Guild scheduled Reservations could be made

Reservations could be made with Grange member Mrs. Dudley Bliss Jr. The Grange Christmas Shoppe under the supervision of Mrs. Edward Pearson was open during the supper hours offering homemade holiday gifts.

Last month I decided to browse through my mother Ethel Bennett's news clippings. She was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield Morning Union. Back then she could hardly find time to help out my father Francis and Grandfather Frank Bennett at the Bennett Turkey Farm on Main Street in town who were very busy

getting ready to sell fresh turkeys for Thanksgiving.

I wanted to remember what life was like here 56 years ago in 1968 considered, a turbulent time in the 20th century. I like to compare events to what was going on in the outside world.

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 8

In 1968 the war hit home with the news that Paul J. Pelletier, 19, from Wilbraham was killed on June 6, 1968 in Vietnam. He died on the 24th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. (1968







Wilbraham Annual Report)

WPL hosts Glen Clark for election collectibles talk

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Nov. 2, the library hosted a timely talk by Political Memorabilia Collector Glen Clark, an expert on election collectibles.

This presentation was brought in part by the members of the Old Meeting House Museum.

Clark was no stranger to being a guest speaker, as he most recently spoke about his collection through the Museum in 2019.

Clark is a Springfield native who was a police officer serving in various police departments since 1982. He joined the police department in Wilbraham in 1991 and was one of the most popular officers on the force.

He retired in 2015, and now currently mans the front desk at the YMCA.

Clark always had a passion for reading political and presidential books since he was 10 years old and was influenced by his dad, with his collection spanning from 1846 to the pres-



Glen Clark stands in front of his political memorabilia collection.

ent and encompasses everything from buttons, to posters, to ribbons to even ceramics.

He hosts a large collection of political memorabilia, specifically focusing on the presidents and vice presidents of the United States. This collection spans his incredible interest in American political history.

Clark first started his presentation by introducing himself,

and then i m m e - diately directed the focus of his presentation to the audience. The attendees i m m e - diately started



Glen Clark's collection has a wide variety of political items from history.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen Glen Clark displays a historic picture of John F. Kennedy.

to ask Clark questions about his collection and the history of it, where he would enthusiastically respond, giving information about how he was able to get it, the value of the item, along with the political and presidential history of the items that he brought.

Clark also discussed important presidents alongside his



Clark's collection contains various political posters and ceramics.

memorabilia collection such as John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

For his presentation, Clark brought a wide variety of presidential items including campaign posters, ceramics and pins.

Afterward, the attendees walked over to the Old Meeting House for refreshments and a little raffle for a Wilbraham t-shirt.

Clark shared what he loves about his collection.

"I like displaying it once in a while, certain parts of it," Clark said. "I have a vast collection, and I like bringing a sample of it, bipartisan candidates, some republican candidates, some democratic candidates, and a few independent candidates I bring out and display what I have. And it brings a lot of gratification...It literally is embracing and having the tangible piece of American



Various pins and posters throughout history are displayed in the Brooks Room at the Wilbraham Public Library.

political history. And what spins off that is if you have an effective leader. Like Franklin Roosevelt, like Ronald Reagan, like John F. Kennedy. If you have a leader, a very good leader that proposes legislation that affects the average person in America, it brings it to another height to me. It's basically just my passion and my interest regarding Presidential history in American history."

Glen Clark's presentation was a great way to showcase precious artifacts from American history regarding presidential elections and American politics. It was a very interactive presentation while also getting an insight on American presidential history.

This was, also, the last talk in the Brooks Room for the Old Meeting House's season.

Their next open house will be back at the museum looking ahead to the holidays with their Christmas Tree Festival on Dec. 8.



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HWRSD joins court injunction against MIAA

By Kristin Rivers

Editor krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee voted on Oct. 24 for the school district to join a court injunction against the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

What's the Situation, Exactly?

The situation--classified as a clerical error during the Oct. 24 meeting--concerns two to-be-announced or to-be-determined games that were required to be included on game schedules for the Western Massachusetts Tournament. In 2023, schools--including Minnechaug Regional High School--were told not to do that and the MIAA would take care of those additions, a change from the year before when schools were told they had to input those full schedules, including the TBA games.

This year, it was changed back, impacting 17 schools--including Minnechaug--as the clerical error was not brought to their attention.

As a result, games that were played had to be counted as forfeits due to the overscheduling rule, which states if teams were to schedule more games than is permitted per sport, it's a 3-0 forfeit.

Because of the error,

this means teams had two

forfeits recorded on their

rankings, therefore affect-

ing their state rankings and

leading to top-tier teams

competing with lower-tier

cluding the two TBA

games--had to be in by

How The Conversation

Unfolded

explained he met with the

MIAA's executive director

the week before to address

that rule and we don't play

the Western Mass games,

then you're not going to as-

sign us a 3-0 forfeit, is that

correct? And he said, 'I am

only assigning you a 3-0

forfeit for games that you

play that are not on your schedule," Hale said. "So, that's when Steve (Burn-

drett) met with each of the

teams to see what their in-

tention was considering all

of the impacts. Two of the

Principal Stephen Hale

"So, if you're enacting

The full schedules--in-

teams.

Sept. 13.

the situation.

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teams at that time preferred not to play and two of the teams did prefer to play."

Hale said he also called the PVIAC--known as the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference--for their input and was told the teams had to play, which made him ask why.

"They cited this 2021 decision that it was not opt-in or opt-out, and I said 'But the MIAA said if we don't play then we don't get a penalty. So, you're forcing us to take a penalty?" Hale said. "I said, 'But, it's not on my schedule' and they said, 'Well, we're going to schedule you the game..' and I said, 'Great. While you schedule the game, could you schedule me two TBA games?' It doesn't matter."

Hale said he felt the teams were being "doubly published" due to that clerical error from MIAA and the PVIAC forcing teams to play games that would count as forfeits.

"Mistake was made, we own the mistake. However, we're getting punished by the MIAA with the overscheduling rule. We're getting punished by the PVIAC which is not allowing us to choose on the student athletes' initiative where they would like to play or not play," Hale said. "So, they're forcing us to take that MIAA penalty."

When Vice Chair Sean Kennedy asked Hale if they weren't being given any reason why, he said this.

"Other than the tournament is not an opt-in, opt-out," Hale said.

You mean the opt-in, opt-out tournament is not an optin, opt-out tournament?" Kennedy said.

"Correct," Hale said. "If you qualify, you must play. Even if you don't have it in your schedule.

Kennedy expressed concern, wondering if there was someone higher up they could to talk to for additional information "because this is not making any sense to me."

"This is not like nuclear war here. This is high school sports and this is important to our students and important to other students that they're playing against," Kennedy said.

Kennedy added how 17 schools were impacted by this. "So, maybe it's something the MIAA or the PVIAC should work together and maybe have it so that it's automatically put in or something like that," Kennedy said. "This is impacting people's senior year, this is their last shot at--for some of them--playing the sport competitively again. So, I don't understand."

When Kennedy noted a \$300 fine and asked if that could be done, Hale said, "We've taken it as far as we can."

'We've testified--we both testified--in front of the MIAA Executive Board at their meeting. We requested a motion to be made to allow us to add the TBA games," Hale said. 'That was not accepted."

After Michael Tirabassi mentioned the other schools affected by this and asked if this was typical every year, Athletic Director Steven Burndrett elaborated, explaining the MIAA policy and "just kind of miswording" on when and what's supposed to be scheduled for in-season tournament and end-of-season tournament.

"In the past, sometimes teams would TBA the Western Mass game, sometimes they wouldn't. We were encouraged not to last year because it's just an absolute nightmare for

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 20



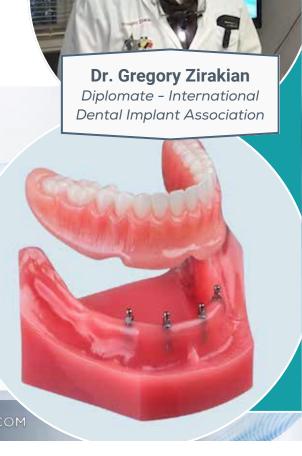
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Scantic River Artisans host 'Tis the Season for Art' Art Show



Ann O'Toole shows off her glass art pieces during the Tis the Season for Art Art Show in Hampden. Her pieces included festive Christmas trees.



A table showcasing varying sculptures and copper pieces created by members of the Scantic River Artisans.



Laura Salerno, president of the Scantic River Artisans, with her son, Quinn, and a display of Christmas-themed pottery. Quin Salerno also has photography featured in the art show.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers Varying paintings on display and available for purchase



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



Artist Joseph Lanier, who had acrylic paintings featured in the art show, checks out Sandy Howell's book signing table.

By Kristin Rivers

Editor krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The community visited the senior center's community room on Nov. 2 and 3 for the "Tis the Season for Art" Art Show.

The two-day art show occurred from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 2 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 3, with two receptions held from Noon to 2 p.m. on both days and musical entertainment on the second day.

Throughout the show, attendees enjoyed varying art pieces including acrylic, pastel, watercolor and oil paintings, photography, mixed media, glass art, pottery, sculptures, handcrafted jewelry and more.

Sandy Howell showcased her books from the Angels Club series, the Samantha Steele mystery series and her latest release, "Izzy, the Reluctant Spy."

Howell added a sequel is in the works with the main character, Izzy, becoming a private investigator.

"So, now she's starting a new

career, which proves that at any age you can start a new career. You can make yourself over 100 times during your lifetime. You should never be stuck," Howell said. "That's why I write these

at the Tis the Season for Art Art Show on Nov. 2 and 3.

Howell shared she's heard many stories when she does the art shows.

'I think the most fun is meeting the people. Whether the fellow artists, whether it's people just coming by like this woman did just to talk. Someone always has a story. As I write stories, someone is always telling me

their story," Howell said. "A lot of people I meet are struggling even to write books and they'll ask me for advice on how to write or like this other gentleman said, 'Do you ever get writer's block?' I just love meeting new people to tell you the truth."

Potter Laura Salerno, president of the Scantic River Artisans, explained the holiday show is the final one of the year with over 100 entries, not including those with vendor tables, with three winners judged and chosen by their peers.

"I think the show is phenom-

enal. We got some really great pieces out there and we started selling quite a few," Salerno said. "So, that's a plus."

Salerno was excited to have newer artists featured in this show, adding more members joined the arts association this

"You got to have variety. If you're trying to get art into the field, show the community, you can't just have one type. You have to have a variety," Salerno said.

Looking ahead to 2025, Salerno said in addition to the four normally-held art shows and the six interactive learning through art workshops, there are surprises in store.

"We have some surprises coming up we can't announce yet, but there will be a little surprise on a little twist we're doing with something," Salerno said. "I'm really, really looking forward to this new year."

Metal Artist Brian McQuillan had an owl in the art show, with the statue made from a corrugated roof segment from the bottom of a lantern, lamp-based parts and tines from a rake, taking three weeks to put together.

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 5









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ART SHOW from page 4

"I try to find a base with some kind of a large farming implement like a plow blade or a plow handle or something like that and then I'll make a creature standing on top of it," McQuillan said.

McQuillan was thrilled with the turnout, especially when peo-

ple consistently come throughout the year.

"I think it's kind of an event for people that look forward to it. We do several shows a year. It's handy. We're right on Allen Street. It's very welcome, the building is nice and the art is great," McQuillan said.

McQuillan encourages the community to come out not just

to buy art, but to take time to look around.

"It's nice if they want to buy something, but you don't only have to buy things. You can come in and just look at the art. The values are incredible," Mc-Quillan said.

Salerno thanked the community for checking out the art show and for supporting the

Scantic River Artisans, encouraging more to take up art.

"We absolutely appreciate everybody's attendance at the art show today. Couldn't have done it without them. Just to be able to show the variety of art in our community to the general public is phenomenal. Bring your kids, my mother started me when I was young bringing me to art

shows and it makes a difference. It really does," Salerno said. "It's a piece of culture. It's a piece of culture that should never be lost. It should be encouraged by all, so I encourage everybody to see what kind of talent there is in your community."

STM from page 1

"So, the 12th here at 6:30 p.m., utilizing this room and the gymnasium. We appreciate you coming out and we thank you and appreciate your understanding. We'll see you in two weeks," Green said.

After the announcement, the crowd--talking amongst themselves and each other--dispersed for the evening.

BOS addresses postponement

Following this, the Board of Selectmen met in the Melville Room at 10 a.m. on Nov. 4 to address the postponement.

Chair Don Davenport opened the discussion saying the turnout for the meeting was "to say the least, outstanding, and very encouraging to see the level of interest by residents in willingness to participate in deciding the future of Hampden."

"I believe in large part the turnout was driven not only by several large dollar issues on the warrant, but by voters being able to vote anonymously through electronic voting," Davenport said. "Clearly, those taxpayers who rushed home from work, cut their dinner short--in some cases packed up the kids--searched for a parking space and patiently stood in line, help set up extra chairs that only to be told the meeting was postponed wanted their voice to be heard and their vote to count."

Davenport said the purpose of the meeting was "to make sure their voices are heard and they can participate and vote."

"Not only for this town meeting, but it would encourage others for future participation on boards and committees," Davenport said. "Our job today is to make sure every one of those--those taxpayers--who came out last Tuesday comes out again and to encourage others to do so."

Davenport then addressed the postponement citing Mass General Law Chapter 39, Section 10 in making sure voters aren't excluded and "to prevent voters from being, quote, deprived of the opportunity to participate therein for any reason whatsoever."

"It's our duty to, quote, provide places and facilities sufficient to accommodate all voters attending and enable them to participate therein," Davenport said. "Therefore, I open the meeting to discussion."

Town Moderator's Perspective

After noting Special Town Meeting probably no longer needed to be classified by that title as items from Annual Town Meeting carry over into the fall and that was a good thing, Town Moderator Richard Green agreed that "also, it was a good thing" the meeting had the attendance it did.

"Having said that, Chapter 39, Section 10 says it's the moderator's job. It is not our job, it is my job to make sure that no one is excluded from voting, that no one is disenfranchised, that we do everything we can to provide what is available for folks to best exercise their democratic right to vote," Green said. "That said, I did send the Selectmen an email on Friday that we're going to honor what was stipulated at the town meeting that night. We are going to continue the meeting to Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m., at Thornton Burgess Middle School."

Green said he's heard conversations about going to Bethlehem and understands that given its capacity is larger.

"Both those issues are correct, but its capacity is larger and if in using the church to get to its full capacity, you still need to use two rooms," Green said. "So, the issues that face us with regard to two rooms will face us whether it's at the church or at Thornton Burgess, although the church has larger capacity."

He added TWB has been used in the past with the two-room scenario, including the gymnasium being set up before.

"So, the reality is whichever facility we use, folks are still going to need to come into the main room to make any address to the public body and it is not going to be different, with the potential exception that maybe all of the people might fit in one room depending on the attendance," Green said. "I spoke with Herb Foley, the custodian over at TWB, there is currently 300 chairs in the cafeteria and the gym is designated to hold up to another 160."

Green's biggest issue was the general consensus was what was said that Tuesday night when STM was postponed: the meeting would be continued to two weeks from that date and would not be at the church

"We made an announcement to stay there. There's a lot of folks who do not participate in Facebook, there's a lot of folks who won't necessarily get to the town website and the other side of it is by Wednesday-more Wednesday midday--we were floating around three or four options for ways to move it. Ways to do this, ways to do that," Green said. "It would involve canceling the meeting,

having the moderator going over to the school and declaring. It was turning into a spin cycle and anything that starts to go like that, you really need to get back to the age-old adage, 'Keep it simple, stupid.' And the simplest thing we can do is to keep at TWB and for the majority of the folks who were at the building heard the announcement and now have the expectation that that is where the meeting will occur. It is my decision and, without changing it, that is where it's going to happen on the 12th at 6:30 p.m.."

Green said if it exceeds the capacity of the two rooms again, "then we need to have a Plan B" and that most likely would be the church.

"We would need to confirm their availability and whether or not they could accommodate us," Green said.

Addressing Other Logistics

After Green addressed Selectman John Flynn's questions on posting the time and certainty and clarified the questions on the warrant would stay in chronological order, Davenport asked Town Clerk Eva Wiseman how early the registration opens.

Wiseman said she and others had gotten there for 3:30 but they can be there for 5 p.m.

"I mean, if we anticipate a bigger crowd," Wiseman said. "People don't really, typically, start checking in until about half an hour before and then it doesn't really hit until 15 minutes before the meeting. But, we can certainly open up earlier."

Later, 5:30 p.m. was agreed upon for check-in/registration.

Wiseman was also open to putting something in the hall to help better organize the check-ins by last name.

As for the electronic voting, Green said he thinks "the night is going to be fairly chaotic."

"Given what happened on the first, with our original posted date, I think it's going to be somewhat chaotic. Further to that, we're going to have the gym in use," Green said. "With the expectation of what is coming at us that night, my primary concern is if there's even a hiccup in this system, the future use of the system is doomed..."

Green explained there were tests done and that it works, but "we hadn't used it in a larger environment."

"And now, we're asking whether or not it's going to be capable of doing even more," Green said. "My preference would be to go with the cards and have four counters available, two in each room..."

Another assistant or second moderator would be needed for the other room too.

"Again, my concern is not the system itself. I mean, what we've seen it works. It works well," Green said. "I'm a believer in the system and was looking forward to using it the other night. I'm just not sure, again, not to belabor the point...I think it's going to be a chaotic night with a ton going on already. I think it's a lot to ask the voters to deal with all of this and deal with the use of the system. That said, I'm willing to listen and maybe we can go over to the school and test it using two separate rooms and all that, but I think it's going to be a lot."

Secret ballots were another logistical highlight, with Green explaining they were last used for a fiber optic vote and, typically, when a motion for a secret ballot is made, everyone would have to be rechecked in, get their ballots and set up a table with a counter for yes, no and discard and go row by row.

He added he and Wiseman thought of handing voters the cards when they arrive to check in, just like they did with the fiber optic vote.

"My inclination would be to hand the yes no's right up front because the last thing you want to do is knowing that what we know and knowing how well we did it before...we would do it upfront," Green said. "Because the last thing, from my perspective, I don't want to get into having somebody say 'Let's have a secret ballot. Oh. by the way we're going to recheck the whole room.' We'd be there until 12:30 a.m. if we finished it off."

Returning to the clickers, Green reiterated his preference to not use them this time.

"Simply because of all that goes along, but that we approach this fully prepared to take a secret ballot," Green said.

It was later confirmed electronic voting is off the table for the Special Town Meeting.

When Selectman Craig Rivest asked if someone requested a recount, Green replied the secret ballots would be recounted.

On if someone is in the gymnasium and wants to address the meeting, Green said they would need to enter the main room, setting up a line for the larger dollar items, along with an announcement to check to make sure everyone who

wanted to speak had

a chance to.

When Green reiterated again about sticking with what was announced last Tuesday night, Rivest agreed.

"I agree with you. I think there's no reason to change the day and time. We've already said it, it's already been set," Rivest said. "We just go through with it it's already been put out there."

On parking, Green's suggestion was talking with the police chief about having an officer onsite.

"So, before we even put folks on the lawn, we have enough room," Green said. "I'm convinced we didn't use all of the parking that was available. It would be better to have an officer out there, especially a couple more, maybe, whatever, with flashlights guiding people into spaces."

This brought up another question from Rivest.

"We're going to have two rooms. Typically, we have one police officer in the room. Are we going to want to have one in each room now?" Rivest said.

"Probably," Green said.

Rivest added how he heard many residents said parking "was a nightmare."

"Especially leaving, that parking lot is a safety hazard because it's so dark," Rivest said.

Rivest said he saw someone fall as he left the meeting.

"So, that's another concern is that if we're parking around the buildings, now we have people that may trip, fall, get hurt because (of) the inadequate lighting in that parking lot," Rivest said. "So, how do we address that? More cops on scene?"

On how to address this, Green said it would be up to the board but "that would be my thought process" is having more officers on scene.

How Things Wrapped Up

To close the meeting, residents shared their thoughts ranging from how many chairs can be put on the gymnasium floor and volunteering to be an escort for people as they return to their cars to where else check-in can be done to help combat congestion in the hallways.

Other topics included clarification on how technical items could be addressed by architects for projects--especially if they weren't residents--and, again, addressing the electronic clickers.

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LOCAL KETONE

PROMOTER

VIEWPOINTS

Greater Springfield Habitat needs your help; see how your time, talent, and treasure can make a difference

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Donations and fundraisers are an integral part to the vitality of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH). Without a steady stream of income, projects and programs struggle, and the affiliate cannot help as many families in need of services. This holiday season, the nonprofit organization has several easy ways in which community members can participate and provide support.

Contrary to popular belief, Habitat is not a government-funded organization. Habitat does apply for and receives grants, as well as municipal funding, and donations from corporations. But, in the era since the COVID-19 pandemic and the steep rise in costs, it's just not enough. To remain productive, Greater Springfield Habitat is taking advantage of other opportunities.

"Donations are crucial to the success of Habitat, but giving doesn't have to be an 'allor-nothing' frame of mind. Do what your bank account and peace of mind can afford. If that means a one-time donation of \$100, that's OK. If it includes small purchases from our wish lists or purchasing a Stop and Shop Give Back bag, that's alright as well," said Brandy O'Brien, GSHFH Marketing and Communications manager. "If someone wants and can afford to do more, that's fantastic, too.'

Greater Springfield Habitat's Building Dreams Benefit is Thursday, Nov. 7, at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow. Doors open at 6pm. The event features entertainment, a cocktail reception with appetizers from local restaurants, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$100 each. All proceeds benefit GSHFH. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit habitatspringfield.org/ building-dreams

"Our fall benefit is always a great time to celebrate the work that we have completed and show members of the community how they can support future projects," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

A Pampered Chef "FUN"raiser is underway at bit.ly/3APqHT2. Open until Sunday, Dec. 15, Pampered Chef is a line of high-quality kitchen tools, including cookware and bakeware, small appliances, mixes, oils, seasonings, spices, and more. Ten percent to 15% of each order will be donated to Greater Springfield Habitat.

Beginning Nov. 1 through the end of the month, Stop and Shop at 1282 Springfield St in Feeding Hills will sell their reusable Community Bags with proceeds going to Greater Springfield Habitat. Each bag is \$2.50 and GSHFH will receive \$1 from every bag sold.

GSHFH also has registries or "wish lists" at both Amazon.com and Walmart.com. The items listed are practical, everyday necessities that help the office and build sites run smoother. Items on the wish lists support ongoing and future projects. Among the items requested are a heavy-duty watering hose, paint roller frames with comfort grip handles, Sharpie permanent markers, light fixtures, and heavy-duty trash bags. To shop at Amazon, visit a.co/85KjRjL. To shop at Walmart, go to bit.ly/4eJwcli.

Please remember the best way to keep your support local is to give directly to your local Habitat affiliate. Donations can be mailed to our office, made online via the donation page on our website visit habitatspringfield.org/ donate or they can also be received via text message. Simply text "BUILD413" to 44-321 and follow the prompts.

Cars for Homes is a program managed by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). A large variety of vehicles from cars to snowmobiles are accepted. All that is needed is certificate of title and four tires. HFHI will take care of the rest and arrange for pick up. The vehicle, based on its condition, will be sold through a national network of fully-licensed, insured, and bonded auctions and direct buyers. Roughly half of vehicles are sold to licensed dealers at wholesale auctions and are reused for transportation. The remaining half are brought to auto salvage yards where the reusable parts, batteries, tires, and fluids are removed. Vehicles that can be recycled are crushed, shredded, and turned into steel. On a monthly basis, 78-86% of revenue from vehicles donated to Habitat through Cars for Homes support local Habitat affiliates, like GSHFH. Based on a donor's zip code or personal request, the donation is transferred to your local affiliate.

"The pickup was wonderful. Everyone was very patient and nobody objected to our 2008 Obama sticker," said Catherine Shapleigh, who with her husband Alexander, donated their 1996 navy blue Volvo 850 sedan. "It was just great. We were very happy to make the donation."

Greater Springfield Habitat is always collecting aluminum soda and beer cans for its Cans for Homes program. Aluminum donations may appear small on the surface, but they add up and can go a long way. The cost of a 2x4 is the equivalent of 400 cans. A mailbox is 3,000 cans. A window is 11,000 cans. A front door is 22,000 cans, and a 1,200-square-foot roof is 400,000 cans. Through these efforts, GSHFH has earned roughly \$6,000 and kept many cans out of the landfill. Cans can be dropped off at 268 Cold Spring Ave in West Springfield. Or, to schedule a pick up, call (413) 739-5503. Greater Springfield Habitat will also accept glass and



A recent load of aluminum cans is packed into the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity van and is ready to be dropped off at the recycling site.

plastic beverage bottles that are labeled for Massachusetts bottle redemption.

"I believe in the organization and the importance of making a difference in people's lives," said Trina Winans, a GSHFH supporter and volunteer, who made a recent can donation

Lastly, you can donate your time by volunteering, it is easy to sign up online to help in the office, on an event committee, or out on the construction site. Do you have a skill that you think we may be able to use? Are you looking for a unique way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other milestone? Give us a call and let us be a part of your big day.

To learn other ways you can support Greater Springfield Habitat, visit habitatspringfield.org.

Letters to the **Editor**

Attend STM on rescheduled date

To Hampden Voters:

What a wonderful turnout we had on Oct. 29 for the Town Meeting! So good that we surpassed the fire marshal's quota for our room—and had to postpone the meeting to Nov. 12.

The issues before us are so important that it is crucial that we show up again. I am assuming that the details—place, time, etc.—will be published, and sent to us via robo-calls.

Please stay alert and informed and come to make our voices heard and our votes count.

> Thank you. Rita Vail, Hampden

Greg Scibelli

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the

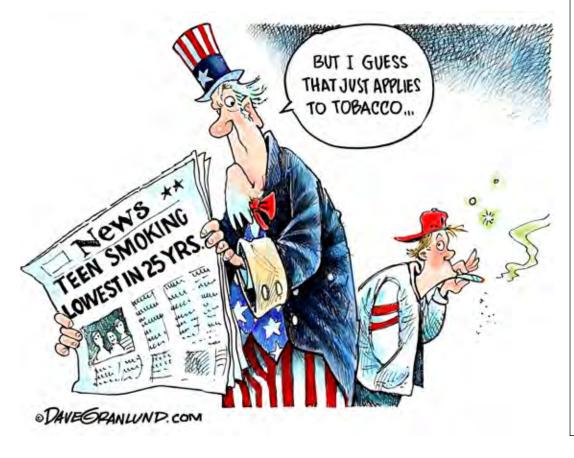
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden 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

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



SASEN from page 1

this time, with Sasen reassuring the community he will still be living in Wilbraham.

On Nov. 15, the community can visit the senior center from 2 to 4 p.m. to say farewell to Sasen and offer him their best wishes.

'You may think that I helped you, but you helped me just as much," Sasen said. "So, I'd love to be able to say that in person before I leave."

Sasen first began in his role on May 23, 2018--one week before Memorial Day--and during his tenure, established the Veteran ID card program, Graduates to Guardians which recognizes local Minnechaug Regional High School students at their graduation with a coin representing their military branch and a certificate from the town thanking them for their initial sacrifice, updating the Veteran graves records, appointing Shelley Mutti as Veteran Graves Officer, continuing to correct records and making sure Veterans graves are properly flagged for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, establishing the Veteran of the Year program and standardizing the Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs.

Also, the local scouts Eagle Project creating a flag collection box at the library to collect flags needed for retirement, overseeing the replacement and lighting of two flag poles and working on the possible adoption of the HERO Act in Wilbraham to help increase annual tax abatements for veterans.

"Obviously, we've completely revamped the way VA claims are done here in my time here. Because of my ability to connect with the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers--also known as NACVSO--I got my accreditation through them which helped me understand VA claims a lot better. Being able to maintain that level of knowledge," Sasen said.

Sasen was also recognized as the first Sgt.-At-Arms from Massachusetts, the first executive board member for Massachusetts, appointed as delegate liaison and later received the President's Award from NACVSO.

"A lot of great things. This role has, for me, has absolutely...I really can't say enough about the fact that my personal and professional development and growth through this town, through the support that the town has given me, that my veterans have given me," Sasen said. "All this is made possible. You can't do this if you're just sitting in an office not meeting with veterans. It's very, very important that the reason why I can contribute my passion for this job, for this role and my ability to do what I do is because every day I'm sitting across from a veteran who is in need and you hear those stories and you take on part of that and it just helps me (in) advocacy."

Sasen said he wouldn't have been able to do everything he has done without the support of the town and his fellow veterans.

"I cannot express enough

how grateful I am for that and just the people of this town and the veterans of this town because it's their stories I was able to share," Sasen said.

He noted his departure was 'extremely bittersweet."

"Because as excited as I am to move on to my next role, I am, also, very, very, very sad at leaving this role," Sasen said.

Sasen credited his predecessors, Laurie Broadbent and Richard Prochnow, for their impact on the role when he first stepped into it.

"I've been saying this for the last six years and I still firmly believe this today that they laid the foundation that my house sits on today. Rich Prochnow did a great job in getting the memorial at the center of town together. That was kind of his legacy in what he did, which I thought was really awesome," Sasen said. "And then Laurie Broadbent took the position from being a part-time to full-time, which is a requirement under the law because we have more than 10,000 population...and because it was a fulltime position, I could take the job and, essentially, able to feed my family on it.'

Sasen also expressed his gratitude to his true friend and 'amazing resource" Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, "almost work mother to me" Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator, and Jen Finnigan, activities/volunteer coordinator, his "amazing support."

"They have been truly integral in helping me shape a lot of my ideas. They've been here as sounding boards, they have been just very instrumental in my day-to-day," Sasen said. "Even though we're separate departments here, we are truly like a work family and I could not have done most of what I've done without them."

What he's most proud of during his tenure, it was helping a local father--also a veteran--honor his late son by dressing him in his Marine uniform.

"I didn't care how it had to happen, but it had to happen. So, I put feelers out to all my veterans, my Marine Corp Veterans, and over the course of a very short week, we were able to build the uniform for his son for his burial using pieces from other Marines who were very proud of the fact that they were able to donate to a fellow Marine," Sasen said.

The day Sasen delivered the uniform to this veteran and father, he had "so many words I wanted to say," but, instead, wept and said thank you.

"To this day, easily my proudest was able to do something like that for him," Sasen said.

Sasen looks forward to seeing everyone on Nov. 11 for the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Park Veteran Memorial, advising his future successor "There's still a lot more that can be done."

'That mixed with the fact of--like I said--that you will not be in a thankless role. Every day if you show love and care for this community, you will get that

same love and care paid back in dividends and in gold," Sasen said.

Sasen wants the community to know he will still be around after he takes on his new role, again thanking everyone for all of their support.

"I intend on whoever takes this role, if they want my assistance I intend on giving them my all to make them successful in it as humanly possible," Sasen said. "Because at the end of the day, I very much care about this community. I very much care about everybody in it and I'm just going to be here for you, and thank you. Thank you, again, for everything."

For his fellow Veterans, he left them with a task.

"If ever I was able to assist you, then the only thing I ask is that we continue to pay it forward to another Veteran and their family," Sasen said. "If you really were appreciative of the things we were able to do, then make sure other Veterans and their family know about it."

Editor's Note: During this interview, Sasen also expressed his gratitude to everyone at the Times--from our predecessors Tyler Witkop and Dalton Zbierski to me, the latest editor--for helping him get the word out about Veterans Services to the community. On behalf of the Times, it has been a true honor and privilege to work with Sasen to help ensure our Veterans continue to be honored and remembered in every sense of the word.





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Swing & Motown concert at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM— The O-Tones, a hot Swing, Blues, & Soul/Motown band, will perform a free concert at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, November 13 at 6 p.m. Performing across New England since 1990, their setlists include Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, Marvin Gaye, Nina Simone, and more. The O-Tones trio, John Caban, Mary Witt, and Ben Kohn, combine sultry vocals with swinging piano, guitar, and bass.

This event is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, and by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is encouraged but not required. For more information, contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit www. wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Fiber arts workshops at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM— Two fiber arts workshops for adults ages 18+ will take place at the Wilbraham Public Library in November. Learn the historical art of finger loop braiding on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. A practice dating back to the Middle Ages, you'll learn to braid cords that can divide and flatten to make a belt, bookmark, zipper pull, or more. On Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m., discover the art of mindful sewing where you'll learn to draft your own Morning Glory top. Ideal for beginners and seasoned sewers looking to expand their skills, this session will guide you through creating a custom-fit paper pattern using your own measurements. Materials for both workshops will be provided and participants will take home their creations.

Registration for these free programs is required as space is limited. For more information, contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Public Library Learn to Play Ukelele

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce an upcoming program,

"Learn to Play Ukulele."

Join Julie Stepanak, to learn how to play ukulele! Julie brings ukuleles for students to use during the program.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Library. The program is open to children ages 8-12 years old. The program will be held on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 3 to 4 p.m. The library is located at 254 Main Street in Wilbraham, MA.

Registration is required.

For more information, please visit our website at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or contact the library at (413) 596-6141.

HISTORICAL from page 1

Call it a coincidence, but the Presidential Election was held on the same date this year as it was in 1968: on Nov. 5.

Town News

It's interesting to see what we considered "town news" back in those days. Of course, we didn't have the weekly Wilbraham-Hampden Times to tell us what was going on. So, the growing town relied on local news reported by my Mom in the daily morning newspaper, The Morning Union, and her rival, reporter Fred Reidy of the evening Daily News. They were both owned by the Springfield Newspapers and evolved to what we read today in The Republican. My Mom loved Fred Reidy but they were avid rivals and competed for everyone's attention.

As young families moved out of the inner city of Springfield to settle here in suburban Wilbraham, one topic in the news was always "the schools". In a matter of a few years, starting with the new Minnechaug Regional High School in 1959, we added more schools to our town life to

11 a.m. The School Committee sponsored a public forum that covered the responsibility of the town's school building needs and the impact of state and federal programs on current and future school issues.

Open HouseMeanwhile, more than 600



The Selectmen wrote in the 1968 Annual Report: "The demand for services has multiplied at an ever increasing rate." (1968 Wilbraham Annual Report)



Morning Union reporter Ethel Bennett mailed her news dispatches to the news room in Springfield in 1968. It took three 6-cent stamps to mail. (Charles F. Bennett collection)

accommodate the growing population. And of course, school news was covered in both daily newspapers. As for the high school students, they read news in Minnechaug's Smoke Signal school newspaper.

Wilbraham In November schools observed American Education Week during which, my mother wrote, "Parents were invited to visit classrooms to observe modern daily learning experiences." In the second week of the month, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the theme of observance was "America has a good thing going - its schools!" The Stony Hill PTA provided a special babysitting service at that school on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to residents attended an open house at the new junior high school on Stony Hill Road on a Sunday afternoon. The costly, \$2.75 million by 1968 standards, featured 39 teaching stations accommodating 731 pupils. Members of the Student Council welcomed guests and acted as guides. People of all ages were on hand to view the facility. It was reported the youngest visitor was 6-week-old Francis Fredette, Jr. of 509 Main St.

Main St.

Since Minnechaug Regional
High School was still relatively new, graduating its first class
seven years earlier in1961, news
from the high school was eagerly received. It was reported that
Minnechaug inducted new members into the Emerald Key So-

ciety, which was founded there in 1966 to recognize students who have achieved outstanding achievements in scholarships, athletics, leadership and service. Some of those students prob-

Some of those students probably attended a series of teen dances on Saturday Nights at the Spec Pond Pavilion that was not winterized. The dances were held for Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28 and probably had a holiday theme. Live bands were featured, and school attire was required.

The Pueblo

Out in the "real word" the U. S. Navy intelligence ship "Pueblo" was captured by North Korea on a charge of violation of North Korean waters. Its crew was released in December, upon admission by the U.S. of the violation. As soon as it was released America instantly repudiated it.

Sen. Robert F. Kenney announced his candidacy for President and Civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King was assassinated in a Memphis motel; Scotland Yard arrested James Earl Ray in London and he was extradited to the U.S. stand trial.

The idyllic town was not without its own problems, however. The police force was busy investigating three house breaks and two accidents. A home was broken into at Pearl Lane and two houses on Brooklawn Road. An undetermined amount of cash was taken at each location. "Some of the families were at church when the breaks occurred," said the news article.

Two accidents occurred on Boston Road, one near Construction Service Co. and another at Chapel St. One of the victims was a member of my Minnechaug Class of 1961, Heather Holdridge, 25.

Another Minnechaug classmate, Dr. Walter M. Presz, Jr. who still lives in town, was also mentioned when his car parked in an empty fruit stand on Boston Road was slammed into by a 17-year-old driver from Monson who skidded on a patch of snow.

Not to be outdone on Boston Road, Agawam resident James Sullivan, 27, suffered cuts on the nose and chin when the truck he was driving became stuck in the Boston Road railroad underpass where CVS is located today. Sullivan was treated and released at

Ludlow Hospital. The top of the truck was unable to go through the 10-feet high clearance. The Wilbraham Police Patrolmen who investigat-

Grandma Bennett's Stuffing

Note: Some of my readers have been asking me for my mother's Turkey Stuffing Recipe. Each turkey sold at the Bennett Turkey Farm came with a copy of this recipe.

- Charlie Bennett

Ingredients

2 onions 2 celery stalks

3 cold cooked potatoes

1 ½ quarts bread

crumbs

1 pound cooked sausage meat

1 tblsp Bell Poultry seasoning

salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Roll dry bread crumbs. Set aside

Finely chop celery, onions and potatoes. Add egg, sausage and poultry seasoning, salt and pepper.

Soften with hot or cold water or broth from simmering the giblets from the turkey. Let cool before stuffing the turkey.

ed were longtime beloved public servants Alton McDonald and Newton Goewey.

Voting Problems

Just as in today's world, it was Presidential Election time in town. Voting hours of 10 a.m.to 8 p.m. were announced in the newspaper by Town Clerk Mary Powers. Polling places were Precinct A at Stony Hill School, Precinct B at Memorial School and Precinct C at St. Cecilia's Social Center.

Garnering everyone's attention during the election was a story about a Fernwood Drive woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Skers, who tied to cast her vote at the polls at Memorial School. She tripped over the leg of a wooden sawhorse and suffered a fractured elbow and nose with scratches on her face.

She was rushed to Spring-field Hospital in the Fire Department Ambulance and was listed in "fair condition." Her husband said he applied for an absentee ballot for his wife, but she was told by the Town Clerk the law did not allow giving out absentee ballots after the election dead-line.

The U.S. national elections

were in the news that year. President Lyndon Johnson announced that he would not seek another term and Sen. Robert Kennedy had announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. But Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after winning the California presidential primary. Immediately after he announced to his cheering supporters that the country was ready to end its fractious divisions, Kennedy was assassinated, was shot several times by the 22-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan.

We were glued to the TV that summer when riot police brutality and bullying marked the Democratic Convention in Chicago; Hubert Humphrey won the nomination. He would run against Republican Richard Nixon who won the election that month by the narrowest margin since 1912. Nixon had promised to end the Vietnam War, but it raged on until 1975.

In 1968 the war hit home with the news that Paul J. Pelletier, 19, from Wilbraham was killed on June 6, 1968 in Vietnam. He died on the 24th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy showing that another generation of Wilbraham sons gave their life for their country.

Life Goes On

But life went on as the Mothers Club of United Church announced the Holly Ball that was planned for Dec. 6 was to be held at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow. Dancing was from 9 to 11. Ball Chairmen were Mrs. Dale Thomas and Mrs. William Butterworth.

In the meantime, St. Cecilia's Church was decorated by the Catholic Women's Club for their November meeting. Mrs. O. K. Gilbert was program chairman.

The November elections were held with a voter registration of 5,653 and a whopping total of 5,082 people actually voting. You can't say that people weren't involved in their government in those days!

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "The Timetables of History" by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

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The Guilty Grape opens in Wilbraham Center



Turley Photos by Patricia Sullivan Shop owner Bobby Ward is ready to introduce Wilbraham to new wines and beers at The Guilty Grape.



State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield), proprietor Bobby Ward and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Stephen Killian of WineHaus in Granby brought many different wines to the grand opening.

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Guilty Grape, a new beer, wine, and specialty food store in the center of Wilbraham, held a grand opening and ceremonial ribbon cutting on Oct. 29.

State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) made welcoming remarks before proprietor Bobby Ward snipped a red ribbon at the shop door.

The shop is located in Center Village, also home to Pafumi's on Main and Scantic River Brewery.

The Guilty Grape sells an evolving and eclectic mix of craft beers and wines from around the world. The store stocks many local brews, including those from

Scantic River Brewery, Rustic Brewing Company of Indian Orchard and Iron Duke and Vanished Valley of Ludlow.

Local food products include Ferrindino maple syrup and Manny's olive oil.

"This is a great location in this new business hub," Puppolo said. "It's wonderful to showcase smaller wineries and craft beer makers."

"It's also great that we have a new place to buy wine and beer with the election just one week away," joked Puppolo.

Joe Piccuirro of 3 Guys Caterers in Wilbraham was among the local businesspeople who attended the grand opening and was impressed with the shop.

"The inventory is fabulous and the prices are really, really good," Piccuirro said.

Stephen Killian, a winemaker from WineHaus in Granby, brought a selection of red, white and rose wines for sampling at the grand opening. Paul Correnty, cider maker for New England Apple Products in Leominster, offered tastes of hard cider, including a cider made with Honeycrisp apples and a cranberry apple cider.

"I'm definitely bringing home a bottle of this for my fiancé," said Tiffany Mason of Louis & Clark Pharmacy in Springfield as she tasted the cranberry apple cider.

One of the drinks that proved to be a surprising hit with the crowd at the grand opening was Nigori sake, a sweet Japanese rice wine with a mild flavor. Wines from Oliver Winery of Indiana were also popular. Oliver makes Camelot Mead, the top-selling honey wine in the U.S.

A contractor for many years, Guilty Grape proprietor Bobby Ward has been learning about wine and beer along with his customers since the shop's opening in August. Ward's company, Hampden-based R.H. Ward Construction, was the contractor for Center Village. He said that during construction, "It was inconvenient to grab a beer with the guys after work." And the idea for the shop was born.

He features a new craft brew each week, holds tastings and plans to add cheese and charcuterie and a larger selection of high-end wines.

Ward was not only the contractor for Center Village. He

also helped build the nearby gazebo in Wilbraham's Gazebo Park as a Minnechaug student in 1989.

"It's kind of funny that I'm in business in the largest building I've built right next to the first building I ever built," Ward said.

Through the app Untappd, customers can see which beers Guilty Grape offers and rate beers they have tasted. The store has a customer loyalty program and online ordering for pick up or Door Dash delivery.

The Guilty Grape is open Mondays through Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Rice's donates pumpkins for MiraVista's IOP program



Anthony Maloni, owner of Rice's Fruit Farm in Wilbraham, places pumpkin donations in the car of Kimberley Lee, chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, to support MiraVista on Oct. 30.

By Kristin Rivers

Editor krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Rice Fruit Farm donated 30 pumpkins on Oct. 30 to support MiraVista's Substance Use Intensive Outpatient Program.

The pumpkins will be used for therapeutic group activities to help participants engage in painting and creative expression.

Kimberley Lee, chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, explained the IOP program runs weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and serves individuals "regardless of where they are on their pathway to recovery" whether "newly starting their road to sobriety or they've been on the road to sobriety for a while."

"We try to make it interactive and engaging for indi-



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Anthony Maloni, owner of Rice's Fruit Farm, and Kimberley Lee, chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, pose for a photo with the pumpkin donations.

viduals while they're in the program and while, also, offering activities that allow them to express how it is that they're either in recovery or what it feels like to be in recovery," Lee said. "So, the master-level clinicians in the program recognizing that it is the season of Halloween, thought it would be wonderful to be able to offer a guided art therapy experience in the IOP using pumpkins."

When Lee was thinking about who to connect with on the pumpkins, Anthony Maloni, owner of Rice's, immediately came to mind, adding how MiraVista has partnered with them in the past.

"I thought of Rice's just because of how generous they are and how supportive they are around the issues of mental health and substance use," Lee said. "So, I reached out to Anthony and in less than five seconds he responded, 'Absolutely."

Maloni was happy to support MiraVista with the do-

Please see **RICES**, page 17



A close-up of the pumpkin donations.



Anthony Maloni, owner of Rice's Fruit Farm, and Kimberley Lee, chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, hold pumpkins outside of Rice's Fruit Farm in Wilbraham on Oct. 30. The pumpkins were donated to support group activities for MiraVista's Substance Use Intensive Outpatient Program.

Eclectic vintage shop, artist studio celebrates 1 year anniversary

PALMER – An eclectic, vintage shop and artists gallery celebrates its one year anniverssry

The "Eclectic Shop and Artist's Studio", known as the Victorian, will celebrate its one year anniversary on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 1500 North Main Street, Palmer, MA. Please join us for an open house and enjoy refreshments as you tour throughout the building.

"The Victorian" provides locals a convenient shop close to home, offering quality painter's products, painted furniture, unique gifts, candles home decor, local Artisan's wares and more.

The shop features a wide variety of Fusion Mineral Paint products, including materials to re-purpose, refurbish and re-imagine furniture.

"Fusion Mineral Paint is primarily a furniture paint," said owner Julia Dias. However, she said the paint works well on a variety of materials, such as wood, metal, glass

and fabrics.

In addition to the mineral paint,
The Victorian offers milk paint,
stains, antiquing glazes, a variety of
decorating waxes and both natural
and synthetic paint brushes.

The shop caters to artists seeking to add a splash of color to their homes and get creative with refinishing their furniture.

"It's been quite an experience creating this shop and sharing it with the many people that have come though this door. Many people are just curious to know what this olde house looks like on the inside. They're either from the area and have driven by many times or they were customers of the Moulton Insurance Agency, which used to be here for many years" said Dias.

She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a focus on interior design from UMASS Amherst and has a great passion for historical homes. "Ebenezer and Mary Brown built this house in 1868. It's obvious they had great taste in architecture and design, as there are many fine details throughout the home that lend to its stateliness." Considering how many times the trains roll by



Submitted Photos

The Victorian is located at 1500 Main St., in Palmer, in the former Moulton Insurance building.

out back and being 156 years old, this grand Queen Anne stands strong.

Dias' experience allows her to provide guests with expertise and a wealth of knowledge in design as well as the Fusion Mineral Paint product line.

"I truly enjoy recreating old pieces," said Dias "especially little tables you find on the side of the road."

She added the Victorian age has always been her favorite period in time, prompting her to scout out the perfect location for her shop.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have a Victorian. This Queen Anne home was built in 1868 with all the traditional mouldings.

Shoppers will not only have

access to a Fusion Mineral Paint carrier locally, but they will also have access to the full line of colors and seasonal releases.

The shop features an array of colors, furnishings and art; some Victorian style, others more abstract and various handmade products by local Artisans.

Vintage style "sassy talkin' towels," are on display, adding style and humor to the main shopping area. For those interested in purchasing, duplicates are for sale.

Additionally, vintage-style match boxes are available for purchase, delicately wrapped in wax paper and sealed with a postage stamp.

The Superior Dry Good Vintage Stick matches are a perfect



Shown is the shopping area in the building, with Items in display cases, which are for sale.



The building is a Queen Anne Victorian, decorated to accentuate the charm and authenticity of the building's architecture.

complement to those interested in gifting a locally sourced, 100% soy, 1803 candle.

Dias said the shop is Victorian themed to add an element of creativity and charm to the guests' experience.

Fusion Mineral Paint Worksops will begin this month of October. You can follow her on Facebook and Instagram at theVictorian1868. Her website, theVictorian1868.com, is under development and will be ready soon. Workshops and other events will be posted there along

with a shop calendar, news and information.

Services and products have expanded over the past year which included the introduction of "The Downtown Abbey Dining Room" for private small event rentals and the "Newport Room" for Fusion Mineral Paint Workshops, as well as small event rentals. More information will be available on the website or you can call Julia at 603-714-0513.

Both rooms are Victorianthemed spaces equipped with working Victrolas, velvet drapes, vintage lace covered tables for dining and tea, various antique art pieces and full wall collage of the cast of Downtown Abbey and more!

Guests interested in adding a Victorian touch to their home also have the option of purchasing from a collection of vintage glassware come Spring 2025.

"I've always wanted to open my own shop and wouldn't have done it with anyone else but my husband, John. We make a great team" said Dias. "I thank him often for all he has done to make my dream come true."

The shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



A little boy dressed as Woody from "Toy Story" receives his next piece of candy.

HPL Trick or Treat Fun!

Submitted photos Kate Rumplik

Children enjoyed trick or treating with the library on Oct. 29, heading downstairs during StoryTime to the town offices to receive fun treats!

> Kids dressed as Donkey Kong and Spiderman pose for a fun photo during Storytime with the Hampden Free Public Library.



A little girl dressed as Tinkerbell with a green basket full of treats!





Fun and chaos were on hand for the littlest of trick or treaters in Hampden!



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

Hamp Senior Ce hosts Roa 20's Hallov Lunch

Seniors enjoyed Halloween fun on Oct. 31 during the 20's Halloween Luncheon at the senior center. Attendees e mouthwatering meal of Prohibition glazed ham, dutchess peas and carrots and pineapple upside down cake for desser

Entertainment was provided by Richard Hughes/Pianis senter along with a silent movie performance of Laurel & "Habeas Corpus" with live musical accompaniment. The was supported by the grant from the Mass Cultural Council



Fun times were had at the Hampden Senior Center to celebr Halloween.



Submitted photos Dia

The silent movie performance was a huge hit with the senio

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU





LBRAHAM MPDEN

oden nter ring veen ieon

Roaring enjoyed a potatoes, st & Pre-Hardy in program







The senior center's friends from Bright Spot Therapy Dogs also got in on the Halloween fun.



A little witch's hat adds a touch of Halloween to this attendee.



Seniors came out in their Halloween best for a spooky fun time!



The Hampden Senior Center volunteers dressed in their flapper best to serve serniors for the Roaring 20's Halloween Luncheon.



Richard Hughes at the piano provides entertainment at the Roaring 20's Halloween Luncheon.



The Roaring 20's was back during the 2020s for the Halloween Luncheon in Hampden.

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Minnechaug girls fall in semifinals after PK's

By Tim Peterson

Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD—The only time that penalty kicks are used to determine the outcome of a varsity soccer match is during the Western Mass. and state tournaments.

The Minnechaug girls' soccer team captured the 2022 Western Mass. Class A championship title against Coombs Division rival East Longmeadow with the help of penalty kicks.

> Minnechaug hasn't experienced the same type of success in their last two shootouts.

> > A year ago, the Lady Falcons lost to league rival West Springfield in PKs in the Class A semifinals.

This year's semifinal match between the fifth-seeded Lady Falcons and the top-seeded Pope Francis Prep School was still scoreless after 80 minutes of regulation and the two 10-minute overtime periods.

The Lady Fal-



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Elizabeth Woytowicz chases after the ball just past midfield.

cons took a 2-1 lead in PKs, and they had an opportunity to win the contest. However, Pope Francis junior goalie Eden Kornacki made three consecutive saves, and the Cardinals advanced into the Class A championship match with a 0-0 (3-2 Pk's) home victory, last Tuesday night.

"I thought we played very well, especially defensively, against the top ranked team in tonight's game," said longtime Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves. "You can't keep playing a soccer game forever and you never know what's going to happen in a penalty shootout."

It was the first time that the Lady Falcons faced the Cardinals on the soccer pitch since Pope Francis changed its name from Cathedral in 2016. The original Cathedral High School, which opened in 1883, was destroyed by a tornado in 2011.

Please see **CHUAG**, page 9



Mackenzie DaFonseca winds up to clear the ball away.



Taylor Labadorf looks to defend Minnechaug's end.



Kelly Cronin attempts to steal the ball.

Falcons open state tourney with win



Cora Pace goes up with a set.



Anna O'Toole heads over the net.



Nehir Elcin gets a bump from the back line.



Maliha Daubon fights to tip the ball over the net.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Jordan Miller serves the ball away.

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball has gotten to stay local with both opponents and their road contests in the Division 2 state tournament. Minnechaug opened the tournament with a first round win 3-1 over Putnam Vocational. Minnechaug opened up the match with two set wins. They would lose the third set before closing out the match in the fourth. Now, the Falcons face Longmeadow, another familiar foe, in the second round of the tournament. The match, which was to be on the road, was scheduled for Monday evening at Longmeadow High School.

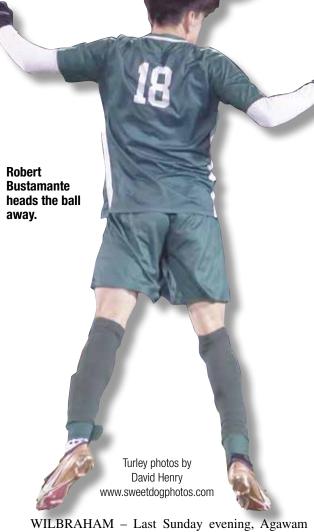
Falcons edge Brownies to advance in tournament



Matthew Ryan settles the ball for Minnechaug.



Jediah Stewart advances up the field.



opened up Western Mass. Class A Tournament action against Minnechaug. The Falcons would defeat Agawam 3-2 to advance to the semifinals of the tournament. Eric Nazarets and Lucas Ritson scored for Agawam while Kyle Atkin and Bryce Barlow had goals for the Falcons. Minnechaug would go on to lose in the semifinals to eventual Class A champion West Springfield. Agawam tied Central in a non-playoff game. Both teams headed for the state tournament earlier this week.





Benjamin Lopez keeps his momentum going up the field.

Railers take road loss to Admirals

NORFOLK, The Worcester Railers HC (3-4-0-0 6pts) fell to the Norfolk Admirals (4-2-1-0, 9pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 3,224 at the Norfolk Scope. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Maine Mariners on Friday, November 8th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester struck first tonight with a goal from Jack Randl (10-1) who scored 13:31 into the first period. Norfolk was quick to tie the score when Carson Golder (1-0-1) scored for the Admirals. Making the score 1-1 to end the first period. In the second period Norfolk pushed the score to 3-1 with goals from Sean Montgomery (1-0-1) and Connor Fedorek (1-0-1). Connor Welsh (1-0-1) later in the second cut into that deficit with his power play goal making the score 3-2 heading

into the third.

The Railers got the scoring started in the first tonight when Jack Randl (2nd) scored on a shorthanded breakaway 13:31 into the first period. Norfolk responded back with a goal of their own just over 30 seconds after when Carson Golder (3rd) scored to tie the game at 1-1 Norfolk outshot Worcester 11-8.

Norfolk took the lead 7:49 into the second period, when

Sean Montgomery (2nd) found the back of the net on dishes from Graham Sward and Carson Musser. His goal was followed up by Connor Fedorek (1st) who extended the Norfolk lead to 3-1 in the 11th minute of the second period. The Railers cut the Norfolk lead to one when Connor Welsh (3rd) scored a power play goal assisted by Matthew Kopperud making the score 3-2. Norfolk outshot Worcester 7-6.

It took nearly the entire 20 minutes of the third period action for either team to score. The Railers had an opportunity late in the third to tie the score on the power play but could not find the back of the net. The lone goal in the third period came on the Railers empty net scored by Brady Fleurent (3rd) at 19:52 making the final score 4-2. Norfolk outshot Worcester 9-7, and 27-21 in the game.

HISTORICAL from page 1

The Minnechaug and Cathedral girls' soccer teams battled each other many times.

Neither team had very many quality chances during the first 100 minutes in last Tuesday's semifinal match, which was played under the lights on the Cardinals turf field.

"Pope Francis has a high power offense, and they averaged three goals per game during the regular season," Goncalves said. "We were able to hold them scoreless for 100 minutes. I was hoping next attempt. that we would be able to score at least one Kornacki managed to make saves test on Tuesday. goal."

At the conclusion of the second OT period, the Lady Falcons won the coin toss and chose to go last in the penalty

Pope Francis sophomore Mila Dillard, who's from Chicopee, began the PK's by lining a left footed shot over the crossbar.

Then sophomore Ainsley Holden, who's a starting defender for the Lady Falcons, blasted a shot into the left corner of the net giving her team a 1-0 lead in the

shootout. The home team tied the score at 1-1 following a goal by senior Norah Walsh.

Senior Nora Kennedy, who's another starting defender, gave the Lady Falcons the lead back after putting a shot into the upper corner of the net.

The Lady Falcons still had a 2-1 advantage as Pope Francis missed their

during Minnechaug's final three rounds of the shootout.

The Cardinals' other two PKs were made by senior Ella Stirlacci, and senior Gabby Fialho, which helped them advance into the Class A finals for the first

"We've been practicing PK's during the past week," Goncalves said. "We pretty much knew which players were going to take the PK's if we did get into a shootout. It's very hard to duplicate the pressure of a game situation at practice. This is a very tough way to lose because we played very hard."

Pope Francis (15-3-1) defeated Longmeadow, 1-0, in the Western Mass, finals at West Springfield High School, last Saturday afternoon. Dillard, whose father, Brent, is the Cardinals girls' varsity soccer coach, scored the only goal of the championship match.

Minnechaug, who had a week off, entered the Division 2 state tournament as the 19th-seed with a 7-6-5 overall record. They were scheduled to face 14th-seeded

Scituate on the road in a round of 32 con-

"Scituate plays in a very good conference with teams like Whitham Hanson and Silver Lake," Goncalves said. "We're looking forward to competing against them in the state tournament."

The Lady Falcons seniors, who are hoping to advance to the Division 2 state finals, are Kennedy, Taylor Labadorf, Mackenzie DaFonseca, and Makenzi Pastreck, who's the starting goalkeeper.

"It's always very special for the seniors whenever they get to play their final high school games in the postseason tournament," Goncalves said. "After losing nine starters from last year's team, I didn't think we would be able to qualify for the state tournament this year. I'm very proud of my girls and we've come a long way this season."

Pastreck, who has made more than 400 saves during her outstanding varsity soccer career, will be a member of the Southern Connecticut State University women's soccer team next year.



Wilbraham holds 2025 **Tax Classification Hearing**

The discussion was led by Principal Assessor Christopher Keefe

By Dalton Zbierski

Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The town of Wilbraham held its 2025 Tax Classification hearing on Monday evening during the Select Board meeting.

It was attended by several members of the Board of Assessors, as well as Principal Assessor Christopher Keefe.

After a 10-minute presentation from Keefe, the Select Board moved to take no action relative to the adoption of an open space discount for fiscal year 2025.

The Select Board also moved to take no action relative to the adoption of a residential exemption for fiscal year

Additionally, the Select Board moved to take no action relative to the adoption of a small commercial exemption for fiscal year 2025.

The Select Board did move to adopt a residential factor of one.

During the hearing, Keefe presented a variety of data points.

For fiscal year 2025, Wilbraham's residential value is \$2,360,439,588. Its commercial value is \$170,970,823. Its "personalty" value is \$78,972,350, and its industrial value is \$37,106,800.

Except for industrial, the value of every class grew at least a little bit.

"Wilbraham is an in-demand community," Keefe said. "Basically, values have gone up from \$2.459 billion last year to \$2.647 [billion] this year, this year being defined as Jan. 1, 2024. When I first got here in '21, we went up 16%. We've gone up 8% the last two years, and we're going to go up 8% again this year."

Keefe also delved into "new growth." For fiscal year 2025, residential grew by \$16,953,235. Commercial grew by \$6,088,865, industrial grew by \$96,000 and "personalty" grew by \$6,509,879.

"New growth? We continue to see good, new growth. We estimated \$500,000 for the Finance Committee," Keefe said. "I thought that was an optimistic number at the time, but I was hopeful to hit, and we surpassed it. We ended up at \$548,000 in tax dollar growth, which is just about \$30 million in assessed value. We've had new condominiums, new single-family houses, a new storage center and then of course several smaller permits... They've added up."

Next in line to be discussed was the tax rate, which has decreased in recent years. In 2021, it peaked at \$22.96, but in 2024, it was down to \$18.50. For fiscal year 2025, it is even lower.

'Also note that the tax rate at a level factor of one is the same for everybody; it's estimated at \$17.85. I'll say it a second time. It's 'estimated' at \$17.85," Keefe said. "It could be off by a nickel or so in either direction; probably not by much more. It's not official until it's of-

Keefe explained that it won't be official until the state's Department of Revenue makes it so.

He also added that the fiscal year 2025 tax levy looks to be just over \$47 million.

"As the taxes have gone up, the rates went up a little bit, then they've stabilized and come down during the past few years," Keefe said. "It's a reflective equation. As you try to hit the \$46 million and the values are skyrocketing, the tax rate will have to come down. I'd expect to see the tax rate go down again as values continue to go up."

The average annual tax bill also continues to rise, as it has every year since 2015. In the fiscal year, the average bill was \$5,683. Last year, it was \$7,682. In fiscal year 2025, it will be \$7,940.

"Last year's was just about \$7,700. This year's could be just a little under \$8,000 if the tax rate is \$17.85 for single-family homes," Keefe said.

RICES from page 10

"We're glad to help. It's important to the community and everybody else. It's really nothing as far as we're concerned," Maloni said.

Maloni stressed the importance of supporting mental health, whether you have a family member, coworker, friend or you personally are going through it.

"I'm glad it's getting the attention it deserves and if I can just help out a little bit with it, I always will whenever I can," Maloni said.

Lee said the support means so much.

"It really does say an awful lot to the individuals in the program as well as the clinical staff orchestrating the activity when individuals like Anthony or companies like Rice's really do support this work," Lee said. "Because it really does send a message to them that people are rooting for them, people want them to be successful in their sobriety."

Maloni shared he knows people who have suffered from mental health and substance abuse.

"Nobody's immune to it. I'm fortunate enough to not have direct family members, but I know family members and friends that have dealt with it and are still dealing with it. I don't think it ever really goes away," Maloni said.

Lee said this donation is "a great example of two organizations bringing their resources together."

"It is said we all have an abundance of something in order to make an impact and where I have the opportunity to have the connection with Anthony and with Rice's, Anthony has the abundance of a willingness to support causes such as MiraVista," Lee said. "And so it really is me leveraging resources and Anthony leveraging resources in order to come together, to collaborate and to make a difference in the lives of the individuals who will be participating in the program.'

Maloni is humbled to give back.

"We've enjoyed some level of success here. We have quite the community footprint between both the number of employees and the number of customers that come in here. So, we have a little bit of outreach and reach so giving back to the community that supports us on so many levels, I do it basically whenever I can," Maloni said.

Lee shared this message for anyone who has or knows someone who has mental health struggles or struggling with substance use to know they're not alone.

"To know that there are people in their community, here in the community of Wilbraham or in any other community--the community of Holyoke where MiraVista is located--that people care and there are resources available." Lee said. "All they have to do is take that first step."

Maloni's message was this.

'I'm just happy to be part of it," Maloni said. "I wish I could do more. It's not a big deal from us at all. We're just happy

WSC offering reiki sessions

By Kristin Rivers

Editor

krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The senior center is offering reiki sessions every Monday at 12:30 p.m. to the community.

The cost is \$20 for a 30-minute session and is, also, open to non-seniors too to en-

The sessions are overseen by Darcy Bachicha, reiki master teacher at Peace Within Indigenous Holistic Practice.

Reiki is a complementary therapy relating to energy healing, which can work through the transfer of universal energy from the practitioner's palms to the client. This type of alternative medicine originated in Japan and is administered through the "laying of hands."

The word itself originates from two Japanese words: Rei which means "God's Wisdom or the Higher Power" and Ki which is known as "life force energy."

Bachicha shared what inspired her to become a reiki master teacher.

"I was introduced to Reiki at a vendor fair in 2013 in Agawam. At the time of my first reiki session, I was dealing with the prolonged heavy grief from losing my father. Reiki helped me regain balance in my life to overcome my sorrow and heartache," Bachicha said. "I enjoy helping others achieve balance so they can overcome challenges in life."

Bachicha explained the numerous health benefits reiki can offer.

"(The) benefits of Reiki include health and well-being, relief of depression, reduction of anxiety, improvement of self-esteem and confidence, digestion issues, pain management and helps heal past traumas," Ba-

As for the feedback, Bachicha said she's

received nothing but a positive reception.

"Yes, most if not all of my clients have had positive experiences and have left detailed reviews on my Peace Within Facebook page and Google search," Bachicha

Bachicha is thrilled to offer her reiki sessions to seniors.

"It's fulfilling to me to help seniors in my local area by allowing them to experience a positive reiki session in a very comfortable and friendly environment, plus I enjoy spending time with elders and hearing their individual life stories," Bachicha said.

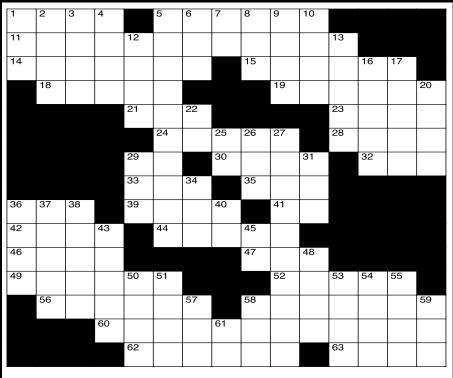
For anyone interested in pursuing reiki or becoming a healer, Bachicha offered this

"Reiki is a healing technique that utilizes the energy field around us to promote healing, release blockages and accelerate your body's natural healing abilities on the physical, mental and emotional levels," Bachicha said. "Besides the benefits of relieving pain and discomfort, supporting body health and the immune system, and the promotion of relaxation, Reiki can be instrumental in awakening intuition, promoting self-awareness, balancing the chakras, and releasing repressed emotions. Above all, the goal of Reiki is healing."

Bachicha encourages the community to check out the reiki sessions and that she's happy to help them heal.

"I would like everyone to know that they can come and experience reiki in a safe, no-judgment environment to explore healing options either at the Wilbraham Senior Center or at my 2341 Boston Road Suite B207 Wilbraham office. They can visit my Peace Within by Darcy Facebook page or (by) Googling Peace Within Indigenous Holistic Practice," Bachicha said.

To schedule your next reiki session with Bachicha at the senior center, call 413-596-



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of effort
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large, fisheating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA agent and critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop 29. "Hammer" is one
- 30. Senses of selfimportance
- 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 33. Not around 35. Electronic data
- processing 36. Licenses and

again

63. Hyphen

- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics 3. Expel large quantities rapidly

passports are two

types

41. Air Force

42. Popular

nature

46. Wings

47. Used in

49. Laid back

headdress

56. In slow tempo

_ Falls

60. Assertions made

62. Periods of history

52. Jeweled

58.

39. Snakelike fish

computers

44. Of a withered

combination

- 4. Sea eagie
- 5. A type of
- subdivision 6. Variety of
- Chinese 7. Mr. T's name on
- "The A-Team"
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Impressionable persons
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. Instinctive part of the mind
- 25. "The First State"
- 26. A way to develop
- 27. Fraternities
- 29. Woman (French) 31. Sunscreen

rating

ears 58. "To the ____ degree...

34. Beer

36. Spiritual leader

38. Burn with a hot

40. Junior's father

43. Ray-finned

48. Line passing

side to side

through the

50. Double curve

53. Got older

55. Humanities

51. A small bundle

54. Crater on Mars

57. Relating to the

of straw or hay

center (abbr.)

37. Indigo bush

liquid

fishes

45. Morning

- 59. Residue of a
- burned product 61. It cools a home

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FLEXIBLE HOURS, decent pay & tips, healthy physical exercise, learn to move furniture and pianos correctly. Jimmy Burgoff Moving & Hauling, Belchertown. **413-256-6800.**

HOUSEKEEPER: Monday and Friday, 5 hours a day. Duties: cleaning, washing clothes, ironing. Three references from prior experience with names/phone. Send to PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036.

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER WANTED.

Excellent pay & benefits. Must be licensed in MA. Pioneer Plumbing **413-623-5911** or **pioneerincoffice@gmail.com**.

QVCDC IS LOOKING for a parttime facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liason with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience pre-

ferred. Please visit **www.qvcdc.org** for information.



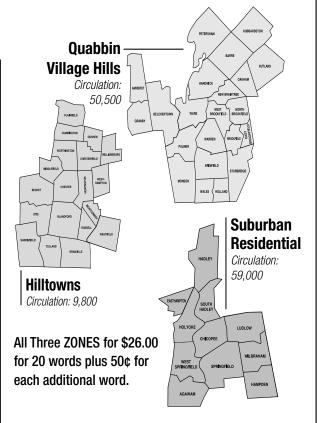
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Minnechaug Holiday Craft Fair seeking vendors

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Holiday Craft Fair, taking place at Minnechaug Regional High School, is seeking vendors.

The craft fair takes place on Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more, contact Jennifer Zera at 413-569-9011 or jzera@hwrsd.org.

VFW Post 9397 Turkey Shoots

HAMPDEN – The VFW Post 9397 kicked off Turkey Shoots on Sept. 8 and they will continue to run through

They take place every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., with presale tickets at 12:30 p.m. Prizes include cash, quality meats and a 50/50 raffle.

The kitchen will also be open for the shoot. The VFW Post 9397 is located at 190 Main St. in Hampden.

PUBLIC NOTICES



WILBRAHAM BOARD OF **APPEALS** PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM on the application of Bianca Syriac for a special permit (ZBA24-09) under the provisions of Section 3.9.2.14 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the operation of a Family Day Care Home on property owned by Chi Chun Wong located at 12 Stonegate Circle 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/263600277 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 263-600-277).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 11/07, 11/14/2024

Knitters and Crocheters at Brop-In Tech Help at the Hampden Senior Center Wilbraham Library

HAMPDEN - Barbara Dunwoody teaches knitting at the Hampden Senior Center on Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. This class uses yarn that is donated.

Everyone is invited to join in. This past summer when school was out, we had a young girl participate that was taught previously by her grandmother. As Barbara says, "If you don't know how to knit, we'll teach you."

Because of all the generous donations the senior center received, these ladies went to work making lap robes (crocheted or quilted), and hats (knitted or crocheted). Over one year, this group made 49 lap robes and delivered them to Vantage at Hampden, a nursing and rehab facility. They also made 216 hats that will be distributed amongst eight local elementary schools.

We are very proud of our members at the Hampden Senior Center and their contributions to giving back to our community.

A reminder about signs from Town of Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM - The Zoning Enforcement Officer would like to remind residents and businesses that signs are not allowed on any telephone pole, street corner or public property within the Town limits unless it is approved through the Select Board or the Planning Board. This includes any free-standing signs on tree belts and street corners.

Please review the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaws posted on the Town website pertaining to signs under Section 12 – Sign Regulations. As shown in this photo, signs are confiscated and recycled.

Unauthorized signs not only violate these rules but can also result in fines. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to maintain the aesthetics and safety of our

If you have any questions please contact the Building Department at 596-2800, Extension 204.

WILBRAHAM- Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device? Starting September 6, students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) will be at the Wilbraham Public Library on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Technology assistance will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 with any questions.

Wilbraham Women's Club Wreaths with a Reason

WILBRAHAM - Please come and join the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday November 14, 2024 Mary Ann Dietschler will speak about the growing problem of sex trafficking and what she is doing to help bring this to the attention to all. We are located at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham... Lunch served at 12 o'clock noon. Our soup and sandwich luncheon will be catered by the Village Store in Wilbraham.

Cost is \$12.00

For reservations please call Natalie 413-596 8794. Deadline is November 8, 2024.

Our presentation, will begin at approximately 1:15. Mary Ann will have wreaths available for sale.

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

Shop Til U Drop kicks off

HAMPDEN - It's time to Shop Til U Drop at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St, Hampden. Our annual holiday shopping spree opens on Tues, Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. You'll find a huge selection of giftable items for everyone on your shopping list. Senior Center shopping hours are Mon – Wed, and Fri, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thurs til Noon. We accept cash or checks payable to Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens. All proceeds will benefit the Senior Center Building Fund. See you there!

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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON is hiring for the following seasonal on call Highway Department positions: Sidewalk Machine Operator, Pickup Truck Driver for Plowing and Sanding, and **Dump Truck Driver** for Plowing and Sanding. For more information, please visit www. huntingtonma.us, email admin@ huntingtonma.us, or call 413-512-5200. Positions are open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **WATER AND SEWER** ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINA-TOR for 18 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook and well organized. Hours are flexible but must be worked during the regular Water and Sewer department hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Water and Sewer Department as needed. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing WaterandSewer@ huntingtonma.us. Position is open

Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT is hiring for part-time office hel Please apply in person at 988 Main

St., Warren.413-436-9819. EOE.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Depart-

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

- Highway maintenance laborer salary rate range: \$18.16 - \$26.46
- Highway maintenance laborer with CDL and Hoister's license salary rate range: \$25.00 - \$36.41

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday-Friday, 7 AM

to 3 PM; 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department. PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098. This posting will remain pertinent until the two positions are filled

> The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates to fill the position of Highway Superintendent

Highway Department

Nature of work: The Highway Superintendent is responsible for administering and overseeing the daily activities of the Highway Department including the maintenance and repair of town roads, parks, bridges, equipment maintenance and snow/ice removal

operations. This is a benefited position which requires a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of highway department maintenance. construction and procurement

Salary rate range: \$62,941.00 -\$91,707.00, with potential for winter overtime. More information can be found on the

Town of Worthington website: www.worthington-ma.us Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant

contact information to: selectboard@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the positions are filled. The Town of Worthington is an

Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

Worthington Police 51 Huntington Road, Vorthinaton.

FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER The Worthington Police Department is eeking qualified candidates for Fulltime Police Officer.

Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be

POST certified. This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined and possess a community policing philosophy and live in, or near Worthington. Previous candidates must reapply. Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact

information to: To: Worthington Police Department

P.O. Box 246 Worthington, MA 01098

chief@worthingtonpd.org Subject line: Employment Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

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real estate

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



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Flag Football Game takes place Nov. 15

WILBRAHAM – The Annual Minnechaug Flag Football Game with the teams of the Class of 2026 vs. Class of 2025 will take place on Friday, Nov. 15. Kick off at 6:30 p.m. on the Turf!

Polish Plate Dinner at Immaculate Conception Church INDIAN ORCHARD - A Polish 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, Mass. Also available is Frozen Polis

INDIAN ORCHARD - A Polish Plate Dinner with four pierogi, Golabek, Kielbasa, Kapusta and Rye Bread will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Eat In or Take Out. Tickets at \$20.00 per plate. are available by calling: Maria Kowalski--413-222-6229, Irena Wurszt--413-427-5846 or Maryla Bukowski--413-427-9464

Also available is Frozen Polish Food (Golabki, Kapusta, Pierogi) Cabbage, Potato & Cheese, Sweet Cheese, Blueberry Pierogi

SCHOOL from page 3

assigners. So, at the end of the year you see 53 PVIAC teams schedule two TBA games, that's now 106 games and now of those 106, 53 of those are going to get canceled or deleted while assigners are trying to assign officials. So, that's why we haven't done it in the past," Burndrett said. "This year, whatever reasoning, the MIAA wanted to institute and I firmly feel it was not communicated completely thoroughly with 30% of our league not abiding by that."

After Superintendent Dr. John Provost noted an email from Northampton High School Athletic Director David Proulx on the communications, Burndrett said he dug through it with other athletic directors with research provided by Proulx.

In eliminated documentation from the fall for the spring 2024 scheduling deadline, Burndrett read, "All games must be entered for any in-season tournaments and end-of-season tournaments."

For the new scheduling deadline that's been determined, Burndrett read: "Placeholders must be entered for any games in the in-season tournament, even if the opponent has not been determined."

"We've been told time and time again this is an end-of-season tournament, not an in-season tournament because it's the last two games of the season prior to the state tournament," Burndrett said.

Hale shared with football how they don't have to add TBA games "because the state will handle" those additional games "whether you qualify for the tournament or you don't qualify for the tournament."

"But, field hockey, girls soccer, boys soccer and girls volleyball do have to have the TBA games," Hale said.

On filing an injunction, Provost said he met with a representative for parents who were considering this, with his questions centering on if an injunction institutes litigation against the school district or what to do if you don't get 100% if individual injunctions were filed.

"I think, really, the question for the School Committee tonight is whether or not you would authorize the pursuit of injunctive relief on behalf of the district and the four sports teams that are referenced here," Provost said.

Comments from Parents

Keri Lee was among several parents of student-athletes re-

questing the committee to consider filing an injunction.

"I think it is the closest thing to a fair outcome for all the students involved, both in our district and in other districts. The egregious sanctions that the MIAA has put against our student-athletes as we've discussed are not logical. They're applying a rule punishment that is meant for over-scheduling, which these games are not beyond the allowed amounts. They're just saying they weren't in there and are now classifying that as over-scheduling, which is not even their definition. It's also used to punish athletes for mistakes such as behavioral mistakes or things that they did," Lee said.

Lee shared that while she was part of the parents looking to file an injunction, she and the others believed the injunction coming from the district "is the best way to support and actually protect all of our athletes."

"We felt strongly as parents we did not want to have parents, for example, who were district employees have to sign off on a parent injunction that also prevents us from protecting their children in that injunction," Lee said. "There is a chance that a judge could rule only in favor of those named in the injunction, which means those children would not get the benefits if their parents couldn't sign off on it or financially couldn't afford to join us and be named on the suit as well. Coming from the district, it, hopefully, will protect all of our student-athletes equally and give us the best option for having that

Marc Atkin, director of Coaching for the Wilbraham Soccer Club whose son also participates in boys soccer, explained the impact on boys soccer "could be dramatic for a variety of reasons."

"We're, I believe, ranked top four in the state right now. The challenge with all of that is taking two, three nothing losses or forfeits with the gold differential will definitely knock us to a much lower seed," Atkin said.

Atkin said the long-term implications for the student-athletes are "completely unfair in my opinion."

"Cost-wise, we would have to go on the road which for the district is obviously a challenge I know, but more importantly as these kids deserve home-field advantage throughout, we now go on the road," Atkin said. "Also, when it comes to actually playing those games at home, the further you go in the tournament, visibility from

college recruits I think would be stolen from the kids, in my opinion, as they take this away. This is completely against the MIAA's mission."

He added how the MIAA didn't uphold their own rules for football

"Which I find ridiculous that they're on one side saying 'Hey, this is what we're doing' and on the other side they completely flip-flop and allow football to play," Atkin said.

Also, it's worse for the girls.

"They're 6-6 and four. With two forfeit losses, they go to 6-8 and four. What happens is if you're 500, you're allowed to get a play in game. At 6-8 and four, unless you qualify in that top 32, you're out of the tournament," Atkin said. "So, for our girls team, they could go from a 24 seed now with two two three-goal differentials and they're more than likely out of the tournament, which to me is not fair. That girls team has earned every single right on the field to be in there."

Jason Suomala, whose son is a senior, expressed the parents have "gone through all the channels."

"The team, the people involved have gone through all the regular channels. Now, we're coming to you guys to step up and help us make sure these guys get a fair share," Suomala said.

Diane Diehl shared the parents "do not hold any ill will" towards Burndrett or Hale.

"This is a really difficult situation. They have bent over backwards to try and rectify the situation. They are operating in the best interest of the children," Diehl said

Michelle Defonseca had reached out to parent representatives from the volleyball and field hockey teams, thanking Provost, Burndrett and Hale for meeting with them the day before.

"I've also been in the conversations with the other parents and the attorney and I am, also, asking that you guys support the injunction," Defonseca said.

Brian Bowler has been an assistant coach for the senior boys this year, praising the team.

"It's a shame they're having that robbed based on, again, unintentional errors and I applaud the officials and everything they've done to try and rectify that," Bowler said.

Further Discussion and Decision

Sherrill Caruana asked about the legal aspects.

"How are the legal ends of this being attacked that you can get everything that you deserve and you can get it in a way that will take it to court?" Caruana said.

Defonseca came back up to explain individual parents had to sign on and be part of the injunction, adding they were recommended to wait until after the School Committee meeting that night to file.

"Depending on the judge and depending on the day or whatever, the judge could just file the injunction on behalf of those specific athletes. We would ask that it would cover the team but, again, like Superintendent Provost said, if everybody signs on for soccer except like the goalkeeper or we

have only three or four parents that sign on to be part of this injunction and the judge says, 'No I'm only going to uphold the injunction for these individuals' then we don't have a team, then this is all for naught," Defonseca said. "So, that's why we feel it would be better that it comes from the school--if at all possible, the district--because there's no guarantee depending on the judge."

When Kennedy wondered about the injunction also including the PVIAC, Defonseca clarified the injunction was against MIAA specifically because "this was not a rule that was written" as opposed to the PVIAC had bylaws that teams have to participate in the tournament.

For the PVIAC, it would not count as a forfeit or affect state rankings.

"So, the PVIAC is not doing anything against their own bylaws, but the MIAA doesn't have this," Defonseca said.

Clarifying questions asked by Provost revealed the injunction would be against the forfeits from being recorded and a legal expert with a track record of filing injunctions was identified.

The vote made by the School Committee would give the goahead for that legal expert to move forward with filing the injunction, so the School Committee's attorney would not be needed.

After Tirabassi presented a motion, Kennedy later suggested an amendment after Maureen James, another parent, suggested authorizing the school district to become a party in the injunction along with the student-athletes and have the committee's attorney file jointly with the other attorney.

The amended motion to have HWRSD become a party in the injunction through Attorney Sean Sweeney in collaboration with Attorney Elizabeth Zuckerman, representing the parents and athletes, carried 6-0.

Title IX Concerns

After the vote, Secretary Lisa Murray asked about Title IX, which led Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Aaron Osborne to share how he has two daughters and grew up with PVIAC and MIAA sports, saying this.

"I'm absolutely mortified by the MIAA over the past five years--give or take--as it relates to the tournaments and things like that," Osborne said. "So, the state has multiple offices that deal with discrimination and I think it would really help put pressure on the MIAA if every parent who's impacted by this--particularly if you are a parent of a female athlete--and files a Title IX complaint with OCR and/or MCAD. They're both organizations that will represent you. I think numbers matter and if MIAA sees that, it will have impact."

On hearing people say MIAA has no accountability, Osborne shared it's funded from public funds including membership fees, dues and tournament fees.

"That's your money," Osborne said. "As parents who pay admission fees to events, you pay athletic fees. Those are public funds. I think it's absolutely remiss of the state, it would be remiss OCR,

it would be remiss of MCAD not to take that seriously."

Provost said that contact information for the Office of Civil Rights and the Mass Commission Against Discrimination can be found in the district's anti-discrimination policies in Section A of the policy handbook.

After Timothy Collins presented a motion for HWSRD to file a Title IX complaint after further discussion between the committee members, the motion carried 6-0.

MIAA responds

After the temporary restraining order/primary injunction was filed on Oct. 25, the MIAA shared a press release stating on Oct. 29 "It is always our intent to communicate and post state tournament brackets in a timely manner" and the scheduled release for state tournament brackets for field hockey and volleyball would be delayed.

'Yesterday afternoon (October 28, 2024), the MIAA received notice of a court injunction submitted by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and individual student plaintiffs. The order was issued without the ability for the MIAA to be heard. As a result, we requested and were granted the opportunity to be heard by the judge," it read. "The order, as currently written, will have ramifications on the seeding process and the clear and accurate release of the state tournament brackets, affecting the seeds for multiple teams across multiple divisions in both sports. We have continually stated that we will advocate on behalf of the whole and not the one."

The MIAA also said this.

"On numerous occasions, said school district admitted to failing to comply with MIAA protocols. It is wrong that these potential ramifications would have an adverse effect on the vast majority of member schools across the state that did follow the prescribed process. That is why we are seeking further resolution on this matter,' it read. "Rest assured brackets will be released once this matter has been resolved. Our goal is to release the Field Hockey and Volleyball brackets Wednesday (Oct. 30). We will provide you with an update Wednesday morning. The integrity, clarity and accuracy of this time."

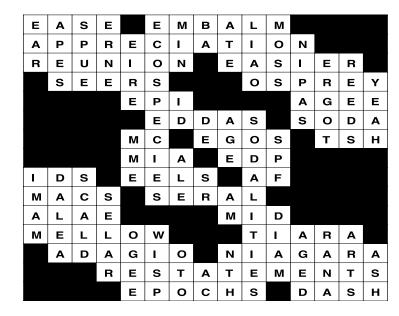
What's Happened Since

On Oct. 30, the injunction against MIAA was upheld in Hampden County Superior Court, with the MIAA ordered they could not record games played in the Western Massachusetts Tournament by the teams from Minnechaug--and Monson, who were included in this filing--as forfeits.

The decision would adjust Minnechaug's record for the field hockey and volleyball tournament rankings.

The MIAA, as reported by MassLive, stated they would abide by the court order.

Two other districts--Northampton and the Pioneer Valley Regional School District--also received a temporary restraining order/primary injunction against the MIAA.



PET PAGE

READERS!

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PET OF THE MONTH **Meet Bella**

The sweetest Rottie in the world! She came to us on Easter Day, April 1, 2018 and is both heaven sent and playfully mischievous. She is a total joy each and every day. She welcomes all the customers at the store on "Bella Wednesday" and makes them smile and feel better. She has changed a few minds about Rottweilers for the good. Caroline & Rick of Wilbraham



Are You Overfeeding Your Dog?

More than 50% of dogs in America are obese and this number is on the rise. Overweight dogs are at increased risk of metabolic abnormalities, cardiovascular disease, joint diseases, a lowered immune system, and many other health problems. They also are less mobile and can't run, play, or do other activities as much as they'd like. Do your pet a favor, feed them the amount recommended by their vet and don't give in to those puppy dog eyes when they ask for more!

How dangerous is it to overfeed your dog? Extremely dangerous. Overfeeding a pet can lead to bloating, obesity, heart disease, or even diabetes. In some cases, this could also cause cancer. The problems of obesity are not only physical but psychological as well. Dogs can show signs of aggression and have problems getting along with other pets. It can also shorten the life span of your dog by two years.

What are the symptoms of overfeeding? Different dogs will need different amounts of food each day. Some common signs that indicate your dog may be overfed are low energy levels, begging, bloating, diarrhea or constipation. Your dog could have many of these signs or just one or two; it is vital to have your dog checked by a veterinarian if you are concerned. Some of these symptoms may also indicate another health-related issue, so checking with your veterinarian is necessary to diagnose and treat your dog

How to avoid overfeeding your dog. Before you start drastically changing your dog's diet and routine, talk with your veterinarian first, as not all dogs will have the same process. Here are a few questions to ask yourself as this may be helpful information to provide to your veterinarian when you go in for a checkup.

How much food are you feeding your dog each day? You may be asking whether this includes bones, scraps, and treats. Yes, yes, it does! When training, you will need to take the amount you have given in treats out of their food at mealtime. This also applies to any bones or Kongs given.

Is the food you are giving nutritional for your dog? Are you feeding your dog nutritious food that fills them up? Hard brown kibble is not nutritious. The ingredient list may look good but many dog foods are typically cooked at very high temperatures which removes any nutrition that may be in the food. Freeze dried dog food is much healthier. Also beware of the trick that dog food manufacturers use to make their food look like it contains only a small amount of wheat or grain. Instead of just listing wheat they will break it down to wheat gluten, wheat flour, etc so they fall further down in the ingredient list to look like there is very little added when in reality if you add it all up there are really high levels of wheat included. Wheat and other grains should not be in your dog's diet. Nutritious dog food will cost you a little more, but you will be taking much better care of your dog and giving him a longer,

Do you feed your dog routinely every day? Dogs are creatures of habit, and a consistent feeding schedule contributes to an animal that is happier and more content overall.

Is your dog getting daily exercise? If this answer is not really, it may be as simple as taking your dog for a walk daily, or even every other day depending on your schedule to help shed the extra weight. Regular, daily activity is crucial for your dog's physical and mental wellbeing. And it's good for you too!

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St. Cecilia's Women's Club holds Annual Rummage Sale



Pat Serra volunteers her time at the rummage sale by working with the jewelry table.



Claire Stevenson (Left) and Sue Agnew (Right) take money from customers and help give them change.



Joan Bloomberg (Left) and Mary Manning (Right) offer various delicate ceramics and decorations.



Many attendees attend the rummage sale at the Parish Center at St. Cecilia's Parish on Nov. 2.



From the left, Women's Club Members Pat Serra, Jackie Pahl, Ann Mango and Liz Geib volunteer at the rummage sale.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen **Various attendees avidly shop during the rummage sale.**

By Noelle Hisgen Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Nov. 1 and 2, the St. Cecilia's Women's Club held their Annual Rummage Sale at the St. Cecilia Parish's Parish Center.

The sale ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 1 and from 8:30 a.m. to Noon on Nov.

Saturday was also Bag Day during the event.

The rummage sale is one of the largest events of the season for the Women's Club, and during the two days of its run, it was heavily populated with excited shoppers.

Before the doors opened, people were lining up outside the church waiting to shop.

The rummage sale was sectioned off into a wide array of items to be sold. From clothes, to tableware, to a large selection of jewelry and other accessories, along with

various home decorations, the room was filled all across with items donated by the members of the Women's Club.

At the head of the organization and leadership for the rummage sale was Ann Mango, chairperson for the Rummage Sale and past president of the Women's Club. She has served in many capacities with the Women's Club for many years.

"We've been doing our Annual Rummage Sale for well over 40 years," Mango said. "And all of the money goes to charity. The Catholic Women's Club gives money to local charities. We support various organizations with items from the rummage sale."

Along with Mango, current president of the Women's Club, Jackie Pahl, was at the rummage sale, helping out in any way that she can

"We have chair people for many of the things that we do and Ann Mango is the

chairperson for this rummage sale. Ann has been doing it for many years and she does an awesome job as you can see with all the things that we have around," Pahl. said "It's very very popular, our prices are extremely reasonable and we always encourage anybody to come, especially those who are looking for a bargain...It's always one of our most successful events that the Women's Club runs...I just love working with the people of the club. It's an extremely caring, giving club. So many members participate in this event."

Pahl shared what she enjoys about the event.

"As president I love sharing my time with all the members of the club. I particularly like this event because it's just very interesting seeing all the items that we see come through," Pahl said. "And the people that we make happy with their purchases."

There were various members of the Women's Club who were helping out.

Whether it was offering items, giving out paper bags, or collecting money from shoppers.

One of those members was Pat Serra, who was offering up jewelry and has been with the Club for around 30 years.

"We have always had this rummage sale for as long as I have been in the Club. And I've always been a participant and then around 10 years ago, I took over the jewelry department here and we started to expand it through the years because all of this jewelry is all donated mostly from members of the church and a lot of close friends," Serra said. "And they bring us the most beautiful things so it takes too much time to put them together during the rummage week. So, I put them together during the summer where it's kind of a hobby of mine. And we started putting the pens in all the little pouches and putting everything so that they're a little easier to see. They can see all of the jewelry easier, the earrings, so some of them are brand new because people donate them like that. But most of it is all lightly used jewelry."

It was a great way for people to be able to buy new items for themselves, while also reusing items that were donated by the dedicated members of the Women's Club.

The Women's Club is currently having their calendar raffle going on now, where the prizes have all been donated by local businesses

People can still purchase raffle tickets.





Submitted photo Jaime Hageman

The winner of the candy corn estimation jar contest was Tia Assaf, a Wilbraham resident, who guessed only 10 candy corns off of the actual amount! The total was 222 pieces of candy corn.



Proud brother William smiles in front of sister Evie's pumpkin design, who were both enthusiastic about attending this year's contest.



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

Liberty and Sawyer Huerta, dressed up as the Teenage Mutant Turtles, showed off their costumes equipped with toy nunchucks.

Good times and good treats at WPL Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk



Families were pleased with the weather to enjoy the spooky storywalk, featuring a Halloween kid's story along a quarter mile walking trail, unique to the WPL.

By Amanda Munson Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The night before Halloween, the library held its annual Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk and pumpkin carving contest, along with the Brooks Room full of fall-themed kids crafts and games.

Although the weather was warmer than expected, many families and friends met up to join the peaceful walk outside, admiring all the creative designs kids came up with on Oct. 30.

Library associates, the director and volunteers were set up with a greeting table that had goody bags, glow in the dark sticks and a variety of candy. The pumpkins were set up along the sidewalk, accessible for anyone to take a stroll and walk the loop of the StoryWalk that followed a Halloween-themed book.

Sitting down with Library Director Karen Ball, she was grateful for the luck of the great weather, turnout of the pumpkin event and her years at the library.

"This is the third year of the Jack-O-Lantern StoryWalk, which opened a couple summers ago, and we decided to do programming around it throughout the year. We decided to tie in a Halloween theme with having the jack-o-lanterns outside, along with the activities inside the building. We are very fortunate having the wooded area adjacent to us, there are a lot of libraries that have the same concept but use temporary storywalk signs," Ball said. "We received a grant from the preservation fund a few years back and had the permanent storywalk signs installed. We set up the jack-o-lantern contest with several categories that were set up by grade level and age, with also a family category as well. Some of the families came back from previous years and submitted a pumpkin which was really nice to see."

Inside the Brooks Room, families were greeted with fresh apple cider and spooky music, with many patrons gravitating towards the craft table. There was a pumpkin ring toss, Halloween themed word search and a DIY pumpkin collage.

Also, another contest to guess how many candy corns in a jar, with Tia Assaf guessing 212 pieces, winning the contest as she had the closest guess.

The exact total was 222.

"The room offers a lot of flexibility, it's a community meeting place. It's something for everyone, we had tod-dlers to parents in there. Our children's department put together the games and crafts, it was a team effort. Anyone who entered got to participate in the raffle to win gift cards to Rice Fruit Farm, which is always a big hit," Ball said. When asked about why it's important for WPL and other libraries to hold events like these, Ball said this.

"It's a fun time of year. Kids like getting dressed up.



Meagan and Isabelle Michele pose with pumpkins from the ring toss game, excited for trick-or-treating.

If you are looking around town, the decorations almost surpass Christmas decor. It's a fun holiday that people, all ages, like to participate in," Ball said. "It's a great way to promote the storywalk throughout the year."

Next year, Ball will be working at the library for 32

"I've been the director since 2011 and have been here in Wilbraham since 1993. I am actually retiring next summer, so this is my last jack-o-lantern event for my year. I've been very fortunate to be working in this community. It's rare that you get to advance in the same library from a



Library Director Karen Ball poses with a treat bag, full of Halloween goodies for the young attendees voting for their favorite pumpkin.

library assistant to director. It's been a nice place to grow your career. I met so many wonderful people. There are people who were kids when I started, that now have kids of their own. It's nice keeping in touch with them over the years," Ball said.

This program was sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

The WPL StoryWalk was funded by the Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee, the WFOL, the Wilbraham Community Association, the Wilbraham Garden Club and private donations.



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HAMPDEN - The Babes for a Cause: Shop for a Reason event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Starting Gate at GreatHorse.

The Holiday Tour event supports Shriners Children's New England and will feature 35+ women-owned businesses, acoustic music featuring Project 267, a cash bar, snacks and small plates for purchase and complimentary spa services and mediumship readings.

10% of sales from vendors will be donated back to SCNE and 50% of ticket sales will be donated back SCNE.

Cordage Workshop at HPL

HAMPDEN - The library will be presenting a Cordage Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Noon.

Join us for a guided Cordage Workshop in recognition of Native American History Month. Learn how to make cordage string or rope—out of natural materials and then craft that cordage with jutte into your own little bag.

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WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham Veteran's Day Breakfast will be taking place at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Wilbraham Senior Center at 250 Springfield St.

The event is open to all Wilbraham Veterans or surviving spouses and one

The breakfast is sponsored by the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club, with doughnuts "dough" nated by Rice's Fruit

Please register by Nov. 5 by calling 413-596-8379.

Veterans Dinner at HSC

HAMPDEN - A Veterans Dinner will be taking place at the Hampden Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5:30 pm.

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