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Selectboard holds FY26 Tax Classification Hearing

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard held a FY26 Tax Classification Hearing during their Nov. 24 meeting. The motion to adopt a single tax rate passed unani-

mously. The motions to not adopt the open space discount, not adopt a residential exemption and not adopt a small commercial exemption also passed unanimously. Principal Assessor Jane Ferrentino was joined by the Board of Assessors, consist-

ing of Chair Norman Charest and members Robert Makuch and Phil Schneider, for the discussion. Ferrentino explained the town's valuation has increased from "a little over \$977 million in fiscal year '25 to \$1.3 billion in fiscal year '26." "That's a little over an in-

crease of \$53 million," Ferrentino said. "A little over \$15 million was due to new growth. That can be residential new growth from new construction, addition or other improvements as well as several new parcels that were created for fiscal year '26. The new growth from personal

property was a little over \$9.9 million. Of that, \$4 million new growth was from the personal property for the new solar array on Cross Road, and then we have the four public utility accounts and those contributed an extra little over \$5.2 million in new growth as well."

For average single-family homes, Ferrentino said it's increased from approximately \$419,000 in FY25 to approximately \$441,271 in FY26. "The current tax rate that was set for fiscal year '25 was Please see **TAX HEARING**, page 10



Volunteers and staff at the Hampden Senior Center prep the meals.

HSC gives back with Thanksgiving Grab and Go

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The senior center gave back to the community on Nov. 26 with their Annual Thanksgiving Grab and Go event.

Cars lined up as early as 12:30 p.m. in the senior center parking lot the day before Thanksgiving to pick up their Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings and handmade turkeys and pumpkins created by students at Green Valley Preschool.

The meals were compliments of the senior center and sponsors including Assisted Living Locators, Brodeur Campbell Fence Company, Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, GreatHorse, JGS Lifecare, Monson Savings Bank, Texas Roadhouse, the Hampden Senior Center Quilt Group, Saint Mary's Parish and Vantage Health & Rehab of Hampden.

Please see **GRAB AND GO**, page 9



Lil Fedora hands a handmade turkey created by students at Green Valley Preschool to an attendee of this year's Thanksgiving Grab and Go at the Hampden Senior Center.

KofC 10195 hosts Thanksgiving Food Drive



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Jen Puhalski, Colleen Goodreau and Amy LoMascolo pick up their boxes and turkeys. 15 of these boxes went to families in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus hosted their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive on Nov. 24 and 25 at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

During the two-day event, members put together 65 boxes with all the Thanksgiving trimmings and gift cards and also picked up turkeys and distributed them throughout the community. Any monies left over were split between the Gray House and the Community Survival Center.

This year, the Knights raised over \$12,000.

Former Grand Knight John Hegarty, who chairs the event, said this year's food

drive was phenomenal, praising the parishioners who "really stepped up" to lend their support, whether by donating more or for the very first time.

"I think there's a heightened awareness of the food insecurity these days, so people were more generous. They know that people need the food and they were more generous," Hegarty said.

Hegarty said this food drive is rewarding for the Knights.

"It's very heartening. It's all worthwhile anyway, but it certainly makes it worthwhile knowing that we have a great group of Knights willing to work and we have a wonderful parish that's so generous here over the years. It's one of

Please see **FOOD DRIVE**, page 13

HWEA seeking fair contract, wages

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Hampden-Wilbraham Education Association is seeking a fair contract and wages with the school district.

During public comments at the Nov. 20 School Committee meeting, Carrie Joseph shared a petition started on Nov. 18 that received over 500 signatures, representing "educators in the district, residents, parents in Wilbraham and Hampden, alumni and former educators here."

Joseph said the petition would later be emailed to the School Committee when it closed that coming week-end.

HWEA President Damian Konkoly provided a sample of comments left by the petitioners.

"First, I've been working in this district for eight years. I have to work additional jobs just to pay my bills. I have very little hope

of ever being able to buy a house or pay off my student loans. I work crazy, long hours every day with completely insufficient prep time. I'm lucky if I get one to two hours for myself or my family per week," Konkoly read. "I love teaching, but I'm starting to think this career is not a sustainable option for me due to inadequate prep time leading to long hours after school and needing to work additional jobs to make ends meet."

Another comment Konkoly read said how "the education system is facing enough issues without having teachers work without a contract and appropriate raises in salary."

"Honestly, you're lucky to have retained these teachers up to now. You're doing a disservice to both the employees and the students," Konkoly read.

These were the next sets of comments read.

Please see **CONTRACT**, page 9

Holiday Shopping kicks off at Bazaar

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Santa Claus came to the Holiday Bazaar at the Wilbraham Senior Center on Nov. 22 and declared, "I am making my final review of the naughty and nice list and there are a lot of good children in Wilbraham this year—even more than usual."

This was the 15th year of the bazaar, organized by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Holiday shoppers could buy everything from maple syrup to jewelry, handmade soaps, cards and wood carvings from more than 30 vendors.

The bazaar also included a massive bake sale, with

festively packaged cookies, cakes and candies. Dozens of items were raffled off, including Thunderbirds hockey tickets, an air fryer, quilts and themed baskets, such as a "Wicked" movie basket, a gardener's basket and a Christmas and cocoa basket.

There was fun for all ages. Deb Gormley held story times for children who then shared their gift lists with Santa. String players from the Old Post Road Orchestra serenaded shoppers with holiday tunes.

For the first year, the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors collaborated with Project New Hope's Jeepers Christmas Program to

Please see **BAZAAR**, page 15



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Deb Gormley reads to children at the Holiday Bazaar.



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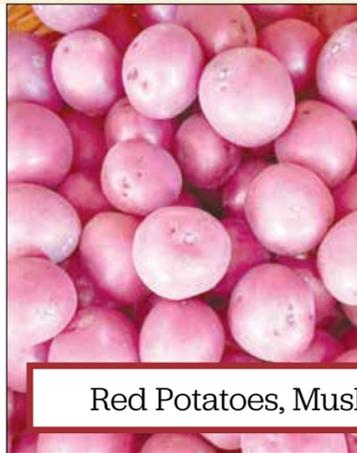
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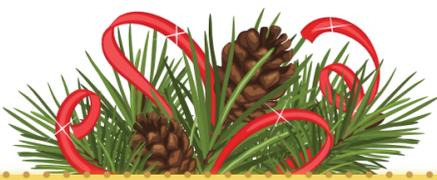
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COMMUNITY

'Five Golden Rings' is a hilarious, festive mood-lifter



The cast of "Five Golden Rings" takes a bow after a successful opening night.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Additional performances Dec. 5 through Dec. 7

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players are getting in the holiday spirit with their festive production of "Five Golden Rings: A Greeting Card Channel Holiday Musical."

The musical is directed by Deborah Trimble with musical direction by Graham Christian and choreography by Jacqui Panasian. The next performances are Dec. 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m. and tickets are available now at wilbrahamunitedplayers.org.

A parody of Hallmark holiday movies, which I, also, am a fan of, the musical centers on Holly, played by Julia D'Agostino, a business executive in "the big city" who gets snowed in at a quaint—and adorable—B & B in Fairhope, Vermont, just before Christmas. The twist? The B&B is in the process of being acquired by her company.

Also, she is engaged to her fiancé, Bradley, played by Casey Dion, and finds herself falling in love with Lance, played by Nick Adams, the owner of the B&B with an adorable daughter, Grace, played by Rylee Santiago.

Beginning with Joe Lesard's boisterous entrance as Nick—who's just as mysterious as Santa Claus himself—the audience is transported into the greeting card-esque world of "Five Golden Rings." Throughout the production, you could pinpoint all the different Hallmark holiday movie tropes, which brought a sense of familiarity, laugh-out-loud moments and even a few tears.

D'Agostino's Holly fit the main character trope to an absolute T and when she hit the high notes on several numbers, including "Things Are

Looking Up" and "Something is Brewing," you couldn't help but find your jaw dropping at the control and emotion it takes to get those parts just right. Her first meeting with Adams' Lance was absolutely hysterical and set up the meet-cute trope perfectly.

She also shines in the dream sequence numbers, depicting the greeting card world character without skipping a beat.

Santiago's Grace is all-around adorable from start to finish, depicting the always sweet child of the love interest with a touch of Christmas attire and pigtails. The daughter-father duo of Santiago and Adams brings a grounding to the musical, making you adore the family every time they're on stage.

Adams as Lance is your typical down-to-earth handsome muffin that seems a little rough around the edges, but has a heart of gold and does everything for everyone in his town, as we see during the "Vanilla" number with the ensemble cast asking him for this or that. His performance during "Things Are Looking Down" should, also, not be overlooked as it paints a picture of what his situation is, which tunes the audience's heartstrings from the get-go.

Dion's Bradley is 100% a character you love to hate. From his introduction just before Holly takes off to complete the business deal, you can't help but squirm a little and think, "Eh, I don't think this guy is right for her," and as the production goes along, that feeling festers.

Dion definitely shines

playing a bad guy, especially in the dream sequence when D'Agostino's Holly tries on the golden ring on her pillow at the B&B. That scene was a personal favorite for how ridiculous, silly and entertaining it was, especially when the text messages came in.

The "Vanilla" number with D'Agostino and Adams was a crowd-pleaser from start to finish because how often do you hear a song centered around the simple concept of vanilla and you make it funny and endearing at the same time? A delicious first that definitely made me hungry for some Christmas treats.

"Something Is Brewing" was another highlight with these two, especially where the topic of Folgers coffee was concerned. It definitely had that cutesy, hysterical vibe that made you crave some hot cocoa—well, most specifically Folgers. Not going to lie, the catchy Folgers in your cup jingle you see on television entered my head during those references, which made the scene more enjoyable.

I also have to note the "It's Not You, It's Them" number with Kiernan Cone's Trish at the helm, because she steals the entire show during this performance with laughter, sass and a touch of wisdom that you would find in any wisecracking best friend. The "exes" being part of this number makes this all the more funnier as Holly thinks back on her past relationships.

Cone's performance here also gives a "Ghost of Christmas Past, Present and Future" vibe, especially when she has

to move the plot along. That direction made this part even more hysterical for me.

We also cannot forget the ensemble cast, which consists of Jim Martin, Jeff Erb, Amanda Emet and Shannon Martin. These foursome really bring the town characters to life with their festive Christmas attire, happy-go-lucky and perky spirits and being just plain fun every time they show up on stage.

The "Forced Conflict" number was my personal favorite from this crew and had me nearly laughing out of my chair, because like any greeting card holiday movie, you got to have a conflict between the two love interests somewhere. Just the touch of holiday colors, sweaters and even a Christmas tree with tinsel make this even more hilarious and goofy, in a good way.

I also have to note Shannon Martin's turn as Gladys had the crowd in tears of laughter. Sometimes a character showing up for just a few minutes can make them all the memorable and she definitely accomplished that here.

Lastly, I should note that as I was driving home opening night, as if on cue, there was snow falling outside, which made for a very fitting, holiday-esque end to the evening.

If you need a good mood-booster and a night of laughs and warm fuzzies, then head to Wilbraham United Church and get holly and jolly with "Five Golden Rings."

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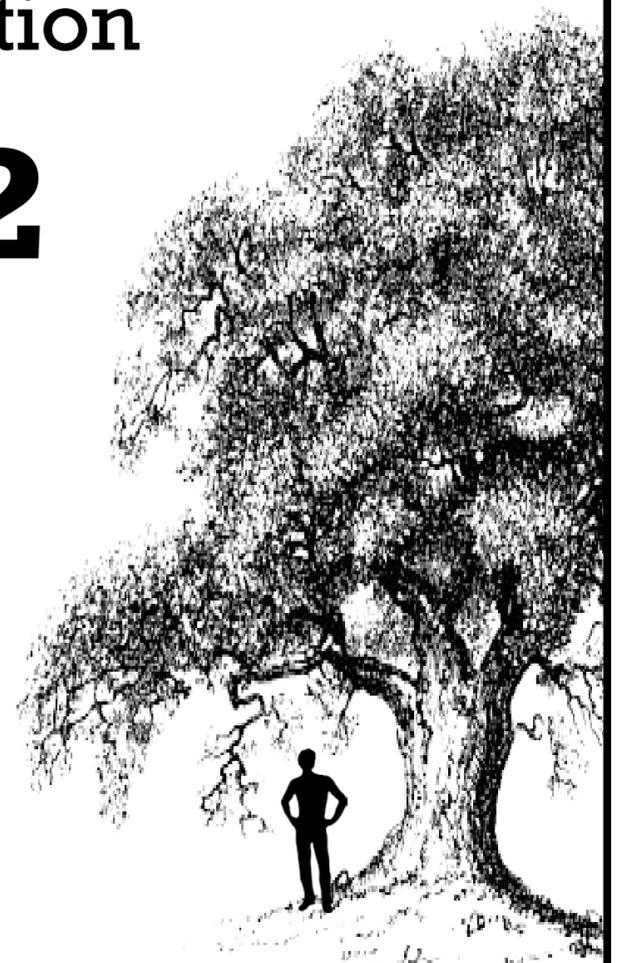
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Piano Virtuoso plays for Women's Club

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—There was a surprise guest at the monthly meeting of the St. Cecilia's Women's Club held at the Parish Center on Nov. 12.

Sergei Novikov, an accomplished Russian-born pianist with degrees from the Moscow Conservatory and the University of Maine, played several selections for the 35 women who gathered at the church to catch up on club business, enjoy dessert and socialize.

The club members also had the opportunity to shop

at a pop-up gift holiday boutique that Sandy Polom, owner of The Scented Garden Gift Shoppe, set up in the Parish Center. She brought along home goods, jewelry, soap, clothing, candles and other holiday goods.

Polom also brought along Novikov as a musical treat. She and her husband, Fran, met the pianist while at an art show in Palm Springs last January. They were impressed by Novikov's music and learned about his entrepreneurial venture—which was a perfect fit for the Scented Garden shop.

Based in the Boston area, Novikov plays all over the country in concert and at fes-

tivals. For years, he sold CDs of his music at those venues. When the market for CDs collapsed, he came up with the idea to actually put his music inside greeting cards. He sells cards that hold QR codes that provide instant downloads of his music to a cell phone—no subscriptions, app or technical know-how needed.

"There are two steps," Novikov said. "Step one, scan the code. Step two, enjoy the music."

"I sold a million CDs over 35 years, but CDs ended three years ago," Novikov said. "But I am convinced that people still have a need for something physical. It's a

perfect way to give music as a gift. The QR codes provide a bridge between my piano playing and the online world."

Novikov's musical cards are sold at the Scented Garden and online at speakingmusic.com. His playlists include popular music, Broadway tunes, classical music, Russian folk songs and his own compositions. At St. Cecilia's, Novikov played Chopin and Billy Joel's jazzy "New York State of Mind."

"It's relaxing piano music that's light and easy," Novikov said.

Club Vice President Cheryl Wesolowski enjoyed the performance.

"It was fantastic," Wesolowski said. "What a beautiful surprise for all the members tonight. They were spellbound!"

Novikov told the group that once, while he was playing at a restaurant in Kennebunkport, Maine, Billy Joel entered the room.

"I played Billy Joel songs for Billy Joel," Novikov said. "He has a great repertoire, so when he joined me on the bench I played for an hour and a half. Then he told me I played his songs better than he did!"

Carolyn Scibelli was among many attendees who lined up to buy Novikov's musical cards, for herself and for a friend.

"I love CDs, but I have to get modern. Now I'm on the cutting edge," Scibelli said.

Marie Bienvenue bought three cards as well as an as-



Sandy Polom of The Scented Garden Gift Shoppe set up a pop-up holiday boutique at St. Cecilia's church.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Pianist Sergei Novikov emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States at age 21.

Wilbraham Womens Club Holiday Floral Arrangement

WILBRAHAM - Join the Wilbraham Women's Club on, Thursday Dec. 11.

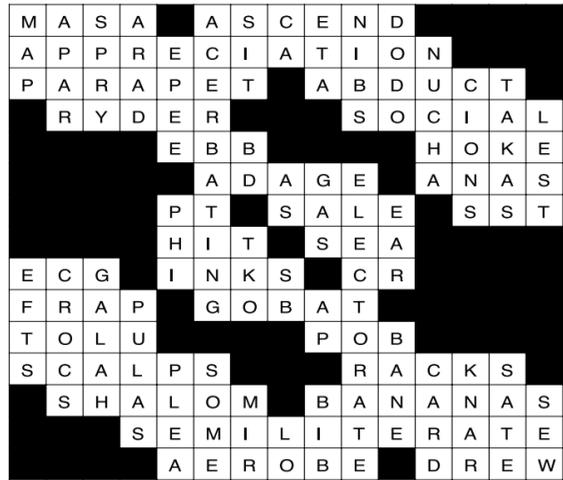
Mark Giza will create six beautiful arrangements to be raffled off. The Christmas season is upon us so why not learn how to make your home festive for the season.

We have extended a warm welcome to neighboring clubs to join us.

Please note there is a \$10 guest fee.

Please call Bobbi-Lee Nelson for guest reservations at 413-427-9351. In addition to the meeting, we'll be collecting women's and children's clothing for Christina's House. Please check our November newsletter for the sizes.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Is Social Security really a 'good deal?'

Dear Rusty:

You've said in the past that most people recoup their SS contributions within five years of starting benefits, thus Social Security "is an exceptionally good deal."

Your calculation is correct but misleading; if it were not, SS would have been insolvent long ago. I will, in fact, get "my" contributions back in about five years, but my employer's contributions will take another five years and that is money that my employer could have been paying me, so they are really "my" contributions. But even that ignores the time value of money.

I did a calculation as if my contributions, along with those of my employer, were invested in an account earning 5% per year. That would provide me the equivalent of SS income for 24 years, approximately what my life expectancy was when I retired. So, it's not a bad deal, but it is hardly exceptional. It is roughly the equivalent of me investing that money throughout my career and using the total to buy an annuity.

Of course, Social Security does have the advantage of certainty, at least until it goes broke. My portfolio would not earn a steady 5% every year, though that is at the low end of what financial managers would expect over a long period. And it does force people to save, many of whom would otherwise make no provision for retirement.

Signed: Realistic Senior

Dear Realistic:

Thanks very much for your feedback on my previous article. I think it's important to draw a distinction for SS contributions made by an employer, because that is not money the individual personally pays, but rather an obligation for employers to help fund the Social Security program.

Without that federal obligation, it is doubtful that employers would, instead, provide employees with equivalent additional compensation, so the thought that these are really your contributions is not a fair assessment. Indeed, they are contributions which happen to be tied to your earnings level (to a cap), for which employers receive relief on their corporate income tax and likely would not make if not required by law.

As you have noted, Social Security has the advantage of certainty, something which is lacking when it comes to investing the equivalent amounts in the financial markets. And, as you have hinted, there

exists a substantial failure by future American retirees to save adequately for their retirement, a problem well known in most financial circles. Thus, the certainty of Social Security makes it a crucial part of everyone's retirement planning and it will be there.

Despite all the angst attributed to the current financial issues facing the program, there is little doubt that Social Security is here to stay. The question is what reform is needed to make the program fully solvent for generations of future Americans? The Association of Mature American Citizens has developed a proposal to sensibly reform Social Security and avoid the currently projected 2033 date that the SS Trust Funds are expected to be depleted, which will necessitate an across-the-board cut for everyone.

We have little doubt that the reform needed will happen; it would be political suicide for Congress if it did not and hopefully soon. You can read about AMAC's proposed solution at this link by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee.

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

Again, thank you for your feedback and commentary. Please know that we very much appreciate your thoughts and are always willing to discuss these issues.

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

Wreaths and swags for one and all

For the last two weeks we've been busy decorating Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight program.

The garland, wreaths, bows and swags are all up, and the planters have been filled with greens. It was fast-paced fun, and oh so rewarding. The museum looks absolutely magical.

I filled planters side by side with a co-worker who, in her 30 plus years, has never done this part of the job with me. As we stuck greens and stood back to assess our work, it occurred to me that I've grown up making all of these decorations, like my parents before me!

I had assumed everyone else had too, but here we had Nina, who in her 60s, was at it for the first time. If you find yourself ready to make your own decorations, here are a few pointers from the archives.

My Dad was the wreath-maker in the family, and usually a post Thanksgiving walk in the woods would yield his raw materials. The wreaths he made would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break some 40 plus years ago.

One wreath would also make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right.

His approach is the same one I'll recommend today.

Start with a wire coat hanger bent into a circle and

attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

Whether this is your first attempt at wreath and swag making or you've been at it for years, enjoy this holiday ritual, just as my mom and dad did.

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

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, however, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch - that way the wreath will be good and tight.

You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper, and white pine among others will look great together because they vary in color and texture.

You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as your base - it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window!

First determine how many you want to make, then set

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Golden-crowned kinglet

A Brimfield resident sent an email to report seeing a golden-crowned kinglet on Nov. 17 in a dwarf Alberta spruce tree in front of his house.

He said, "[It was] very active, but I got to see the bright yellow crown patch."

Golden-crowned kinglets are a small bird, not much larger than a hummingbird. The male is boldly marked with a black eyebrow stripe and flashy lemon-yellow crest.

They spend much of their time high up in dense spruce or fir foliage and that is the place to find them.

Their high, thin call notes and song is often heard before catching sight of them.

The Brimfield

resident called them "very active." They can survive 40 degrees below Fahrenheit nights. Sometimes huddling together for warmth.

They breed in the far north and montane west and visit most of North America during winter. Although it used to nest almost exclusively in boreal spruce-fir forests, the golden-crowned kinglet has expanded its breeding range southward into conifer stands of the Midwest and Appalachians.

They usually raises two large broods of young, despite the short nesting season of the northern boreal forest. The female feeds her first brood only up until the day after they leave the nest. She then starts laying the second set of eggs while the male takes care of the first brood. The male manages to feed eight or nine nestlings himself and he occasionally feeds

the incubating female too.

An interesting fact about golden-crowned kinglet's is each nostril is covered by a single, tiny feather.

The oldest golden-crowned kinglet on record was a male and at least 6 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and re-released by a Minnesota bird bander in 1976.

Other Brimfield birds

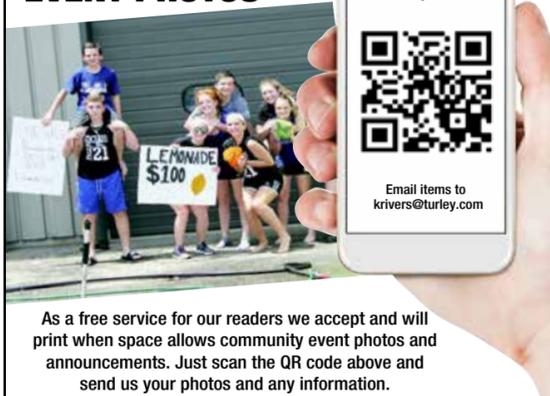
This month the Brimfield resident saw a Carolina wren flipping over leaves in his garden. He said, "'We joined the 'leave the leaves' movement and don't do a major fall cleanup to benefit the critters that survive the winter under the leave and in the other material left in the garden."

He also noticed robins and cedar waxwings in the crab apple tree in his yard. He said, "'We don't usually see these species eating the crab apples until later in the winter. Fortunately there is a bumper crop of fruit on the trees this year. A couple of robins were also on the ground searching for food and I saw one robin at some pokeberry aka, poke-weed, eating the fruit. He has not seen any water fowl at the

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13



SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS



As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.comADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.comSPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEOKEITH TURLEY
President

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www.turley.com

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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 Thursday 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 800-824-8458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Robotics team visiting Atheneum Society of Wilbraham



Submitted photo and caption Samuel Kar Kin Lam
WMS Robotics team visits Liz McEvoy and Charlie Bennett at the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham to learn about local history: (L-R) Reid Blanchard, George Lam, Joe Montano, Liam Matthews, Etienne Pelletier, Genette Fanning, Riya Kar, Liz McEvoy, and Charlie Bennett.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Engagement announced



Erica Navalance and Adam Mayer were engaged on November 16, 2025. They plan to marry on November 14, 2026 in New Orleans where they reside and where she practices as a Criminal Defense Attorney and he as a professional Chef. Their families are "over the moon" happy for them!



WFD welcomes new firefighter

Please join us in welcoming Firefighter Renee Forgues to the Wilbraham Fire Department! Over the next year, Renee will be completing her in-house training hours while also attending paramedic school.

We're excited to have her on board and look forward to the skills and dedication she will bring to our department.

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

WPD Heroes honored by state legislators



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department
The Wilbraham Police Department would like to thank our local legislators for coming by to recognize Officers Prosperi and Albericci for their honorable and valiant acts of January 20, 2024 with official proclamations from both the State Senate and House of Representatives.



Submitted photo Kate Rumpalik

Jillian Rumpalik organizes toy drive

Jillian Rumpalik of Hampden organized a toy drive in October for Baystate Children's Hospital. The toys will be there for the kids who may have to stay for a while. They were delivered to the kids the week of Nov. 17.



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

Monson Savings Bank donates lunch to HPD

Thank you to the Monson Savings Bank for the generous lunch drop off. Very much appreciated and as always an amazing part of our community.



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

HPD Chief Trombly officially retires

Last day (Nov. 26) for now retired Chief Scott Trombly. Pictured left to right: Sgt Jeff Beattie, Chief Scott Trombly, and incoming Chief Dan Bruno.



Greetings from Santa!



Submitted photo Charlie Bennett

Santa Claus was joined by his trusty elf, Layla Keefe, to greet children during the Holiday Bazaar at the Wilbraham Senior Center on Nov. 22. The biggest wishes from the children this year are Labubus and KPop Demon Hunters.

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Children, like Itham Cabral at a previous event, will enjoy attending the Christmas Tree Festival Dec. 7. (Times file photo)

Old Meeting House Museum Christmas Tree Festival set for Dec. 7

WILBRAHAM – The theme of the annual Old Meeting House Museum’s Christmas Tree Festival will be “An Old-Fashioned Christmas” set for Sunday, Dec. 7 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Festival, which will present eight Christmas Trees decorated by eight different community organizations, is free and open to the public and will feature an ice carver, hot cider, a wreath raffle and a special display on the museum’s porch with the theme “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. Every child visiting the museum that day can take home an ornament.

There will be a group of activities centered around the Twelve Days of Christmas. In keeping with the theme, there will be drums (“drummers drumming” and pears (“a partridge in a pear tree) on the tree.

If folks in Wilbraham want to experience Yuletide celebrations with an historic twist, the best place this season to enjoy a selection of theme-decorated Christmas trees is at the Old Meeting House.

The Gift Shop expects to be busy and has added staff to handle the crowds. It will be open during festival hours and offers Wilbraham memorabilia in addition to town

history books, and stationery to purchase for Christmas gifts. It is one of the few places that one can buy tee shirts, sweatshirts and hats with the name “Wilbraham” on it,” said Karen Geaghan, the Atheneum vice president in charge of the shop.

Recent product additions are Wilbraham Hill Climb tee-shirts for those who missed out on them during the Hill Climb in May and historic children’s toys.

Topping off the festival will be a festive cookie tray, a variety of desserts such as raspberry walnut and chocolate rugalach with cream cheese, peppermint bark and a selection of European cookies.

The eight different organizations who each have a Christmas tree with its own theme are Five Star Gardens, Friends of the Wilbraham Library, Karen Geaghan Photography, The Wilbraham Art League, The Wilbraham Children’s Museum, Wilbraham Flowers, The Wilbraham Garden Club, and the Wilbraham Girl Scouts.

For more information about the Old Meeting House Tree Festival, email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org or logon to the Old Meeting House Museum Facebook or Instagram page.

Town Tree Lighting set for Dec. 7

WILBRAHAM – Two traditional town organizations will once again present the atmosphere of a Holiday winter wonderland in the center of Wilbraham on Sunday, Dec. 7 to kick off the season. All that is needed will be some mood snow, says Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Tree Lighting Chairman Peter Salerno.

Prior to the Town Tree Lighting, which starts at 4:30 p.m. in Gazebo Park, sponsored by the Rotary Club, the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham will hold their annual Old Meeting House Museum Christmas Tree Festival featuring “An Old Fashioned Christmas” running at 450 Main St. from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. chaired by Trustee Marianne Wagner.

Santa Arrives

The Town Tree Lighting will feature holiday music and refreshments starting at 4:30 p.m. With the help of the Town of Wilbraham’s Fire Department, Santa will arrive at Gazebo Park around 5 p.m. on a Wilbraham Fire Engine said the Tree Lighting Chairman Peter Salerno. LUSO Federal Credit Union will provide hot chocolate and cookies for families attending the event, in addition to candy canes for the children visiting with Santa under the Gazebo.

Salerno commented, “In keeping with Rotary’s mot-



From a previous event, members of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club gather with Santa at Gazebo Park to light the Town Christmas Tree. (Times file photo)

to of “Service Above Self”, and in the spirit of the “Giving Season”, the Club will be collecting hygiene item donations at the tree lighting. Families attending the event are asked to place personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soft soap, combs and more in donation boxes at Gazebo Park. Adjacently,

Boy Scout Troop 359 will install a Nativity Scene.

Supporting the event is business owner Mark Pafumi of Pafumi’s on Main providing generous contributions of time and resources in decorating the tree and the park.

For more information about the Rotary club, contact Club Secretary Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

Town of Hampden Tree Lighting and Santa visit

HAMPDEN - Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 PM at the new Town Hall located at 85 Wilbraham Road. Santa will arrive on a fire truck and light the new tree outside the gazebo on the front lawn.

We’ll listen to carols from the Green Meadows children chorus and move inside for the kids to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Hot cocoa for the kids and coffee for the adults. PTO bake sale and a few other surprises that you don’t want to miss.

A huge thanks to Paul Marcelina and Paul Picknelly for the new lighting displays and his support of the event and to the following people and businesses for making this annual event even better. Lou’s Bagel Nook, Diocese of Springfield, East Meadow Enterprises, KSacco Electrical, Green Stone Landscaping, Springfield Thunderbirds, and Uno’s Chicago Grill.

Toy, Clothing and Food Drives to support this Holiday Season

Route 20 Bar and Grille
Saturday, Dec. 6
11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2341 Boston Road #20, Wilbraham

Donate NEW winter coats, hats, gloves etc.

Donate NEW unwrapped toys for kids ages 5 -15.

Donate and Receive a FREE pasta dinner.

Call 279-2020 to learn more.

Wilbraham Police Relief Association Staff a Cruiser
Saturday, Dec. 6
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Big Y World Class Market, 2035 Boston Road, Wilbraham



Hampden Police Dept. Staff a Cruiser
Saturday, Dec. 13
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hampden Police Department, 100 Allen Street, Hampden

New and unwrapped gifts for kids ages birth to 16 years old to be collected and given to families in need

Richard Green Insurance
21st Annual Collection of Toys for Children and Supplies for Local Senior Veterans

Stockings
Toys will benefit the I Found Light Foundation located in Springfield, MA. The gifts for veterans will be donated locally.

For our veterans, the wish list includes individually wrapped snacks, granola bars, individually wrapped hard candy, individually wrapped chocolate, mini hand sanitizers, hot chocolate packets, and puzzle or word search type books.

New unwrapped toys and veterans gifts are being collected through Dec. 10.

Hampden Office at 32 Somers Road and Monson Office located at 128 Main Street. This year we are upping the match to first \$1,500 in collected items FOR BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE VETS.

Call 566-0028 for more information.

Spartan Auto Care
Collecting toys through Dec. 10 for I Found Light Against All Odds

New, unwrapped toys in lobby.
Open Monday through Friday a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

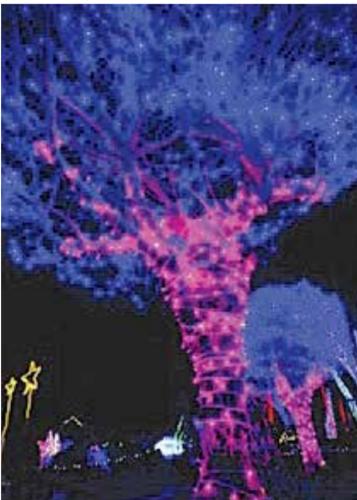


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GRAB AND GO from page 1

Maddie Moriarty, the daughter of HSC Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty, stopped by to volunteer during the event.

"It's always nice. They put on such great events here and I think it's so nice to give back to the community. Some people are lonely at this time of year and it's very sad, so just to be able to put a smile on people's faces and give them some food for the holidays is just beautiful," Moriarty said.

Moriarty was proud of the work her mom and the senior center staff did, as 250 meals were given out this year, adding she's thankful for her mom, her family, health and the community.

"The number, I think, says it all. 250 people is pretty spectacular," Moriarty said.

She also encouraged young people to volunteer this holiday season.

"I think especially for our seniors in the community. They paved the way for us, so to give back to them is really important and to be connected with your community is really important too, so any way you can give back and be part of the community and make connections is perfect," Moriarty said.

Lil Fedora helped her fellow volunteers organize and give out the meals as people arrived, sharing she's thank-

ful for good health, family and friends and the senior center.

"The group effort of all the volunteers, we had everything packaged and ready to go and everyone was just so happy as they were coming through the lines and wishing us Happy Thanksgiving as we did for them," Fedora said. "It was just a great day, it was so good."

Fedora praised the volunteers who help out at the senior center.

"The volunteers here are just awesome. Everyone works together, whatever you need, you just ask and that volunteer is right here," Fedora said. "That's what I like the best. We have a great senior center here in Hampden, I think it's one of the best."

Jim Dupuis was back on traffic duty with his signature turkey hat, expressing happiness that so many people received a meal. He's thankful for life, hanging out with friends and family as his daughter just had another baby on Oct. 16, so he now has two granddaughters.

"I enjoy doing this every year. This is like my third or fourth year doing it and it's good to see people, happy faces, they're smiling. Everybody's in the spirit of Thanksgiving and wishing each other Happy Thanksgiving. Everybody loved my hat!" Dupuis said. "I represented the senior

center as the turkey of the day!"

Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles said this year's Thanksgiving Grab and Go was the biggest one the senior center "has ever done to date," adding they increased the number this year to help those in need.

She's thankful for family, her work at the senior center, the Times and giving back to the community.

"People are always very appreciative. I check people in as they're coming through the line, they're always very grateful and that just makes all the hard work worth it when you see the people that they are very happy, very appreciative," Cowles said.

Cowles said some meals were also delivered too.

"Which is obviously very helpful to a lot of people that could not get out here to get them, so they appreciate that as well and we have volunteers that help with that," Cowles said. "Lots of volunteers to help pull this off, lots of sponsors to help pull this off. 250 free Thanksgiving meals with everything from cranberry sauce, gravy, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, dessert, napkins, a lot of people contributed to it. So, it takes a village."

The message was this.

"It was an awesome event. We really appreciate everybody's support and we look



Jim Dupuis with his signature turkey hat.



The Thanksgiving meal trimmings ready for preparation.



Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles checks in an attendee.

forward to doing it again next year," Cowles said.

Moriarty also encouraged the community to support the senior center, thanking the volunteers and sponsors for supporting the event.

"Come to the Hampden Senior Center, see all the amazing opportunities that they have for anybody of all ages. They're giving back and that's the best thing that they can do, especially at this time of year," Moriarty said. "Support the things that are going on in your town, be thankful and support."

CONTRACT from page 1

"As a taxpayer and a parent in Wilbraham, I can't imagine a better use of funding than for our educators and staff. I'm appalled and embarrassed for our town that our teachers are working without a contract. It's unacceptable," Konkoly read. "Our educators are the backbone of our community. They deserve fair, competitive wages and strong benefits that truly reflect the value of their work. I hope you will keep this in mind as you move forward."

Another comment noted how "the economy is not great right now," but the offers by the district "have been woefully inadequate and well below the inflation level."

"These teachers devote their lives to children. The least you can do is devote a little more to them," Konkoly read.

Darcey Walulak, an eighth-grade teacher at Wilbraham Middle School, also read petition comments, including one from a former paraprofessional.

"I think it's cruel and unfair that livable wages cannot be provided to the educators

in the district. I moved out here and took a huge pay decrease when I started working for HWRSD. It was unlivable," Walulak read. "When I became pregnant and had absolutely no paid time off for my leave, I made the decision to leave the school district, a very clear one."

The comment also said the former paraprofessional now works for "a school district that pays significantly more and cares about their employees."

Another comment Walulak read said, "We need to do better."

"I take pride in being a Wilbraham resident and being able to raise my children in this community. Treating our teachers like this is shameful. The work they do is invaluable," Walulak read.

The next one she read said, "We need our teachers to have a fair contract. We have some of the best. Don't we want to keep them here in our district."

Final comments also noted parental leave as stated earlier and showing educators respect for "the incredible work that they do every day."

The Petition

The petition in question reads as follows, provided to the Times by Konkoly.

"I urge you to immediately settle a fair contract with the Hampden-Wilbraham Education Association. The towns in our region can afford to settle a contract that pays fair wages to teachers and starts to move paraprofessionals toward a living wage. Our educators deserve access to paid family leave, which must be established in a contract as municipal employees are exempt from the state law mandating paid family leave," it reads. "Fair wages and working conditions will allow the Hampden-Wilbraham school district to attract and retain the best possible educators to work in our schools. Our

schools are losing qualified educators to other districts and other professions that pay better. The work of educators is more complex and demanding than ever. For the benefit of students and communities in the district, it is time to settle a fair contract with educators."

Konkoly also shared the petition was sent electronically on Nov. 23 and had received 600 signatures.

School Committee Responds

On Nov. 25, School Committee Chair Michal Boudreau sent the following press release to the Times on behalf of the School Committee.

"The HWRSD School Committee remains com-

mitted to reaching a fair and sustainable agreement with our educators. A majority of our members are current or former Massachusetts Teachers' Association union members, and all members of the Committee are deeply committed to supporting educators and students and have great respect for the work our educators do," it reads. "The HWEA has said that 'our students deserve schools that are properly staffed and have the resources and programs to meet their needs.' We agree. To provide that responsibly, we must balance competitive compensation with the district's financial realities. Our offers reflect regional settlements and the fiscal capacity of our communities. Going significantly beyond our cur-

rent position would likely require staff or program reductions, which would harm students and increase workload for educators."

It ended with this.

"Our goal has been to settle these contracts quickly so we can provide well-deserved raises and keep the district focused on teaching and learning. We recognize that prolonged negotiations create uncertainty for staff and families. Both parties have concluded that we are at an impasse and have jointly requested mediation," it reads. "We will participate fully and in good faith, with the shared goal of reaching an agreement that supports educators, protects students, and remains financially sustainable for both communities."

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS..... \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... \$16.99 ea	
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TAX HEARING from page 1

15.09. Right now, an estimate for fiscal year '26 is 15.76. That's about a 4.4 increase or 67 cents increase from last year," Ferrantino said.

On the impact to the taxpayer, Ferrantino said the average single-family tax bill "will increase from approximately \$6,322.71 to \$6,954.43."

"This is about an annual increase of \$631 and that's about a 10% increase for the annual tax bill (on) a single-family home," Ferrantino said.

Chair John Flynn brought up how, at the Special Town Meeting earlier this month, he thought "that we were projecting by doing some of the transfers and the no actions,

we were hoping to get to an 8% increase," which Ferrantino affirmed was correct.

"What do you think might have affected that?" Flynn said.

"Some has to do with the overlay did increase. There was an increase, had to be put on there and that was done with the Veterans exemptions. That got added on to that," Ferrantino said. "And then there is an ATV case ongoing right now, so we had to add some to the overlay."

Flynn recalled the projection was a \$40,000 increase due to the Veterans exemptions, which Ferrantino said was correct, adding it might have been \$45,000.

"We were also concerned looking at the free cash that came back, that there seemed

to be a little more holdback on the free cash recap for unpaid taxes. Typically, I noticed going back a few years, it was \$400,000 and we saw the number had bumped up to \$600,000 this year against our free cash," Flynn said. "And I wonder if that's concern that also affects the overlay as well, uncollected or, potentially, more requests for abatements because of people's concerns."

Charest explained the assessors "try and include that when we're projecting what we think we're going to need—the overlay—for the year."

"We anticipate abatements and then we're really giving our best estimate about what we think. We may have some for liability for that lat-

er on and then, like you said, of course, the unpaid or uncollectible taxes that come through. We have a little bit in there already that we could use for that," Charest said.

"But, it does bring up a concern. A) We're talking about another substantial, potential increase, and if we're seeing that type of trend in the prior year, is this going to exacerbate it a bit going forward? We certainly hope not, but it does show that is there a limit we're potentially approaching with we have to really tighten the belts more," Flynn said. "So, just an area of concern."

Selectboard Member Don Davenport asked if this doesn't include the fire station exclusion.

"That's going to come

down the road at some point? It doesn't go into the tax rate..." Davenport said. "You're saying it's going to increase the average house is going to increase like \$600. So, it would be \$600 plus whatever that is. But that's not until it comes down the road, right?"

"Correct," Ferrantino said. "It wouldn't be in the tax rate's exclusion," Davenport said. "So, it could be \$600 plus \$400 could be \$1,000 and whatever the bond is."

On Barago, Ferrantino said she hadn't heard anything from them but can get in touch with them on this.

"I did give everything to Rose Riley, all of my documentation, but I haven't heard anything about a hearing date or anything like that,"

Ferrantino said. "I probably will want an update soon, but sometimes nothing, hearing from them, is good."

After Davenport wondered how much they wanted back, Charest elaborated on this.

"What happened there was there was numbers that were submitted and the state allows us to accept what they submit as the value," Charest said. "They are saying that that number was incorrect, and so they're trying to re-coup."

After an overview of the four votes and what scenarios would occur, the motions were voted on.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Sadie!



Sadie is a two-year-old golden doodle who lives with her mom and dad in Wilbraham. She loves playing outside, going for walks and car rides. She is such a snuggle bug and gives the best hugs and puppy kisses to all!

ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.

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Four Myths About Dogs

(Excerpted from Katherine Heigl, Badlands Ranch)

Dogs are so sweet, funny, and lovable. But there are a lot of "interesting" beliefs about dogs floating around that are just not true. So, let's set the record straight.

Myth #1: You can't teach old dogs new tricks. Honestly, that's completely false. Sure, older dogs may be a little more set in their ways. But just about every dog I've ever met can be won over with patience, positive reinforcement and lots of tasty treats!

So whether you want to teach your senior pup to sit, roll over, or to stop barking at the mailman, I'm here to tell

you: It's 100% possible to train an older dog — it just may take a little extra time.

Myth #2: All rescue dogs are damaged in some way — there's a reason they're a rescue dog. What absolute nonsense! It's true that some rescue dogs come from pretty scary backgrounds, and if a dog has been abused, they may need a little extra care, patience, and compassion as they settle into a loving home.

But it's also true that the vast majority of rescue dogs are perfectly normal, healthy dogs who happen to have had a rough start in life. Trust me when I say — rescue dogs are the BEST. My husband and I have only had rescues

and to us they seem so grateful for being given a good home with a loving family. Just remember: When a new dog comes into your home, it's completely normal for them to take some time to get comfortable. After all, they're getting used to a new routine and a new family — and you're getting used to them.

Myth #3: Dogs only eat grass when they're sick. Well, this one's KIND OF true. Sometimes, dogs will eat grass if they need to vomit.

And if you see your dog snacking on grass more than usual — it's certainly worth checking in with your vet. But a lot of the time, dogs just eat grass because it tastes nice to them — like

a fresh green salad. Especially in the spring and early summer, when the grass grows nice and fresh. If your dog is a grass-eater, just make sure they're snacking on grass that hasn't been treated with any pesticides.

Myth #4: Dogs only see in black and white. Now, it's true dogs don't see a full range of colors the way you or I do but they can see certain colors. For dogs, blues and yellows are the most prominent colors in their vision, where reds and greens may look more grey or brown to them. It's no wonder that blue frisbees and yellow tennis balls are so darn popular with pups, for them, they really are eye catching!

SPORTS

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Chaug hosts annual alumni game



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Last Friday morning, a post-Thanksgiving tradition continued as more than 50 Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer players gathered to take part in the annual Alumni Game hosted by former coach John Ingalls at the Wilbraham Soccer Club fields next to Wilbraham Middle School. Despite a very cold morning, there was no shortage of players available for the game.



Maggie Joyce makes college decision

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Currently there is only one member of the Seton Hall women's cross-country team from Massachusetts. The Pirates will have at least two harriers from the Bay State next year.

The newest member of the Seton Hall women's cross-country team is Minnechaug senior Maggie Joyce, who made her college decision official during a signing ceremony, which was held in room A219, on November 24.

"I've been looking forward to this day for a long time and it's very exciting," Joyce said. "I hadn't really thought about attending Seton Hall until the head coach saw my times on a recruiting website and reached out to me last summer. I began looking at the school a lot more and after making an official visit, Seton Hall became my number one choice."

The Seton Hall women's cross-country team is coached by Jacob Simon, who recently completed his first season at the private Catholic University in South Orange, New Jersey. The Pirates, who compete at the Division 1 level, are members of the Big East Conference.

Before arriving at Seton Hall, which is his alma mater, last spring, Simon was the cross country coach and an assistant track & field coach at Southern New Hampshire University. He has also



Turley photo by Tim Peterson

Maggie Joyce is gathered with friends after signing her letter of intent to run cross country at Seton Hall

coached at the University of Florida, New Jersey City University and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Sophomore Margaret O'Connell, who graduated from Durfee High School in Fall River, was the only member of this year's Seton Hall women's cross-country team from Massachusetts.

"When I made my official visit at the beginning of October, I met the girl from Massachusetts on the team," Joyce said. "It's going to be a lot of fun being a member of the Seton Hall cross-country team. The school is also very close to New York City."

Joyce is the second student-athlete from Minnechaug to attend Seton Hall during the past five years. Kylie Ray recently completed her sophomore season as a member of the Pirates wom-

en's soccer team.

"I really don't know Kylie Ray very well," Joyce said. "But I think it's pretty cool that we're both going to be playing a sport at the same college three hours away from here."

A year ago, Joyce, who lives in Wilbraham, watched Noelle Hisgen, signed her Letter of Intent to join the women's cross-country team at Keene State, which is a Division 3 school.

"It was really cool watching Noelle sign her letter last year," Joyce said. "Especially knowing that I would probably be doing the same thing this year."

Joyce is planning to study business in college, but she hasn't finalized her major yet.

"I haven't chosen my major yet, but I'm leaning towards business," she said.

"There are a lot of opportunities in business and it's something that really interests me. I'm taking a lot of AP classes."

Maggie and her older sister, Kalli, were teammates on the Lady Falcons cross-country for three seasons.

"Being on the same team with my older sister was a lot of fun," Maggie said. "It gave us an opportunity to bond a little more. We're planning to run a half marathon together in Colorado next spring."

Kalli Joyce, who attended the signing ceremony, is a freshman at CU-Boulder but isn't a member of their cross-country team.

The main reason why Maggie decided to join the Minnechaug girls' cross-country team as a fresh-

Please see **JOYCE**, page 12

Students chosen for sports ambassador program

Woburn, MA - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation / Bay State Games is proud to announce the 80 selected high school student-athletes who

reer and education opportunities available in the world of sports" said Kevin Cummings, Bay State Games Executive Director. "This class of ambassadors represents the next generation of leaders in sport from across Massachusetts. We are excited to support them as they help inspire participation in the Bay State Games and lay the foundation for their future careers."

The 2025-2025 Ambassador program kicked off on November 2 with a statewide Ambassador Summit at the Natick Armory, hosted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Ambassadors from across the state participated in the program that included a fitness warm up and team building exercises, a panel discussion on the college athletic recruiting process and an address from motivational speaker, philanthropist, athlete and race director Dave McGil-livray.

The Ambassador term began in October 2025 and runs through July 2026. Among local student-athletes selected, McKenzie Casey of Quabbin Regional, Kendall Placzek and Richard Hale of Minnechaug Regional, Logan Millet of Ware, and Madelyn Moreau of Monson.

The Ambassador Program helps expand statewide awareness and impact of Bay State Games programs while mentoring high school students on the ca-

SPORTS

T-Birds fall in shootout against Islanders

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (5-10-2-2) caught an unfortunate break on a late game-tying goal in regulation before falling, 3-2, in a shootout to the Bridgeport Islanders (7-10-1-1) before a sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night.

For a second straight night, the Islanders' first period excellence came to the forefront, and the visitors picked up the lone goal in the first on a weird and painful sequence. Forward Eetu Liukas was in the wrong place at the wrong time when a Sean Day point shot struck him under the visor, forcing him down to the ice injured. As Liukas lay near the crease, Liam Foudy arrived at the loose puck and fired it off the post behind Georgi Romanov. However, Liukas turned out to be in the right place as

the puck glanced off the iron, then off his leg, before finding its way across the line at 13:16 for the first goal of the game.

Henrik Tikkanen made his season debut in the Bridgeport goal crease and proved to be tough to beat through the first half of the game, but Springfield's shorthanded group finally solved the tall Finn at 9:49 of the second as Hugh McGing moved down the left wing and fired a sneaky, short-side shot past the netminder, tying the game, 1-1, on the T-Birds' second shorthanded goal in as many days.

Romanov kept his game elevated throughout a busy second period, as he successfully turned away all 14 Bridgeport shot attempts to keep his team deadlocked heading into the final period. The tight checking con-

tinued in the final period, with Springfield's forecheck continuing to work over the Islander defense. Eventually, they broke through at 9:55 of the third with Juraj Pekarcik finding his way to the low slot and firing a shot upstairs past Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage.

The T-Birds' power play missed a chance to add insurance, and the one-goal margin carried into the final two minutes. With Tikkanen on his way to the bench for an extra attacker, Luke Rowe uncorked a blistering slapper from the left point that glanced off the underside of the crossbar, beating Romanov to tie the game, 2-2, at 18:11. For the second time this month, the division rivals went to overtime.

Springfield carried much of the play in overtime, but Tikkanen answered with five

stops, and the T-Birds failed to strike on a 4-on-3 advantage in the last 1:31 of overtime after Rowe committed a tripping infraction.

With the game coming down to a shootout, Matt Luff got Springfield off on the right foot, beating Tikkanen to begin the festivities, but Chris Terry and Matt Maggio both connected against Romanov, while Matthew Peca and Nikita Alexandrov could not solve Tikkanen. Springfield, despite the bitter defeat, extended its point streak to five straight games, going 3-0-1-1 over that stretch.

The T-Birds are back in action next Friday in Hartford for another meeting with the Wolf Pack inside PeoplesBank Arena. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. to begin the three-game weekend.



This week in recreation

Alex Soares,
Recreation Clerk

WILBRAHAM - With the cold weather rolling in, the feeling of snow in the air, and Thanksgiving already in the rearview, it's starting to feel like we're officially shifting into the holiday season here at WPRD.

While many spent Thanksgiving week preparing for family gatherings and great food, things were full steam ahead for us as the department prepared for two big events: the Friends of Recreation (F.O.R.) Celebrity Bartender Night at Pafumi's and the Play for MKJ Turkey Day Jamboree.

The F.O.R. Celebrity Bartender Night was a huge success, with a packed house from start to finish. The energy was great, and it seemed like

everyone was enjoying themselves. A huge thank you to Pafumi's for opening their doors to us on Thanksgiving Eve. The event raised an impressive amount of money to support the many causes that F.O.R. contributes to, and we're grateful for everyone who came out.

After wrapping up Wednesday night's festivities and taking Thursday to enjoy Thanksgiving, we hit the ground running again on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with our big basketball weekend. We had a huge turnout, hosting over 100 teams across five courts and four different venues. The Jamboree was once again a huge success.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. NOTE: To register for all of our programs and for more information, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

Owls win tip-off tournament

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University senior guard Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug HS) scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the championship game to lead the Owls to a 75-66 win over Albright (Pa.) College to win the 2025 Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament at the Woodward Center on Saturday afternoon.

Williams was named as the tournament MVP.

The Owls improve to 4-1 on the season, while Albright is now 1-4.

Williams was one of five Owls players to score in double-figures. Mya Silveira (N. Smithfield, RI) tied her for the team lead with 12 points, Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas) netted 11 points with eight steals, six assists and four rebounds, Grace Wigington (Lenox, Mass./IMG Academy) scored 10 points and Sophia Rockwood (Windsor, Vt.) also added 10.

Williams helped the Owls jump out to a lead that extended to as many as 16 points on a Williams 3-point-er with 5:02 left in the first half, with Westfield holding a 43-32 lead at halftime.

In the fourth quarter Albright ground away at the Owls lead, trimming it to as few as four, 68-64 on a Julia Zakovitch jumper in the paint with 4:03 left in the game. Westfield struggled to score late, but boosted the lead back to six, 70-64 on a steal by Berthiaume and layup from Wigington with 1:44 left and the Lions were forced to foul down the stretch. Westfield canned five of six free throws in the final two minutes to seal the win.

Chrisdin Jones (Bowie, Md./Riverdale Baptist) led Albright with 20 points and 14 rebounds. 6-2 center Orianna Edmond (Lancaster, Pa./Hempfield) added 16 points and eight boards.

Westfield forced 38 turn-

overs from the Lions, and were plus-13 in the turnover game. The Owls connected on 10 of 38 three pointers, with more made three point field goals than in their previous two games combined.

Williams' 18 rebounds were a career high for the 5-4 guard. She grabbed 17 in a game against Coast Guard as a first-year player in the 2022-23 season. It was the fourth game this season with double-figure rebounds for Williams, who is averaging 12.6 boards per game.

Westfield avenged an 89-74 loss at Albright from last season. The Pennsylvania school was a late addition to the Owls' schedule in 2024-25 when they lost several games from the schedule just before the season began. The Lions returned the favor of the long trip by coming to the Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament this season.

JOYCE from page 11

man was to make some new friends.

"I didn't start running until my freshman year of high school. I just wanted to meet some new people," she said. "I used to do Taekwondo when I was younger."

The first time that Joyce won a cross-county race was at home against Valley North Division rival Ludlow as a freshman.

"Our home course, which is 3.1 miles long, is fast, and I've gotten used to running it during the past four years," Joyce said. "There is one hill at about the two mile point. Other than that, it's flat."

She also qualified for the state championship meet, which was held at Ft. Devens, for the first time that season.

The following season, the Lady Falcons qualified for the state meet as a team for the first time since 1999.

"It was a lot of fun qualifying for the states as a team for the first time when I was sophomore," Joyce said. "I had qualified for the states as an individual as a freshman and I told my teammates all about the experience."

Minnechaug also qualified for the state meet as

team during the past two seasons.

This fall, Joyce finished in second place in Western Mass. Class A meet, which was held at Stanley Park in Westfield on October 26, with a time of 19:35.73. Northampton junior Mairead O'Neil finished in first place (18:37.11)

On November 8, Joyce finished in sixth place (20:16.16) at the Division 2 state championships at Northfield Mountain.

A week later, she capped off her outstanding high school cross-country career at the Division 2 All-State meet at Ft. Devens. She placed 20th with a time of 19:48.25.

The Minnechaug girls' cross-country coach is Joe Hegarty.

"It has been amazing watching Maggie compete during the past four years," Hegarty said. "When she first joined the cross-country team as a freshman, I don't think Maggie knew how good of a runner she would be. Maggie's dedication, determination, focus, and toughness made her a very good runner. She's very focused and goal oriented. Cross-country is a difficult sport because you only have

about twenty minutes to perform your best without any timeouts."

Joyce is one of the seven seniors listed on the Lady Falcons 2025 cross-country roster. The other seniors are Noemi Fraga, Margaret Fulton, Hannah Luff, Arianna Morales, Katelynn Pronovst, and Carly Tranghese.

Joyce is also a member of the Lady Falcons indoor and outdoor track teams. She broke the school's record in the 1000 meters at the Division 3 Indoor track championships as a sophomore. As a junior, she broke the mile record during the outdoor season.

"Seeing my name on the board after I broke the records is very exciting," Joyce said. "Breaking the records were one of my goals."

Maggie's biggest supporters are her parents (Dan & Kirstin), her grandpa (Mike), and older sister.

"My family has been very supportive of me," Maggie said. "They've attended all of my races during the past four years, and it has been a lot of fun."

The Joyce's will be making a lot of trips to New Jersey during the next four years.

MIAA sets deadlines for finalized schedules

FRANKLIN — The 2025 Schedule Commitment Deadline and Process Reminder that the MIAA winter schedule commitment deadline is Friday, Dec. 19 for basketball and ice hockey. After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played.

After the Dec. 19 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered final.

Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline, MIAA staff will produce and publish schedules for each sport based on the available data for review and verification by member schools. Below is the breakdown for 2025-26 school year:

WINTER 2025-2026

- First contest date: Thursday, Dec. 11
- Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Dec. 16
- Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, Dec. 19

SPRING 2026

- First contest date: Thursday, Mar. 26 (Monday, March 23 for Spring Golf)
- Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Mar. 31
- Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, Apr. 3

Stuff a Cruiser Dec. 6

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Police Relief Association will be holding its annual Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Big Y located at 2035 Boston Road in Wilbraham.

They will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped gifts for local families in need. More information to follow.



Superintendent Award

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - John A. Provost, Ed.D., Superintendent of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District is pleased to announce that Minnechaug Regional High School seniors Aidan Dzierwinski and Connor Seymour, have been selected to receive the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award. This award is given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers.

Aidan's current GPA is 4.74. He is Captain of the Varsity Football Team, Co-President of Mathletes, Communications Officer for Class of 2026, and a mem-

ber of The National Honor Society Emerald Key Chapter. Aidan's post-secondary education plan is to attend college and major in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Connor's current GPA is 4.74. He is Co-President of Mathletes, member of The National Honor Society Emerald Key Chapter, International Club, and Canine Club. He plays soccer year-round for New England Futbol Club. After graduating from MRHS, Connor has committed to Bates College for soccer, and plans on majoring in Political Science. After his four years at Bates, he plans on attending law school as he is interested in Corporate Law.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club (TTBB), accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Raymond Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2026 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 5, at Christ The King/Epiphany Church on Main Street in Wilbraham at 7 p.m.

Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter and culminate with two concerts in the spring, one in Wilbraham and one in Longmeadow. Drury has chosen an eclectic and compelling pro-

gram, consisting of classical pieces, contemporary works, folk songs, pop tunes with a few surprises along the way.

While no auditions are required, singers should be able to sing a tenor, baritone bass part independently and comfortably within the context of traditional 2, 3 and 4 part choral music. A modest fee will be imposed to cover the cost of sheet music.

For more information, please visit us at Wilbraham Choral Society on Facebook. Hope to see you there!

Candlelight Concert Dec. 18

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church of Hampden, MA, is hosting a free Candlelight Christmas Concert that is open to all.

The concert will be held on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 590 Main Street. The concert will fea-

ture a variety of musical talents performing songs of the season in a candlelit venue at this beautiful and historic New England church. Come relax, unwind, and celebrate the season and your Christmas spirit with "A Little Taste of Christmas"!

Shop Till You Drop is back

HAMPDEN - Our annual fundraiser is back! Great gifts for everyone on your gift list are available at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St.

Open for shopping on Monday Noon to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and

Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon.

Don't delay, sale ends Dec. 24!



FOOD DRIVE from page 1

the things that the Knights do together. We work hard, but we have fun while we're doing it," Hegarty said.

He also credited Big Y for delivering all supplies to the parish hall the day before and everyone from the store manager to the various departments helped organize everything.

"Just all the employees that we deal with over there, the meat department, the grocery department, assistant managers, Everyone is on board with this food drive and with our food drive for Easter," Hegarty said.

George Reich was one of the Knights volunteering during the food drive and said, "it's a nice thing to do."

He explained how this is one of many things the Knights do for the community throughout the year, including the Community Survival Benefit Dinner—which took place last month and he chairs—the Coats for Kids Drive, the Freethrow Competition held in January and the Annual Scholarship 5K event to raise money for scholarships for high school seniors.

"We do things like that throughout the year and we have fun doing it. It's hard work, we have fun doing it, but in the end it's the right thing to do," Reich said.

Reich encouraged fellow Knights to get involved in any and all events the organization does.

"We're a Catholic men's organization, so we welcome all Catholic men. We meet the third Tuesday of every month and anybody wants to see what we do—any Catholic man wants to see what we do—come to our dinner,

come join us, we welcome you," Reich said.

Lucy Ramos, the executive secretary of the Diocese of Springfield's Latino Ministry, came by to pick up boxes and turkeys that will be supporting local families. She reflected on serving others and outreach "without knowing" since she was little because of a child named Champ.

"I would take stuff out and measure him up for my brother's items and shoes and backpacks," Ramos said. "That's how it started, not knowing that's that what I was doing and when I became a parish secretary, (it) became very real. I just had the heart to want to always serve to make a difference, to help."

Ramos shared the Knights—who she affectionately calls "My Mighty Knights"—were one of the organizations that called her and it blossomed from there.

"Since then, we had a connection and they always contact me. They know what we do and all that stuff. It's a blessing, it's connected by God," Ramos said.

She added the food drive is coming at an important time this holiday season for those in need.

"I always say to them, 'Don't worry about Thanksgiving and Christmas, so you can pay your bills, pay your rent,' because a lot of people that are in need tend to do that. They sacrifice what they should put towards their bills and what have you and then come January, February, they're facing circumstances that's not a good place for them," Ramos said. "So, I sit down and not only just give them things, but help them figure out to reach out to the



Members of the Knights of Columbus 10195 pose for a group photo as they get ready to hand out and deliver Thanksgiving meals to those in need during their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



Members of the Knights of Columbus 10195 begin hauling in the turkeys.

community-at-large or other resources that could assist them with the bigger pictures

of things." Hegarty's message was this.

"I want to thank everybody. Certainly, the parishioners at St. Cecilia's who went above and beyond this year in donating," Hegarty said. "A message to the community: there are so many other organizations out there helping out with food these days because so many people need food these days, that I would encourage anybody who reads this article or is interested in helping out in the community, donate to your local food bank, donate through your church if they have a set-up for that. But give back to the community if you're able to do so."

Ramos thanked the Knights for their continued support.

"They made my able to help others much more able to do," Ramos said.

BACKYARD from page 6

local ponds he visits regularly.

Lots of bluebirds

I received an email from a reader, who said his wife saw approximately 40 bluebirds on the causeway stone-wall at Quabbin Reservoir.

Bald eagles

My daughter, Paula, took photos of a bald eagle in a field along the Ware River, on Church Street in Ware recently.

I saw a bald eagle perched

in a tree on the shore of the Ware River not far from the Gilbertville line. It may have been the same eagle.

Migrating geese

I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a small, pond along Route 32 in Ware on Nov. 15. They covered over half the pond.

Helping birds

When it is time to take the Christmas tree down, place it outside to offer shelter to birds and other critters. Some people hang peanut butter filled pine cones rolled

in birdseed or pieces of suet to provide some high energy food. Planting evergreen trees especially spruce and firs are away to attract the golden-crowned kinglets and offer a living shelter year round.

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

Evangel Assembly to host free Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25

WILBRAHAM - Evangel Assembly is delighted to open its doors and hearts this Christmas, inviting the Wilbraham-Hampden community and neighboring towns to a complimentary Christmas Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 25.

The free dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Evangel Assembly, located at 348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA. Everyone

is welcome-no registration required.

Whether you're spending the holiday alone, looking to share a meal with loved ones, or simply wanting to celebrate with new friends, you'll find a warm welcome, delicious food, and the joy of the season.

"This Christmas Dinner is our way of sharing the love and hope of Christmas with

our neighbors," said Outreach Pastor Lori Phillips. "No one should spend Christmas Day without a hot meal and the company of others. We can't wait to celebrate together."

The event is open to all ages and backgrounds. Volunteers from Evangel Assembly will serve a traditional holiday meal in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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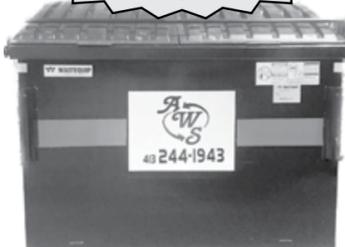
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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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 equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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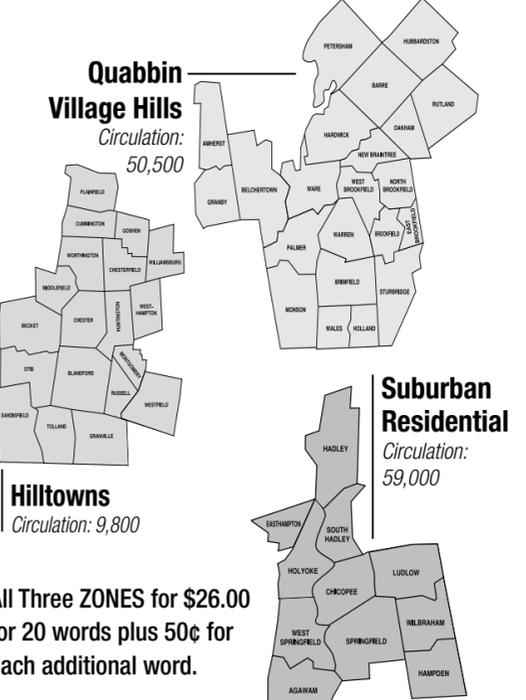
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

BAZAAR from page 1

collect toys for the children of local military veterans. Bazaar-goers stuffed the Senior Center's van with gifts.

Proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar will be used to run programs at the Senior Center.

The event was made possible through efforts of many dedicated volunteers, said Holiday Bazaar Coordinator Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary of Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Volunteers donated the baked goods and raffle prizes, set up and broke down the venue, sold raffle tickets, assisted crafters, collected toy donations and kept everything running smoothly from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Girl Scouts from Troop 11714 helped out as well.

"We are so grateful that the Senior Center allows our troop to meet here that we wanted to do something to show our appreciation," Troop Leader Betsy Lamb said.

Vendors had interesting stories to share.

Linda Butterfield of Linster Bee Designs, the "Wood-crafting Granny," said she was introduced to the craft when girls were first allowed to take woodshop at Longmeadow High School in 1974.

"It's still mostly men," Butterfield said. "But there are a lot of up-and-coming women in the woodworking world."

One new vendor at the bazaar was Potter Sandy Eaton, who displayed a wide variety of pieces, including several mischievous gnomes.

"I started making them about five years ago when there was a gnome craze," Eaton said. "I wasn't sure anybody would buy them, but they are still selling well. People either love them or hate them."

Elizabeth Sosnowich, owner of Paws-a-Tively Delectable in Feeding Hills, Mass., did a brisk business selling pet-themed items, including pillows and holiday stockings. She sells pet snacks with such names as Banana Barkscotti and Snicker Poodles.

Sosnowich's cat mats feature pouches for insertion of cat nip.

"It's like marijuana for cats," Sosnowich said. "Some of them sleep really well on the mats, others get super lively."

Debra Rollend of Wilbraham sold her book, "If I Had a Penguin for My Pet." The



String players from Old Post Road Orchestra played holiday tunes at the bazaar. From left: Linda McNamara, Elaine Gernux, Karen Pery and Jenny Peters.



Holiday Bazaar Coordinator Dee Mitchell worked as hard as one of Santa's elves to prepare for the event.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan
Sandy Eaton with her handmade pottery.



Wilbraham-Hampden Times Editor Kristin Rivers donates toys to military families. From left: Pam Sonnefeld, Rivers and Chuck Pelouze.

book came about because her daughter fell in love with penguins when she was a child. Its illustrations are based on Rollend's children and backyard and Rollend became friends with the illustrator, Sondra Rosenthal.

"It's very special and personal to me," Rollend said.

As crowds filled the Senior Center's meeting rooms and shoppers filled their bags, Santa remarked, "This is one of my favorites spots to visit in Wilbraham."

PUBLIC NOTICES



WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Jackie Sarkis for a special permit (ZBA25-11) under section 3.4.5.4 of the Wilbraham Zoning By to allow the operation of a consignment boutique on property owned by JS & GS Realty, LLC located at 5 Burt Lane 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/805666637> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 805-666-637).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chair
12/04, 12/11/2025

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 5:45 PM** on the application of Michelle Stallworth and Alexa Burke for a special permit (ZBA25-12) under section 3.4.5.3 of the Wilbraham Zoning By to allow the operation of a pottery studio on property owned by 6 Burt Lane, LLC located at 6 Burt Lane, Unit #103 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/805666637> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 805-666-637).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chair
12/04, 12/11/2025

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

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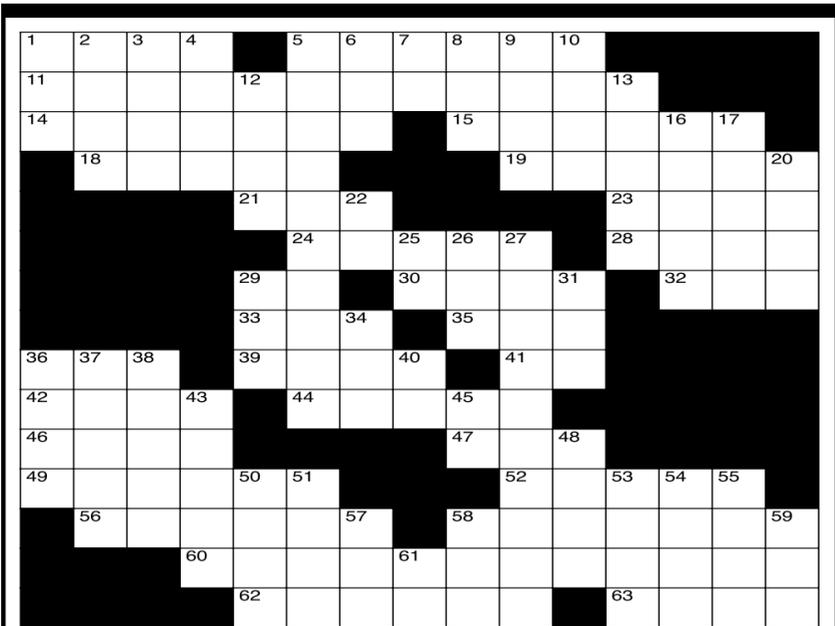
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In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.**

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour
5. Rise
11. Gratitude
14. A low wall
15. Kidnap
18. A cup golfers want to win
19. Outgoing
21. "Partner" to flow
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. Proverb
28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
29. Helps a body recover
30. Baseball Cy Young winner
32. Very fast airplane
33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water

36. Record of one's heartbeat
39. Signs a contract
41. Atomic #24
42. Bind securely
44. French Jesuit theologian
46. Fragrant brown balsam
47. Post office box
49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
52. Places to hang coats
56. Jewish salutation
58. Yellow fruits
60. Poorly educated
62. Microorganism
63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan
2. Three-banded

3. Mobile
4. Romanian city
5. Making sour
6. Take a seat
7. "The Golden State"
8. When you hope to arrive
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
13. Nape of neck
16. Problems (Spanish slang)
17. Narrow carpet
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
25. Equally
26. Traditional cars still need it
27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part
34. Referee-declared outcome
36. Means to moving money
37. Popular footwear brand
38. Cockatoo
40. NFL's big game
43. Botswana currencies
45. News-reporting organization
48. Batman villain
50. Urgent request
51. Not all
53. Hallmark's specialty
54. Knot in a tree
55. Satisfy
57. Notable space station
58. Baby's dining accessory
59. Stitch clothing
61. ___ and behold



Logan Distler
September 22, 2024

Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

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FOR FREE!

Mail to:
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Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.

Baby's Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents' Names: _____
Parents' Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____
Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

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- Barre Gazette
- Chicopee Register
- Country Journal
- The Holyoke Sun
- Journal Register
- Quabog Current
- The Register
- Sentinel
- Town Reminder
- Ware River News
- The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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Alyssa Rhodes 896-9269

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
NEW	19 Westminster St., East Longmeadow	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$299,900	
ACT	59 Prospect St., Ludlow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$289,999	
ACT	246 El Paso St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$272,500	
ACT	30 Lively Lane, Springfield	Sixteen Acres, 5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$289,900	
ACT	98 Pine Grove St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$319,900	
ACT	7 Ashbrook St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 10 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$379,900	
ACT	7 Brewster Rd West Springfield	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$625,000	
ACT	28 Decorie Dr Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$480,000	
CTG	31 Canterbury Cir., East Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$649,900	
CTG	142 Amherst St., Ludlow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$314,900	
UAG	25 Hillcrest St., Agawam	6 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$349,900	
UAG	92 Juniper Ridge Dr., Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Ranch	\$799,90	
UAG	178 Penrose St., Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch, Bungalow	\$139,900	
UAG	95 Weaver Rd Springfield, MA	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$259,000	
UAG	30 Athol St. Springfield	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$284,900	
UAG	74 Blanche St., Springfield	Sixteen Acres, 5 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$319,900	
UAG	14 Brookdale Dr., Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath Colonial	\$489,000	
SLD	58 Bennett Rd., Hampden	6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$329,900	\$351,000
SLD	19 Deerfield Circle, Hampden	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$389,900	\$439,900
SLD	61 West St., Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$290,000	\$300,000
SLD	211 Butler Rd., Monson	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$675,000	\$650,000
SLD	11 Ina St., Springfield	8 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Bungalow	\$219,900	\$205,000
SLD	53 Wood End Rd., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$275,000	\$290,000
SLD	30 Beauchamp, Springfield	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Colonial	\$289,000	\$289,000
SLD	131 Endicott St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,900	\$321,500
SLD	41 Brookside Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$499,900	\$455,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

NEW	54 High Pine Cir., U:54, Wilbraham	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	\$509,500	
ACT	140 Chestnut St., U:210, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$89,900	
ACT	140 Chestnut St., U:819, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$94,999	
SLD	88 Tall Pines Rd., U:88, Hampden	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Garden	\$424,900	\$445,000
SLD	140 Chestnut S., U:402, Springfield,	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$88,900	\$92,000

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS

ACT	3145-3147 High St., Palmer	2 unit, 10 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms, 2 Family	\$279,900	
SLD	40 Rittenhouse Terrace, Springfield	Forest Park, 2 unit, 12 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms, 2 Family - 2 Units Up/Down	\$425,000	\$446,000

LAND LISTINGS

ACT	7 Old Reed Rd., lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
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COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

ACT	599-609 Page Blvd., Springfield	3278 SqFt Mixed Use Building	\$850,000	
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

VISIT
www.publicnotices.turley.com
Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

You are cordially invited to attend the
Wilbraham Christmas Tree Lighting

a community-wide Holiday Event

Hosted by
The Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden

Please bring your donations of hygiene items (shampoo, liquid soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, etc.) which the Rotary Club will donate to local organizations serving families and individuals in need.



❄ Surprise Visitor from the North Pole at 5:00 PM ❄

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
Music & Refreshments **4:30 PM**
in **GAZEBO PARK**

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,
Media Sponsor