

EVENTS
Scouts hold wreath sale
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SPORTS
PVSOA awards banquet
Page 11



Teens with Mandy Roberge and their completed gingerbread houses they created.

WPL hosts GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING Workshops

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - With the holiday season here, the library has taken the chance to offer festive activities to kids and teens.

On Dec. 1, Mandy Roberge from Wicked Good

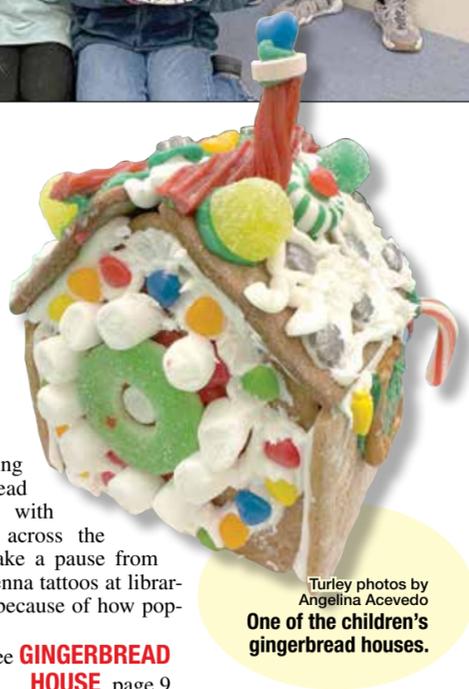
Henna helped lead kids and teens in making delicious gingerbread houses.

Both events were sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

"The holiday season, which is the entire month of December for me, is always really fun, since I get to focus

on making gingerbread houses with kids all across the area. I take a pause from doing Henna tattoos at libraries, just because of how pop-

Please see **GINGERBREAD HOUSE**, page 9



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo
One of the children's gingerbread houses.

Town boards, School Committee hold joint meeting on WMS

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - After the Wilbraham Select Board and School Committee met on Nov. 24 to discuss the options for Wilbraham Middle School, they next met with the Hampden Selectboard on Dec. 2 to bring them into the conversation.

The hour-long-plus joint meeting focused on possibly withdrawing from the accelerated repair program and applying, instead, for the core building program through the MSBA.

Both boards will decide at their respective Dec. 8 meetings on doing a letter of support for the School Committee to pursue the withdrawal.

After an overview from Selectboard Member Don Davenport and School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi, Selectboard Chair John Flynn noted, "I hate to say it, this is Minnechaug all over again."

"Even before that, we said, 'Okay, do we fix, repair Minnechaug or apply or back away from that application, apply, I think it was the Model School Program at that point,' Flynn said. "But they wanted to

push a model school and then you would get a better rate. So, it's the same argument all over again."

Flynn, however, emphasized "I don't think there's a lot to be gained by going over what could have happened eight, 9 years ago when, perhaps, this might have been the decision back then."

"I will say, personally, I think what you're talking about is the right course of action because, otherwise, you're just band-aiding it and we're going to be back in five years with more to do. But, this is the same thing we talked about—Marc will remember—when we talked about Minnechaug," Flynn said.

After Superintendent Dr. John Provost reviewed the issues at the middle school—which readers can learn about in our article on the Nov. 24 Select Board meeting in this week's edition—Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden asked about the accelerated repair program.

"Now, if we switch things and go to the core program, is that going to solve all the needs or is that just a band-aid or is it that

Please see **MEETING**, page 8

Knights present \$9,000 check to Community Survival Center

Also, updates on other events

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 presented a check for \$9,000 to the Community Survival Center during their Nov. 18 meeting.

The announcement comes after the Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner, held at the St. Cecilia Parish Center to support the nonprofit organization.

The Community Survival Center is located in Indian Orchard and helps families struggling to provide the basics of

food, clothing and household items, with their emergency food pantry supporting the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden and the 16 Acres, Pine Point and Indian Orchard neighborhoods in Springfield.

George Reich, the event chair, was ecstatic.

"Again, I want to thank all of you that helped, donated, volunteered your time. We had a very successful event, we actually had a sell-out and we now have a check—a big check—to present to the Community Survival Center," Reich said.

Reich was then joined by Christal Turcotte, the executive director of the Community Survival Center, and Financial Secretary Jim Rooney to unveil the check.

"Christal, a heartfelt thank



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Financial Secretary Jim Rooney, Christal Turcotte, executive director at the Community Survival Center, and George Reich, event chair for the Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner, with the \$9,000 check.

you for all you do. I know we work a few days on this, you do this year-round. We had a

very successful event and we raised \$9,000 for you at that event," Reich said.

During the Thanksgiving Food Drive a week later, Reich shared what was on his mind when sharing the announcement with his fellow Knights.

"I was glad. I've been involved in that for several years now and as far as I'm concerned, that's the largest check we raised from one of these dinners," Reich said. "We had a successful event, it was sold out, we had 240 seats and we sold them all and like I said, \$9,000 is the most I remember raising from that event."

There were, also, other exciting announcements on Nov. 18.

First, the Coats for Kids Drive, which received 192 coats this year and went to the following places: The Gray House got 48 coats, Lucy Ra-

mos of the Diocese of Springfield Latino Ministry got 23 coats, the Springfield Schools to Joe Silva was 14 coats, Cathedral Religious Education at St. Michael's Cathedral got 27 coats, East Longmeadow Schools to Barbara Spear got 24 coats, Paul Diemand in Northampton got 24 coats, Sue Raynor got 23 coats for the DCF and Sister Mary and Rosemary Oldread got six.

Next, John Hegarty, who chairs the Thanksgiving Food Drive, announced the planning for this year's event and how much was raised.

"This was a record-breaking year for contributions. I want to thank everyone in the room who contributed,"

Please see **KNIGHTS**, page 8

Shop Till You Drop officially underway



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Bobbi Grant with an elf hat showing off this year's treasures for the Shop Till You Drop Fundraiser to support the Hampden Senior Center.

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The annual Shop Till You Drop fundraiser event to support the senior center and its programming and activities is officially underway.

The holiday sale is from now through Dec. 24 and the hours are Monday Noon to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon.

Gifts of all kinds can be found in the senior center's Great Room from jewelry and Christmas-themed pieces to clothing and scarves and even gnomes.

Payment is by check or cash only.

Please see **SHOP TILL YOU DROP**, page 13

Minnechaug's librarian testifies at hearing on state library standards

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

BOSTON - On Wednesday, Nov. 12, Dr. Georgina Trebbe, Minnechaug Regional High School's licensed library teacher, along with other licensed school librarians across Massachusetts, testified at the Massachusetts State House on bills, S.428 and H.4207, an act relative to school library standards.

The bill was filed and petitioned for by State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and State Rep. Angelo Pupolo Jr. (D-Springfield) in hopes to set standards for school librarians across Massachusetts. Like academic teachers, school librarians would be given competencies



Turley photo by Natalie Proulx
Dr. Georgina Trebbe stands outside the entrance to the Massachusetts State House.

all students across the state of Massachusetts a more equitable learning experience and connection to proper research skills.

These competencies are based on the AASL (American Association of School Librarians) National School Library Standards also endorsed by the Massachusetts School Library Association. The basis of this bill helps enforce the equity in Massachusetts schools, requiring all schools regardless of if they're charter, public or private to hold a consistent standard in their libraries.

This bill is also supposed to make the people of the

to follow, regardless of what district they're in, thus giving

Please see **STANDARDS**, page 10

COMMUNITY

Evangel Assembly to host free Christmas Dinner 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.

Select Board, School Committee discuss WMS options

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - The Select Board and a quorum of the School Committee discussed the options for Wilbraham Middle School on Nov. 24.

Following this meeting, both boards met with the Hampden Selectboard on Dec. 2. Readers can find that story in this week's edition.

Decisions on letters of support from both boards will be made on Dec. 8 regarding whether the School Committee should withdraw from the accelerated repair program and apply to the core building program.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey explained the School Committee's Planning Committee met a few weeks prior to discuss the accelerated repair projects through the MSBA for the middle school and others, asking what the school district's plans were for the next 30 years.

"I think it triggered some discussion amongst the School Committee members and I think that's where I had left it with them and never had an answer, but didn't expect an answer either," Ducey said.

School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi shared the committee has been working on gathering data, evidence and facts "as to what do we know about the Wilbraham Middle School building."

"It doesn't appear that Wilbraham Middle School is meeting the educational needs of the students from a capacity standpoint and it

breaks down more into the design of the building and so forth," Tirabassi said.

Tirabassi noted the building was built in the 1960s and "is now up there in years," and a 2015 study showed "it seemed that every operating system in the building was at end-of-life and needing replacement or significant renovation."

An accelerated repair program, he added, can help repair a roof, windows and doors.

"That's all they can help you with and if you look at the scope of issues with the middle school, it seems like it may be more responsible to consider directing our attention towards the core building program, which is geared towards major renovations, additions, and the possibility exists—and you have to acknowledge—that it could point towards a new building," Tirabassi said. "And that harps in, I think, on Mr. Ducey's question. If we spend \$7 to \$10 million in taxpayer money doing windows and doors on that building, we're still going to end up needing to do a core project afterwards, and then it would be a total nightmare if the result at that point was that we needed a new building. We would have wasted a lot of resources doing the windows and doors."

If invited to the core program, Tirabassi explained, there's a feasibility study that can help provide further answers, while another option would be "to decide to embark on another feasibility condition study that would be very similar to the 2015 study," but that could delay

the embarking.

"Unfortunately, without even knowing for sure if we would be invited in for our application for a core project, we would have to decide to withdraw our application for the accelerated repair, to go down that pathway," Tirabassi said.

Another thing he emphasized was "it's not a pathway for just the School Committee," as for a core building program project to succeed, collaboration between the Select Board, Hampden Selectboard and the committee is needed.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost noted the educational landscape has changed since the 1960s; as you walk through the door, there's a plaque that reads "Wilbraham Junior High," as at that time, WMS was a school for seventh and eighth graders. Right now, three grades are at the school.

"Additionally, the school was built before special education was even a law, so there were no accommodations for students with disabilities, so that has an impact," Provost said.

After explaining the middle school model of the 1960s, Provost said changes in technology were another factor.

"So, to Mr. Ducey's question about whether that is going to serve us well for the next 30 years, that's not a question I can answer in the affirmative. I don't even think it's serving us well right now, to be honest with you," Provost said.

After Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources

Dr. Douglas Slaughter provided an overview of the core and accelerated repair programs and the MSBA application process, Ducey asked the School Committee questions ranging from the impact of regionalization and doing a building study beforehand to help with applying.

On the building study question, Provost said, "it has a good track record" of predicting failures that would be found and, in the four years he's served as superintendent, there was a major plumbing issue "with a pipe blowing out" that led to an evacuation of WMS, the mold issue and, now, floor issues. Also, HVAC concerns.

"We haven't been able to fully address the HVAC systems because we're running the school on equipment that can't be replaced because it's so old. So, I think that provides a lot of data that was quite comprehensive and we've seen that it's had a good track record of predicting what our failures are going to be," Provost said. "I think we have evidence that we could use for our application at this point."

When Ducey asked why they applied to the accelerated repair program given the issues and projected enrollment increase by 32% in the next 10 years according to the New England Development Council, Provost replied this.

"We felt that the direction we had from the Capital Planning Committee was to try to leverage as much money as we could through the accelerated repair for projects that were already on our capital improvement. That was the reason why we went forward

with the application, not just for the middle school, but for all the buildings," Provost said.

Chair Michael Squindo's questions ranged from how an application being invited into the core program helps with the other buildings in the district to concerns about what happens if they don't get into the core program.

"In any situation, if we were to go that route, we're delaying real needs today for a hope, and I understand the logic behind that. I think that question—I guess I raise it just because—if we don't fix the doors today and the windows today with money that may or may not be available presuming we keep going down this path, that doesn't mean that those doors and windows don't need to be repaired when we get denied for another year in the core program or two years," Squindo said. "If you do get accepted to a core program, there's a number of years before anything gets done, so what do we do between now and then to fix the issues that we have today, even if it's not the doors and windows?"

Another question he had was the School Committee's vision on not just WMS, but "what's the best educational future for our kids" overall and what will need to be done "to backfill that to get there."

"Is there a different vision that the School Committee sees and then figuring out what tools are available to us to reach that vision, or do we tweak that vision due to some pragmatic reality that

Please see **OPTIONS**, page 8



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COMMUNITY

Wilbraham SB appoints Diehl to FinCom

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Multiple candidates with interest in joining the town’s Finance Committee presented to the Wilbraham Select Board on Nov. 17.

Diane Diehl, an analytical chemist who works for a non-profit in Cambridge, was selected amongst the three candidates. Her term begins Nov. 17 and ends on June 30, 2026.

Diehl shared she will bring to FinCom over 25 years of experience in scientific research, marketing, communications and managing large teams of people and significant departmental budgets.

“I’ve been interested in serving in some capacity in town government for a long time, but with two kids it was very hard. Now that I’m an empty-nester, I’d like to be able to contribute my analytical and problem-solving skills. I’m very much a collaborative person, always seeking to ask questions and get input,” Diehl said.

Diehl, a 16-year resident of Wilbraham, has also served as president of the Falcon Youth Football Club, treasurer of the Minnechaug Music Booster Club, part of the Turf at ‘Chaug initiative and many PTOs and other sports ser-

vices clubs over the years.

“I think there’s a lot of great work that goes into it, I’ve been to some of the meetings. I know it’s a very challenging environment trying to balance budgets. I think the Committee does a really good job. I think one of the areas that I do see some improvement is just in overall communication, openness and a little bit more updates on the website, for instance,” Diehl said. “I think people in town would feel a little bit better if they had more up-to-date information at their fingertips and in talking with others of my sort of length of time in town and other families in town, I think there’s a sense of really wanting to know more about what’s going on and trying to figure out what are those ways of getting more information out to the general population.”

Mary McNally, a candidate who interviewed for the committee before, was the former town administrator of Hampden and East Longmeadow.

“My background, education and professional experience is as an attorney primarily. For a short period before I passed the bar, I was an IRS agent in Springfield and Boston offices,” McNally said.

McNally practiced law in Springfield for about 30 years, in a private practice for about

25 of those years.

Then, she spent time working with District Attorney Mark Mastroianni in his office. When Mastroianni moved on to the federal bench, McNally transitioned to the Springfield Parking Authority, where she served as its executive director for several years.

“Essentially, as executive director, you’re responsible for all the bonding, personnel, financial statements, revenue and operational expenses. That was another facet of my experience,” McNally said.

At that point, McNally was ready to retire from the practice of law and decided to enter municipal management, becoming Hampden’s first ever town administrator.

After a brief stint there, she spent nearly five years in the same position in East Longmeadow before retiring in 2023.

“The town manager’s role is obviously very much financially oriented because we have to present the budget to town council or city council each year,” McNally said.

“That involves interviewing each department to ascertain their needs and the needs of the town and try to balance those things and then present a balanced budget to the council. Then, there was obviously a lot of hiring, capital expend-

es, community preservation; all those appointments your board makes here in town are the responsibility of the manager in East Longmeadow.”

McNally said she had daily financial involvement in her various occupations dating back decades.

“I always enjoyed it and thought we were pretty successful in the venues in which we worked,” McNally said.

She also emphasized communication, noting how “there had been some projects that had been undertaken or were considered by other entities, and the board...didn’t think it had sufficient information and should have been [informed] earlier in the process about what was going on.”

“Honestly, I think communication is the thing I think could probably be improved a little bit,” McNally said. “I think that’s the biggest thing I would try to improve.”

The third candidate was Shana Vreeland, BSN, RN., who grew up in Hampden and works at a community health center in downtown Springfield as a registered nurse specialist.

“As a nurse case manager, I usually work with a lot of people who are at-risk, a lot more people who may be

Please see **FINCOM**, page 5

Toy, clothing and food drives to support this holiday season

- **Fieldcrest Brewing Company**
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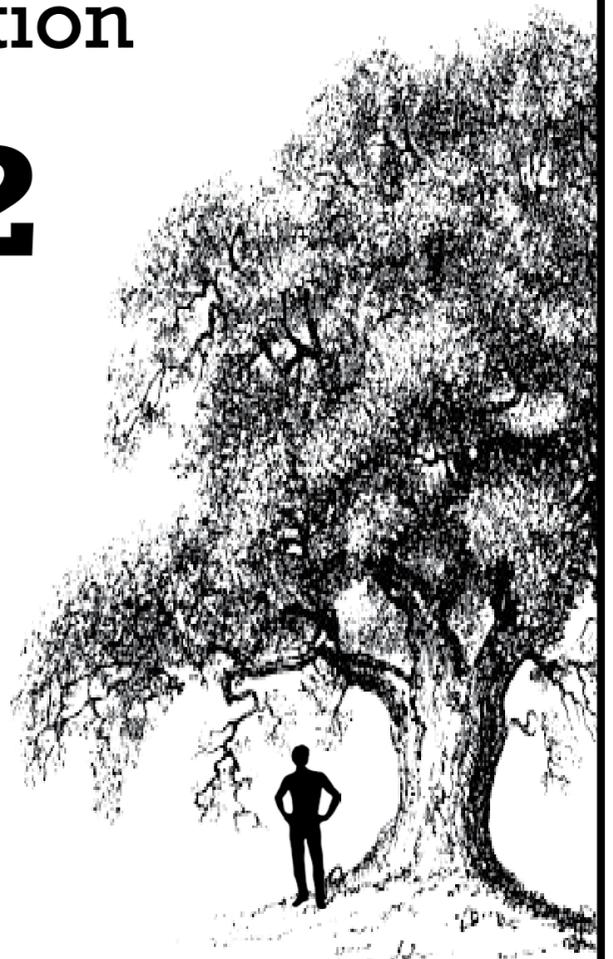
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Wilbraham Scout Troop holds Annual Wreath Sale

Submitted by
Emilie Hisgen

WILBRAHAM - Sunday Nov. 30 was a busy day for Wilbraham Troop 359 who hosted their Annual Wreath Sale at St. Cecilia's Church and followed up with assembling the Nativity Scene for the Town Tree Lighting which took place on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Gazebo Park.

A chilly morning didn't slow down the scouts as they set up displays for the beautiful wreaths, assisted customers and restocked wreaths after sales. Proceeds directly benefit the troop, but the sale also doubles as a learning experience.

Dr. Thomas Wadzinski, Scout Master for Troop 359, was excited about the sale.

"It's a great fundraiser for the troop, helps us out with just getting supplies or other stuff that helps the kids with doing different things, camping wise or trip wise. They definitely get some skills as far as how an event is organized, as well as just seeing people in the community-community contact I think is important for scouting," Wadzinski said. "They also figure out how a small business might operate, so salesmanship or other things like that kind of play into it... it's a great experience for them."

Dan Heinold, a sophomore at Minnechug Regional High School, who has been a scout for six years echoed Dr. Wadzinski's goals for the sale's proceeds.



Photo courtesy of Emilie Hisgen
Johnny Guerin adds a wreath to a display.

"We have a variety of things that we would like to do. There are some upgrades for the trailer that we want to do," Heinold said.

Heinold is also looking forward to an upcoming annual trip.

"We have a camp out in December called Fellowship and we go to a cabin, it's everyone's favorite," Heinold said.

As John Guerin watched his son Johnny make a sale and help with customers, he reflected on his son's scout experience.

"He's already gotten so much out of this organization. It's fantastic character development," Guerin said. "It's something he really looks forward to. He just loves doing

all the activities. So, it's been a game changer for him."

Wilbraham resident and St. Cecilia's parishioner Christine Peyman enthusiastically purchased two wreaths, stating that what makes these wreaths special is that "it's positive for our youth to be able to do amazing things with the funds that they receive."

The Wreath Sale was a success as all wreaths were sold.

"We just add a little bit of cheer to people's Christmas," Heinold said.

Troop 359 appreciated the generosity and support of community members throughout the morning, and, at the conclusion of the Wreath Sale, Troop 359



Members of Troop 359 are ready for the Wreath Sale. From the left, Luke Wadzinski, Dr. Thomas Wadzinski, Johnny Guerin, Thad Michael, John Guerin, Dan Heinold, Colin Paige, Perry Bechthold and Cole Michael.



Photo courtesy of Lorna Lawrence
Troop 359 prepares the Nativity Scene for the Town Tree Lighting.

headed down Main Street to Wilbraham's Town Center to set up the Nativity scene in preparation for the Town Tree

Lighting.

For more information on Wilbraham Troop 359 and their endeavors in our com-

munity contact: Dr. Thomas Wadzinski via email at troop-359.wilbraham@gmail.com or visit www.beascout.org.

FINCOM from page 3

having financial difficulties and difficulties with maybe drugs and alcohol. Getting their needs met through the regular channels that maybe they were coming to us using MassHealth, that sort of thing," Vreeland said.

On her finance background, Vreeland said she worked for 10 years as a tax accountant at Mass-

Mutual and worked with subsidiary companies locally and auditors in Connecticut.

"I enjoyed that, but at some point our unit was going to be outsourced, so I had to make a decision that I want to go upper level and get an accounting degree or did I want to help people in a different manner," Vreeland said. "So, that's why I decided to be a nurse."

She added she always wanted to do something through the town "just because I think the town is a really good town."

"I listen to my dad talk a lot about what he did for his country; he went to Vietnam and did two tours," Vreeland said. "The main thing I want to do is be able to help. I don't know if the Finance Committee is the place for me, I think I picked some other things

as well. I'd like to be able to help. I'm an open book when it comes to understanding what's going on for the Finance Committee because of having to work with auditors and whatnot, I do know that I go in and talk to somebody and have that ebb and flow, which I think that you need to have."

All three candidates shared they would be open to serving on other committees as well.

Shop Till You Drop is back thru Dec. 24

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

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We would like to extend a warm invitation to all our neighbors to join us for a holiday meal, the company of others and celebration.

Christmas Day 11 a.m. - 1p.m.

EVANGEL ASSEMBLY - 348 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham
No cost - No registration required.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

About tax filing status and Medicare

Dear Rusty:

I'm trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to "Married - Filing Jointly" prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D.

My current IRS status is "Married - Filing Single" and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I've read that Medicare will review my income two years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated.

Signed:
Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain:

Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you only, not your spouse, your spouse's Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated.

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly."

The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage.

For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare visit www.cms.gov/newsroom/

fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles.

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are re-evaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don't have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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.

Not all mountains we climb are the same

When life and mountains meet

By Julie Midura

With wind chills in the negative single digits, it was a blustery and viewless day on Mt. Pierce in the White Mountains of New Hampshire last Saturday. But our hike wasn't about the views.

It was about rising to meet the mountain. Feeling our legs burn and our hearts race. Experiencing a rush of adrenaline as we fought the intense wind above tree line. Finding our way to the very top in a cloud so dense that the snowy ground and white sky seemed as one.

Last weekend was about allowing ourselves a distraction in the face of unimaginable pain. Accepting the peace and strength that the mountains impart. Granting ourselves permission to feel joy... and not feel guilty for doing so.

It was a weekend of letting go. Allowing the mountain peaks to captivate us. Inspire us. Humble us.

After Saturday's adrenaline-racing adventure on Mt. Pierce, I was excited to see snow in the forecast for our hike on Sunday. For someone who will never stop believing that snow is magical, I felt like an excited 6-year old.

Which is why I was disappointed when we awoke on Sunday morning, looked out the window of the motel room, and saw rain rather than snow. "Maybe it will stop raining by the time we get to the trailhead," I said hopefully.

There was a heavy overcast when we arrived at the trailhead, but at least it had



stopped raining. With no illusions that we'd get a view from the summit of Mt. Cube, upward we went. And as expected, the summit was encased in a cloud. No matter. At least it wasn't raining.

We had just started making our way down from the summit when Tom said, "Well it looks like you're getting your wish!"

I was so focused on foot placement as I carefully navigated the steep, ice-covered ledges, that I didn't notice it had started snowing! I stopped, looked up to the heavens, and felt the soft cold kisses of dozens of snowflakes landing on my upturned face. Intent on lingering, Tom and I found a relatively flat ledge and laid out our sit pad.

For half an hour, we sat with our legs stretched out on the wet granite, sipping steaming hot cider from our old green Stanley thermos. Staring at the snow and ice-covered trees against the

backdrop of a ghostly sky. Watching the snow swirl and dance with each gust of wind. Feeling cold flakes lick our eyelashes. Hearing the faint whisper of flakes landing on snow-laden branches.

This moment was in stark contrast to the adrenaline rush we had experienced on Mt. Pierce the previous day... when the wind raged angrily in ragged gusts and the cold was so harsh it stung.

This was softer. Calmer. It was a reminder that, in life, we are handed both. The smooth and the rough. The quiet and the loud. And each one can hold sadness and joy at exactly the same time.

If I'm being honest, it feels wrong to find joy in these mountains when our 2-year-old granddaughter is in the fight of her life against the single deadliest form of pediatric brain cancer. But sometimes we need time to exhale. To physically distance ourselves from the pain... while still holding it in our hearts.

We're living in a season of extremes. Of conflicting emotions that are confusing to process. From the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. And it's hard to validate one, at what seems like the expense of the other.

But if this cancer journey is teaching me anything, it's that a heart can hold deep despair-and equally-deep joy at precisely the same moment.

I can be crippled by sadness one minute and smiling with joy the next. I can be consumed with fear one minute and filled with hope the next. And I'm learning that that's okay.

I'm learning to accept that peace CAN exist in the middle of chaos. We just need to open our eyes wide enough to find it.

For those who have asked about Charlotte, thank you. The monthly immunotherapy treatments are keeping her tumor stable. She is fighting like a warrior, and we are grateful for every precious moment that we get to be with her.

Onward.



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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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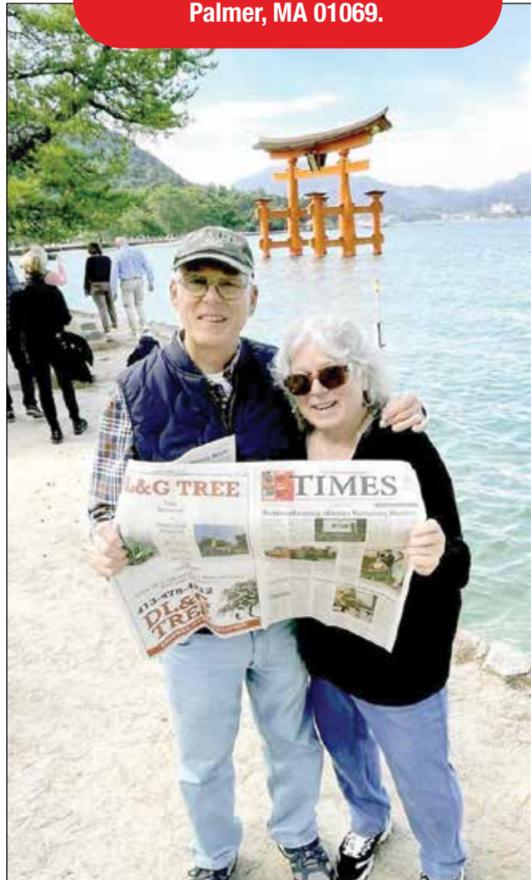
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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

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.



Submitted photo and caption Georgann and Mark Collins

Traveling Times

Georgann and Mark Collins keeping up with the "happenings" in Wilbraham while exploring Miyajima Island, across the bay from Hiroshima, Japan.

Wilbraham Fire Department responds to structure fire



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

At approximately 3:10 a.m. on Dec. 5, the Wilbraham Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 615 Stony Hill Road. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and flames coming from the second floor. Mutual aid responded from the Ludlow Fire Department, East Longmeadow Fire Department and Westover Air Reserve Base. The Hampden Fire Department provided Station coverage. Massachusetts Department of Fire Services provided the rehab unit. The fire was extinguished in about 30 minutes. There were no reported injuries, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

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



Read aloud to kids!

Submitted photo John Flynn

Selectboard Chair John Flynn visited Mrs. Chapdelaine's fourth grade class on Nov. 21 to read aloud to students.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Christmas Tree

Now that we're in December, visitors to the Wilbraham Senior Center can bask in the glow—and festive colors—of these Christmas trees to get in the holiday spirit.



A safety reminder to not drink and drive

December is a dangerous month for drunk driving. Almost 1,000 people died in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes each December from 2019 to 2023. The Wilbraham Police Department will be conducting high visibility impaired operator detection and enforcement patrols throughout the month of December thanks to the Municipal Road Safety Grant from @mass_ogr funded by NHTSA. This will allow the deployment of additional officers, specifically trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement #aride, during evening and weekend hours. Always plan for a safe, sober ride home like a ride-share, a taxi or a sober friend. Don't make us provide the chaser.

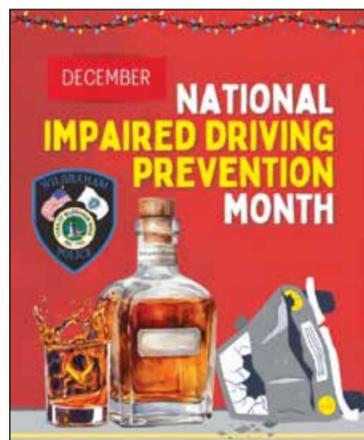


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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Grand Knight Josh Mitchell opens the meeting.

KNIGHTS from page 1

Hegarty said. "Last year, we raised a little over \$10,000. This year, \$12,044 so far. All of the money that comes in goes back out."
Hegarty said about \$1,500 in gift cards are given out by the parish as well.
"We also donate gift cards to the Diocese (of Springfield) Latino Ministry and down at

St. Michael's Cathedral. So, after the gift cards are purchased, after Big Y gets paid for the food and the turkeys, whatever's left over gets split between the Community Survival Center and the Gray House," Hegarty said. "They'll all get a check right after Thanksgiving to replenish their food pantries, so thank you all that contributed. It was a great year."



Knights members try out the chili entries.

Deputy Grand Knight Jared Demetri shared information about the upcoming Free Throw Competition on January 3, 2026.

"I do have a sign-up sheet over there and thank you to everyone that's signed up. I know it's a lot of fun. It's for boys and girls age 9 to 14, so if you know anyone in your family or extended family that is interested, please tell them about it. It's going to be in the church bulletin a few weeks prior to the event. I've contacted the superintendent's office so it will go to the Hampden-Wilbraham school system, all the kids within that age group 9 to 14," Demetri said. "I reached out to the CYO coach as well as the Wilbraham Rec Department coach, so hopefully we'll have a really good turnout."

Demetri explained the council and district rounds happen on the same day, so volunteers are encouraged to sign up so they can help keep score.

And finally, this year's An-

MEETING from page 1

you're going to be able to do redo classrooms and all that stuff or is this just kind of making it a little bit better longer versus kind of educationally as well as building-wise?" Vanderleeden said.

Tirabassi replied, "That can be up to us to decide with the state through the feasibility study if they invite us in."

"The program is competitive," Tirabassi said. "During the feasibility study, sometimes there could be a result where they say, 'Well, you could go this way, go rehab, go refurbished or you could go new building,' or they might just say, 'Go new building,' given the circumstances."

Vanderleeden agreed and said that was his concern.

"What's the cost going to be at the end of the day?" Vanderleeden said. "Obviously, that's going to be more expensive, but is it really worth it throwing away a lot of dollars for a few more..."

Flynn also asked about Hampden's responsibility for the cost of WMS.

"This is a bit of a sea change for us and I will form right out that if we, again, copied what happened at Minnechaug 14, 15 years

ago, withdrew so to speak the repair thing and then went for the full whatever program it's going to be. To me, that puts the repair part for Wilbraham Middle School off the table," Flynn said. "That building would not be part of the mix in terms of our costs. A) say they decide, as we talked about years ago, we should be building a new middle school on the campus of Minnechaug and have a campus there. Then, why would we put money into a structure that's owned by the town of Wilbraham and we'd have no involvement after that school was built? It would be tough to get our equity back."

On gutting the building and rebuilding it where it is now, Flynn said, "Maybe make that regional property moving forward."

"Again, same thing. We buy into that, I think it's a new building and that'll be our responsibility," Flynn said. "That I'd think would change where I am on our discussion about any repair, upgrade costs at Wilbraham Middle School."

When Davenport asked about board approvals, Tirabassi said a letter of support from both boards "would be a tremendous help" to the core building program application. "I heard from multiple



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Wilbraham Middle School continues to be a hot topic for the town boards in Wilbraham and Hampden and the School Committee. A joint meeting held on Dec. 2 discussed how to pursue the options on the table.

people at the MSC that one of the things they focus on is making sure both communities are on board. They don't want to waste their time," Tirabassi said.

He added after the invites, the feasibility study, plans and design, etc, this would still need to be voted on at town meetings and at the polls.

Davenport shared another problem has been the situation with the kids.

"So for six years, the kids are in a place that should have been fixed 10 years ago—right?—and there's no intention of fixing it, doing anything about it? You got kids, your asthma rate in the middle school is higher than the

state average. You got 50% of the rooms whose CO2 is too high. You got all the other problems that occur," Davenport said. "In fairness to Dr. Provost and Dr. Slaughter, they try to get the ventilation taken care of and that got shot down. I mean, so what do we do for six years while these kids are sitting there?"

Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell clarified on the ventilation that "there was no verification" that it would solve the problem.

"That's why they opted not to move forward on funding that," Bunnell said.

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo noted Davenport's concerns are similar to his comments the week before on "there are still issues at the middle school that need to be addressed."

"I don't necessarily want to object to your logic, John, but I would say I object in the sense that we can't just abandon repairs at the middle school by going through a core program. I think we can get tighter about what repairs are necessary to prevent catastrophic failure, but if the building were to be closed, where do we educate those kids? Now and whenever the situation is?" Squindo said.

Flynn agreed with Squindo, suggesting part of the solution may be "looking at the worst affected areas" and modulars.

After delving into an extensive discussion around regionalizing WMS, the ventilation concerns and revisiting past discussions on moving the eighth graders to the high school, Provost said with-

drawing from the accelerated repair program was a wise decision due to the issues that need to be addressed.

"If we were to move forward with the accelerated repair, we may find that there are more larger bills coming down the road that you can't get reimbursement for and now you're kind of locked in because of the recruitment process of the MSBA," Provost said. "Basically means that the MSBA expects you to use your building for the usable life of whatever repairs they find. So, windows and doors are 30 years, so if we move forward with that then we'd really be saying we're going to keep that building in use as some type of a school for 30 years or we'd be responsible for paying the state back the money that they gave us."

After further discussion, Davenport affirmed pursuing the core building program.

"I have to say the core program, I think, is probably what we need to do, but we need to decide how we're going to handle the five or six years of those kids that are going to be in there," Davenport said.

Flynn said he could support applying to the core building program "with a solid plan for a five-year transition" so students are taken care of and protected.

OPTIONS from page 2

we're facing?" Squindo said. "Because we're going to have an issue at the elementary schools based on projections that we're already having at the middle school, but fixing the issues at the middle school doesn't fix the issues at the elementary school."

Provost replied that they learned from the sessions with the MSBA that they

don't necessarily have to have a "fully crystallized vision for the future in order to start the process of doing (a) feasibility study" or to have a clear understanding "of what our problems are right now and what we'd like to see less of."

"Not exactly sure how we get there, that, but I like said, the MSBA process could help us figure that out," Provost said.

After further discussion,

questions and next steps, Tirabassi said this.

"If we want to do it, we want to do it right and we want to go at it 110%," Tirabassi said.

Clerk Sue Bunnell ended the discussion with this.

"I think it's completely appropriate for us to try and give you some sense. These things only happen when the communities get lined up behind it," Bunnell said.

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE
from page 1

ular the gingerbread house making event is," Roberge said.

Her personal business, run completely by herself, typically offers henna tattooing services for libraries, parties, corporate events, and festivals all across Massachusetts. However, because of the sheer amount of people interested, and the amount of gingerbread she has to make, she spends the last months of the year fully immersed in the holiday spirit.

"I make everything by hand, and I end up with about 2,000 pieces of gingerbread that I start making during Oc-

tober," Roberge said. "This year, I have 18 gingerbread house making workshops booked across 15 different libraries, offering events with kids, teens and adults. It's become sort of a tradition for me, and the libraries too."

Rachel Hapgood, the teen services and young adult librarian, said the annual event is a crowd-pleaser.

"This event is a crowd favorite year after year. The program always gets full for both ages, and we'd be open to considering opening up and expanding the gingerbread house making workshop for adults, if there was interest," Hapgood said. "The library's events are catered to the community, and this is one of our

most popular holiday-themed events."

Roberge shared how her childhood inspired her to start these events for libraries.

"When I was growing up, my mom would bake gingerbread for me and my two sisters to make our own gingerbread houses. It was one of our strongest traditions, and it brought me and my family so much joy and holiday spirit that I wanted to share it with others," Roberge said.

She also shared what she enjoys about making the gingerbread.



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo
Mandy Roberge's gingerbread house examples.

"One thing I love about making gingerbread houses is that anyone can do it.

It's a great way to bring out the holiday spirit, no matter what someone celebrates. Every year I also change this event in one way or another, it's constantly evolving," Roberge said. "This year, the biggest change was the candy offerings for kids and teens changing, which I think the groups enjoyed." Hapgood added the event is a fun one for the teens.

"This event is also great for teens to hang out and be creative with their friends, and take a well-deserved

break from school," Hapgood said. "They also enjoy the candy offerings, as well as just snacking on throughout the event. The whole thing is fun for all of them."

The children and teens event ran back-to-back during the evening, giving Roberge the opportunity to see multiple different types of gingerbread houses made.

"I enjoy seeing the fun and creative designs that everyone comes up with, it's my favorite part. I also love coming to this library, and I'm thankful they've let this workshop become a tradition here," Roberge said.

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'Dictionary Day' for Third Graders...



Photos by Charlie Bennett

Mrs. O'Connor's Class at Stony Hill School shows off their dictionaries gifted by the Rotary Club.



Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Past President Ann Marie Ottoson gives out Webster's Dictionaries for students at Stony Hill School.



Rotary Club President Chris O'Connor makes sure each third grader receives a dictionary to call their own.

Even though students use computers now, each school year, as part of their literacy project, the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club, gives out Webster's Dictionaries to every third grader in Wilbraham and Hampden.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19 club president Chris O'Connor and past president Ann Marie Ottoson distributed 165 dictionaries to students at Stony Hill School. Then, they traveled to Hampden and gave out 34 dictionaries to Green Meadows School students there. O'Connor told the students, "We want to help you in furthering your education."

One Stony Hill School student told O'Connor, "My grandmother has a big dictionary at home." O'Connor replied, "Yes, and its all the same words as what we are giving you!"

For more information about the Rotary Club call Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.



Hampden's Green Meadows School students, taught by Mrs. Czach and Mrs. Shimansky, are glad to have a dictionary of their own.

STANDARDS from page 1

Commonwealth aware of the importance of librarians in a student's daily life and literacy.

Oliveira explained that this bill, "will help school districts guide schools in implementing the standards and also conduct a study that will be presented every three years on how well schools are meeting those standards."

This bill calls for DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) to produce a research study every three years on how schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are implementing these standards and what effects it has on literacy rates.

Trebbe described her experience testifying at the Massachusetts statehouse for this act.

"The interesting thing is that I wasn't nervous, and I usually get nervous," Dr. Trebbe explained her passion for the action needing to be taken in the school libraries and the inequities they currently have.

Trebbe shared this during her testimony.

"I'm not saying push librarians forward...we know that's hard but let's get creative, let's have a foundation, and a starting point," Trebbe said.

It's important to note that this bill doesn't cost anything and does not particularly address any lack of librarians in schools throughout the state due to funding; only the measurement of how well we can improve our current existing library programs to support students. This just begins the exposure of importance in having a certified librarian

to guide students, building a foundation, and establishing what literacy equity could look like in the future of Massachusetts.

Oliveira mentioned the history of library importance in Massachusetts.

"The first public library in the country, was right here in Massachusetts, first public school was right here in Massachusetts," Oliveira said. "Libraries have always been something that's very important to me, not just because it's important to have well educated citizenry and it's essential to, I think, our democracy, but also that historical connection that it has with Massachusetts."

Oliveira also compared Massachusetts libraries to being a foundation of democracy.

"It's based on people being engaged," Oliveira said.

"if people can't read, they can't be as engaged with their society...If they can't think critically about decisions that are made by policy makers when they go to the ballot box, that has an impact on our democracy. Libraries are critical right now as centers of democracy."

He explains that our own inability to engage with our government destroys the framework of democracy, discussing that education of the youth should be the priority of the people.

Trebbe also described the impact that our own Wilbraham Middle School's lack of licensed school library teacher has on its students.

"Coming from middle school with no librarian and no library, if they don't have experience with a public library, some kids can actually go through Minnechaug never

having a K through 12 experience with a licensed school library teacher," Trebbe said.

Another subject of discussion during the hearing was the emphasis on librarians being educators, not just educators on checking out books.

"DESE has placed importance on determining through data collection, student equity, when taught by an effective licensed Massachusetts educator," Dr. Trebbe stated during her testimony. "Licensed school library teachers are educators."

Librarians and libraries themselves in the digital age can help students and young learners learn how to navigate and cut through the noise of algorithms, producing proper research skills and learning how to use the many resources that they might not know they have access to. Dr. Trebbe described the importance

of creativity and collaboration with other academic teachers when it comes to educating students in a library setting.

Bonnie McBride, a school library teacher in Boston, testified in the hearing as well along with one of her own students on their perspective of the importance of school libraries.

"Librarians are teachers too...you're not going to ask a volunteer to teach a physics class. You're going to find a physics teacher," McBride said.

This act, relative to school library standards, represents the potential of the future of reading, media, and information literacy and equity in education throughout the Massachusetts Commonwealth. Also, emphasizing the importance of the word teacher in the title, School Library Teacher.

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Turley's Dave Henry, Tim Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving student-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.

Last Friday night, it was their turn to be recognized for their dedicated work.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association awarded Henry and Peterson with Letters of Commendation.

The PVSOA, which held its awards banquet at the Ludlow Polish-American Club on Dec. 5, recognized the pair for their dedicated service of reporting and photographing boys and girls soccer, impacting multiple communities throughout the region.

The PVSOA Awards Committee believed their longtime service at Turley Publications was deserving of the letters.

Peterson had a more conventional background in sports journalism. He participated in his high school newspaper at Oxford High School and went on to work



Submitted photo

Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications. At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and

Please see **RECOGNIZED**, page 12



The coaches give some instruction to the players.



Lyric Nelson practices her jump shot.



Zahara Kibodya-Wilson drives toward the hoop.



Abby Stachowicz looks for the hoop.



Kelly Cronin shoots.

Falcons preseason underway

WILBRAHAM – It's a very short window from the start of the winter preseason to game action. Minnechaug girls basketball is hard at practice getting ready for the start of the 2025-2026 season. The Falcons will have their first game on Friday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The Falcons will host Westfield High School.



Ava Manning charges down the court.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.



Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.



David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.

Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association hold 79th awards banquet

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneers Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the

soccer community. Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication



to the soccer community at large. James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks it's amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet. "You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history

of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league

titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field. The event was attended

by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th year of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

The event was attended

SPORTS

Railers comeback falls short

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (9-9-1-1, 20 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (10-9-2-0, 22 pts) on Saturday, December 6th, with a final score of 4-5 in front of a crowd of 3,494 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday night against the Adirondack Thunder at will take on the Royals again on home ice on January 14th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Reading struck first with an early goal, scored by Massimo Rizzo (1-2-3), assisted by Nolan Burke (1-1-2) and Carter Berger (0-2-2) at 4:09 in the first. The Royals extended their scoring streak to two goals, the second added by Jeremy Michel (1-0-1), assisted by Rizzo and Ben Meehan (0-1-1) at 15:45 in the first (0-2). Worcester answered with a power play tally of their own at 17:46, scored by Gleb Veremyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-1-1) (1-2). Reading bookended the first period with their third goal of the night from Burke, assisted by Rizzo and Berger

at 19:24. Reading grabbed the only goal in the second period, a tipped shot from Robbie Stucker (0-1-1), redirected by Nick Capone (1-0-1), also assisted by Artem Kulakov (0-1-1) at 7:46. A final Reading goal was scored by Kyle Haskins (1-0-1) at 2:54 in the third. Worcester answered the Royals' fifth goal with three goals in the second half of the period. The first by Matt DeMelis (1-1-2) (2-5), the second by Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) (3-5), and the third by Lincoln Hatten (1-1-2) (4-5). The clock ran out just as Worcester pushed for their goal to tie the game and force overtime, but the game ended in a 5-4 Royals' victory.

Reading opened the game with an early lead at 4:09. Royal's forward Massimo Rizzo (4th) tucked the puck in between the pipe and left skate of Parker Gahagen (0-1). Reading stretched their lead to two goals with a score from Jeremy Michel (1st) at 15:45 (0-2). A chance for the Railers to narrow the gap came late in the period as they went on their third power play

of the night, which opened the ice for Anthony Callin to feed a pass from behind the net to Gleb Veremyev (2nd) for Worcester's first goal at 17:46 (1-2). T.J. Walsh headed to the box shortly after the tally for holding, which put Reading on their first power play of the night. Nolan Burke (3rd) nabbed a goal for the Royals 28 seconds into Walsh's penalty to re-establish their two-goal lead. Shots on goal were 12-16 in favor of Reading.

The Royals' fourth goal of the night came just over a third of the way through the second period from forward Nick Capone (2nd). Worcester played the period on the defensive and found themselves down a man on two separate occasions. Neither penalty resulted in a Royals goal, but Capone's scored soon after the clock ran out on Riley Ginnell's time served for high-sticking. Worcester was kept off of the board in the second which left the score at 4-1 Reading to close the second. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with nine to

Reading's 12. Reading was assessed one penalty served by Ben Meehan.

As play resumed in the third, Worcester worked to cut into the Royals three-goal lead, turned four as Kyle Haskins (5th) added another to Reading's tally for the evening at 2:54. Worcester opened the floodgates on Reading's net and scored three times in the second half of the period. Matt DeMelis scored an even strength goal at the 12:41 mark to make it a three-goal game. Worcester then called its timeout and pulled goaltender Thomas Gale to give the team an extra attacker. Repaci (6th) (3-5), and Hatten (8th) (4-5) each added their own goals with the extra-attacker on to get back to within one. Despite their offensive push across the final 2:30 of the third, Worcester fell short by one as the final horn sounded. The final score was 5-4 Reading. Final shots were 41-35 Worcester, and final penalties were six for the Royals and three for the Railers.

T-Birds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a

great find from Nikita Sushev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a highlight-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

Free Throw Competition sign ups now open

WILBRAHAM — Sign-ups are currently open for the Free Throw Competition on January 3, 2026 at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to Noon and is hosted by the Knights of Co-

lumbus 10195. On-site registrations also welcome.

The event is open for boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old.

To learn more, contact Jared Demetri at 413-279-1023.

RECOGNIZED

from page 11

began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of

commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

OPRO holding 'Holiday Magic at the Movies' concerts

WILBRAHAM - Ready to experience some "Holiday Magic at the Movies"? Join the Old Post Road Orchestra in two performances that will highlight old movie classics such as "The Miracle on 34th Street" as well as more recent movies such as "Frozen" and "The Polar Express".

The second performance is Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m., Mary Mother of Hope

Church, 840 Page Blvd., Springfield (sponsored in part by RMG Wealth Management Group and a grant from the Spfld Cultural Council, a local agency, supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency).

All performances are free and family-friendly.

Please join OPRO for these wonderful holiday traditions!

Rick's Place selected for Community Bank donation

WILBRAHAM - Rick's Place, a nonprofit providing free grief support programs for children, teens, and their caregivers, has been selected for a special community donation by Community Bank, N.A. as the bank prepares to open its new branch on Boston Road in Springfield in early December.

During the branch's soft-launch period, Community Bank will donate \$25 for every new account or loan opened, with a guaranteed minimum gift of \$2,500 to Rick's Place. Community Bank representatives shared that Rick's Place was chosen because of the organization's mission and its long-standing service to local families.

Rick's Place offers peer-based grief support groups for youth ages 5-18 and

their caregivers, training for schools and community partners, and resources that help families navigate life after a significant loss. All programs for youth and caregivers are provided at no cost.

"We're incredibly grateful for Community Bank's support and for their recognition of how essential grief support is for families in our region," said Executive Director, Therese Ross. "This partnership helps us continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive space where kids and caregivers can connect with others who understand what they're going through."

The new Boston Road branch is expected to open to the public in early December.

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 con-

cert will feature 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"!



Free DIY Gift Wrapping Station at WPL

WILBRAHAM— Need more space to wrap gifts, or want some privacy away from prying eyes? Wrap your gifts at the Wilbraham Public Library!

The library will provide scissors, tape, wrapping paper, and basic ribbon and

tags, along with plenty of room for you to work. Available during select afternoons in December, while supplies last. For information about upcoming dates, contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

SCHOOL

Minnechaug Regional High School First Term Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM — Minnechaug Regional High School recently named the first term honor roll for the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade P8 Honors: Abigail Cadieux, Martin Garcia, Jada Haqq, Brian Ingman, Rieland Kearney, Adeline Look, George Nutting, Lyla Raymond

Grade P8 High Honors: Nicholas Kennedy, Madeline Lee, Jessica Soukup

Grade 9 Honors: Goudy Abuata, Teddy Acquah, Zakaria Ardolino, Emerson Atkin, Margaret Babbs, Evan Barcome, Olivia Barnett, Jamie Barton-Cimino, Joshua Branham, Eva Breau, Nicholas Bretta, Thomas Brogle, Bailey Burgmyer, Nolan Burke, Sadie Campbell, Jose Carrasquillo, A'laynah Cartwright, Charlotte Castellano, Emilia Colondres, Jamison Cooper, Nolan Costello, Ava Cowles, Ryan Criscitel-

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Please see **HONOR ROLL**, page 15

St. Cecilia Parish to present annual Festival of Carols on Dec. 14

WILBRAHAM – St. Cecilia Parish, 42 Main St., here, will present its popular Festival of Carols on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. in the church. The snow date is Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. The concert is free but a free will offering will be accepted to help support the parish's music ministry.

The annual holiday concert, which often fills the 700-seat church, will feature the St. Cecilia Parish Adult and Youth Choirs as well as professional musicians who provide percussion, flute, saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet. Parish music director Todd Rovelli will accompany the choirs on piano and organ.

Among those attending the concert will be St. Cecilia parishioner Moira Fitzgerald, who said, "It's been a family tradition for us for at least the past ten years. The holidays are a busy time, and the festival gives us a beautiful opportunity to take a break and remember the true meaning of the season. I also think the selection of songs is always great and, of course, the singing is excellent!"

This year's program will invite audience members to take a rest from the rush and busyness of the season and spend some time in the musical realms of 17th-century liturgical music; traditional and contemporary Christmas carols; and some jazzy, joyous interpretations of familiar songs, including "We Three



St. Cecilia Adult Choir members (left to right) Linda Pabich, Sheila Bolduc, and Elaine Salio-Szlosek sing during a recent Mass. The parish will present its annual Festival Carols on Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.



Members of the St. Cecilia Adult Choir sing during a recent Mass at the Wilbraham church. The parish will present its annual Festival Carols on Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.

Kings" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

The youth choir, directed by parishioner Carolee McGrath, will be featured in the performances of the 18th-century carol, "O Come Little Children," and "Believe," a song from the soundtrack of the animated film, "The Polar Express."

The concert also includes several congregational carols, allowing audience members to sing along with the choirs.

Rovelli said he strives to create a program that will represent the varied genres of holiday music and uplift the spirits of listeners.

"A successful program should include a variety of different musical styles, so

there really is something for everyone," he said. "Add to that several beloved Christmas hymns and some unique arrangements, and you have the ingredients for a concert sure to inspire the audience."

Among the new music in the concert this year will be a unique "Ave Maria," that Rovelli describes as "a less well-known version with a hauntingly beautiful melody by Baroque composer Giulio Caccini"; and an ethereal version of "In the Bleak Midwinter," arranged by Dan Forrest.

And returning to the lineup is an audience favorite: Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene's modern carol "Mary Did You Know?" with choral arrangement by Jack Schrader.



Members of the St. Cecilia Youth Choir pose after a recent Mass at the Wilbraham church. The young singers will be featured in the parish's annual Festival of Carols on Sunday, Dec. 14.

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/Epiph-

any 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 program, 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.

HPL to reopen Dec. 10

HAMPDEN – The library, originally scheduled to reopen at its new location, has been pushed back to Wednesday, Dec. 10.

On Dec. 10: Open at the new Town Hall at 85 Wilbraham Rd. Wednesday, 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m., Thursday 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Will have regular Monday hours the following week.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be at the new library location on Saturday Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP

from page 1

Bobbi Grant expressed gratitude to everyone who donated goods for the fundraiser.

"We've had a lot of great donations from a lot of wonderful people. That's what makes it," Grant said. "Lot of people, they're so generous with their stuff."

Grant said there's a variety of treasures for shoppers to check out as they do their Christmas shopping this month and she herself has partaken in a gift or two.

"I was the first customer. I bought a stocking, a little Christmas stocking that says, 'Cats love Christmas too.' It was only two bucks! So, I was the first sale," Grant said.

One item of note is a painting by John Richard Perry, the fifth in a series of paintings depicting the construction of the Nubble Light and its dwelling.

Grant explained Perry frequented the beach and went up there to paint and she has visited the area herself.

"I'm a frequenter of York Beach, Maine. My husband and I used to go up two or three times a year, my kids used to grow up on the beach up there. The Nubble Light is one of the attractions where we used to wait until the tide went out and we would hop on the rocks and walk all the way around up to the Nubble on the rocks and the four kids had a ball doing it. We had a good time," Grant said.

On the gnomes, Grant said someone donated a banana box full of them.

"We have another gal who does the Diamond Dot and she happened to have some diamond dot hangers, so she donated those," Grant said. "I sent a picture to my son of all the gnomes and he said, 'Oh, I want the patriotic gnome,' which, of course, is the red, white and blue, because he loves them too. He thought



Shoppers check out the clothing rack for some great deals.



Among the unique finds is this oven squirrel which helps when you're cooking something in your oven.

they were cute, so I think I might grab that one and get him that for Christmas."

The jewelry spread, also, is back, with a variety of necklaces, bracelets, earrings and more.

"Rather than put price tags on everything, we made it easy this year. We just made the sign with all the prices on it," Grant said. "Everything seems to be moving pretty steady."

On what she enjoys about doing the fundraiser every year, Grant shared she enjoys the people she meets.

"I get to talk to a lot of people, especially when they're donating things. We talk about what they're donating and the folks are saying,

'My mother made this,' or 'I've had a lot of these there and I don't have the room for them anymore, so I thought I'd share with you.' I love it, it's really nice," Grant said.

Grant also enjoys supporting the senior center through the fundraiser.

"It's rewarding because I know it's going to a good cause, helping out the senior center," Grant said.

Grant thanked the community for supporting the fundraiser, including donating to it.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you. It's been great," Grant said. "That's what keeps it going—the donations—because we don't go out and buy stuff and try



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
This Holiday Teddy costs \$6.

and sell it again. The donations are what really makes it worthwhile. When you see all the stuff that comes in and the stories that go along with a lot of the items. It's very enjoyable."

She also encouraged them to stop by and shop.

"It is a fundraiser and we just want everybody to come and shop till they drop!" Grant said. "Thank them for their help in supporting the senior center."



The display of jewelry in a variety of colors and styles.



A variety of Christmas-themed pieces are also available at the Shop Till You Drop Fundraiser for purchase.



The gnomes on display alongside some diamond art pieces.

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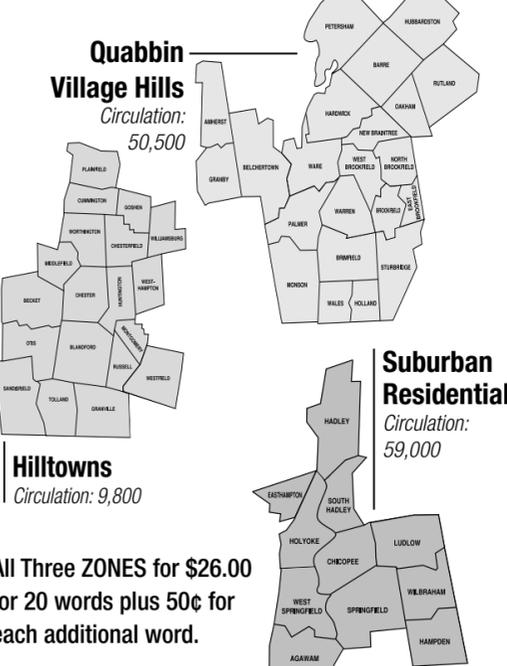
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ney, Addison Kelley, Molly Kinsman, Zachariah Kozub, Chloe Kuklinski, Samuel Laird, Brady Laliberte, Mai Le, Aidan Lee, Evan Liverseidge, Benjamin Lopez, Jack Lucarelle, Avery Lucas, Hannah Luff, Nhu Luu, Natalie Madison, Ava Manning, Luca Mastroian-ni, Max Mayuski, Michael Nogueira, Stephen Nowicki, Cailin O'Brien, Michael O'Connor, Anna O'Toole, Zachary Parent, Mia Peck, Nico Penna, Zoe Pinnock, David Preston, Katelynn Pronovost, Maisen Rosado, Aezlin Rost, Annabella Rostek, Lauren Rucki, Kay-leb Russo-Rock, Mostaffa Saleh, Alexander Savlick, Dylan Secor, Connor Seymour, Jonathan Stephen, Owen Sullivan, Ava Thompson, Matthew VanDer-Beken, Madisyn Vazquez, Dylan Walker, Journey Waters-Brown, Celena Williams, Zoriah Wray

Grade 12 High Honors: Victoria Ambrose, Emma Balog, Mia Bolduc, Corinne Brewer, Luke Bruno, Trinity Burgmyer, Hayden Carlotto, Alexis Carreira, Anthony Cianflone, Natalia Clarke, Caleigh Conboy, Kelly Cronin, Allison Demetri, Caden Duke, Aidan Dz-ierrwinski, Miles Fergus, Dominic Fiorentino, Luis Fradera O'Toole, Margaret Fulton, Lucas Fytrilakis, Mateo Garcia, Carina Gonnello, Giselle Harris, Laila Hosnander, Laya Ibrahim, Lana Johnson, Mason Jones, Kathryn Kennedy, Kaitlyn Lopez Pham, Savannah Loubier, Ava Luszc, Nylie Maldonado, Jaymiel Martinez, Nolah McConnell, Rile-y McLeod, Jasmine Miller, Jacob Moore, Ava Moretti, Morgan Morrow, Alina Narvaez, Lyric Nelson, Haonam Nguyen, Alexandra Nichols, Luke O'Connor, Cora Pace, Alexander Parent, Natalie Proulx, Kameah Pryce, Hannah Przechocki, William Quinn, Chloe Rob-ins, Cameron Rodriguez, Colin Sheehan, Alexa Sherman, Linda Stanco, Lincoln Stiles, Isabella Strand, Lili-ana Sullivan, Carly Trang-hese, Ella Trosky, William Vezina III, Nathan Wesloski, Elizabeth Woytowicz

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2535GD In the interests of Lailah Elizabeth Oski of Wilbraham, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 12/05/2025 by Lisa E Oski of Wilbraham, MA will be held 01/05/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th FL, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf

of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: December 5, 2025 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 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.

NOTICE

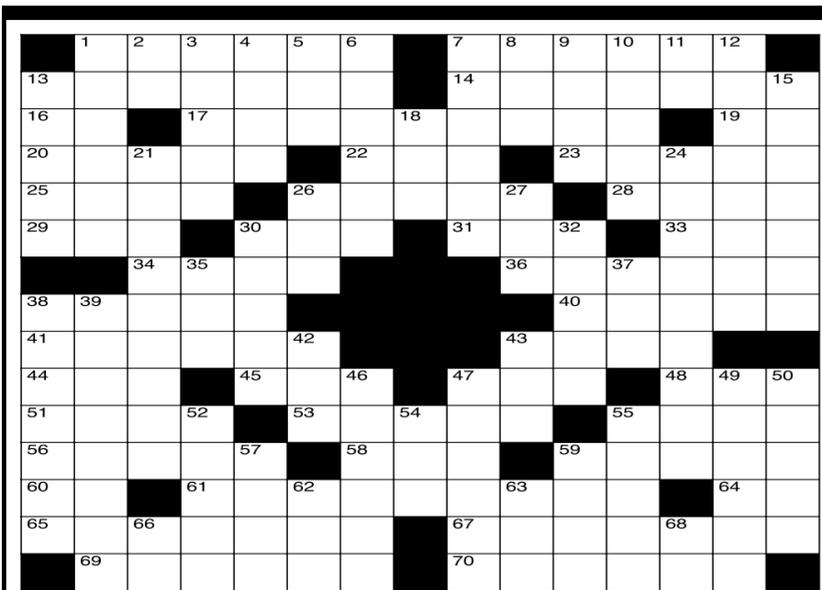
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
7. A type of solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German

psychologist

- 41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Sound
56. MLB legend Hank
58. Very attractive person
59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Mocking
64. Symbol for gold
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl

- 70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho

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Advertisement for TURLEY PUBLICATIONS. EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES. Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025: Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue; Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue; Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue; Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue.



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Four Rex Farms
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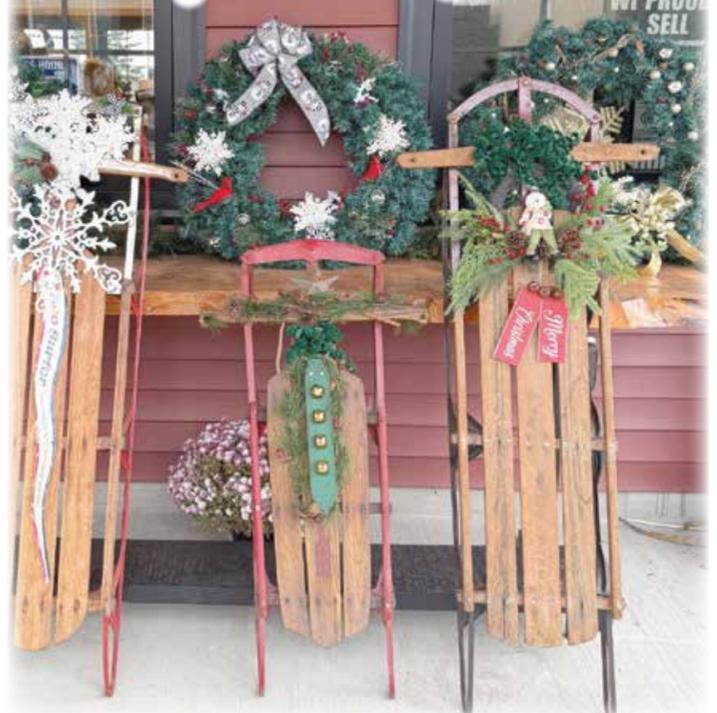
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