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TIMES

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Cookie season returns to Western Mass.

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

Despite a delay in the delivery Saturday morning, the haul was no less sweet for Girl Scout leaders throughout the region who both helped sort Girl Scout cookies and place cases of them in waiting cars last weekend.

Some 4,646 cases of Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Trefoils and more were unloaded from two tractor-trailers on Jan. 12 as part of the annual Cookie Drop conducted by the Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts. Many more thousands of cases were dropped off in West Springfield, Pepperell and Worcester.

And after the trucking company workers unloaded the boxes, a team of volunteers and Girl Scout leaders – once again led by Brandi Barcomb, of Hampden – brought them to the cars had been lined up by their pa-

tient drivers as the sun rose. The drivers were leaders and volunteers from Girl Scout troops throughout the region.

On hand at the Palmer drop was Dana Carnegie, communications manager for the GSCWM.

“Normally I go to the West Springfield drop but this time I picked Palmer because it tends to end earlier and I have a plane to catch,” she said. “But it’s great to see older volunteers and kids come together for the drop. It’s early and it’s cold, but no one complains. Everybody is patient and does what they have to do.”

Carnegie herself went window to window of the waiting cars as the second tractor trailer was delayed in its arrival. Eventually, DuComb directed the cars to move forward to collect what they could.

“I don’t want these people to

Please see **COOKIES**, page 16



Dana Carnegie, communications manager for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass., hands a box of Tagalongs to Alison Castellano, of Hampden, and Girl Scout Troop 64785. TIMES STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS FARMER

Selectmen, HWRSD pursuing facilities improvements

By Tyler S. Witkop
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM – An updated study of the town’s schools and buildings could happen sooner than later, following action by selectmen Monday night.

Selectmen authorized Town Administrator Nick Breault to pursue separate studies of Wilbraham Middle School and town buildings including schools.

Officials hope at least some of the information will utilize a portion of the \$152,815 in Green Communities funding approved by the state. According to Breault, Wilbraham does not need to apply for all of that funding at once, but apply for a portion of the money for known projects by the application deadline of Feb. 9.

With their action Jan. 14, selectmen hope to submit Green Communities applications for a study of the town’s electrical, heating and ventilation systems within town buildings. Separately, they wish to explore improving the temperature controls within the Fire Department headquarters.

In terms of a larger study of the town’s schools and buildings, Selectmen Chairman Robert Boilard said looking at Wilbraham Middle School is priority No. 1.

“For me it’s a must that we get Wilbraham Middle done this fiscal year,” he said, noting the expense of a full facility study of all buildings would likely require Town Meeting authorization for funding.

Boilard said he wants the



Wilbraham selectmen receive updates from Schools Supt. Albert Ganem Jr., Director of Finance Howard Barber and Facilities Director Ed Cenedella. TIMES STAFF PHOTOS BY TYLER S. WITKOP



Wilbraham resident Ted Malysz (left) speaks to selectmen Jan. 14, seeking appointment to the Historical Commission. The board unanimously approved his appointment.

board to study the buildings, independently from Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, to be able to arm the board with information about what work needs to be done on the town-owned building or even to reconfigure it for future educational purposes.

In related news, Superintendent of Schools Albert Ganem Jr., Director of Finance and Human Resources Howard Barber, and

Director of Facilities and Maintenance Ed Cenedella approached selectmen informing them of their intent to explore a statement of interest through the Massachusetts School Building Authority and its Accelerated Repairs program.

Ganem explained districts statewide have a short window to compile necessary information

Please see **FACILITIES**, page 5

Hampden weighs Fire Department upgrades

By Tyler McQuillan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – While the town’s budget calculations are in progress, Fire Chief Gorski brought forward concerns about the town’s fleet of fire vehicles during the Board of Selectmen meeting Monday night.

“We’re behind by two years,” Gorski said. “We need a really big super tanker. For the size of truck we’d need, we’ll have to expand [the station].”

Last year the fire department had plans drawn up for a potential expansion to a previous addition at the Fire Station on North Road, which would accept a larger truck. Gorski is proposing the town acquire a high capacity tanker that will more quickly and effectively fight fires, since the department retired Tanker No. 2. That vehicle had a capacity to carry 2,000 gallons of water.

“Currently, we’ve got two pumpers and one tanker truck. Tanker 1 is 28-years-old and we usually shoot for a 30-year service life, so we’re thinking about replacing it,” Gorski said. “Instead of an expansion, we could retire Tanker 1 and buy the new truck, which would fit in that bay.”

“It doesn’t make sense to get rid of a truck we can still use,” said Selectmen Chairman Vincent “Vinnie” Villamaino. “Why wouldn’t we run it until it’s dead?”

“Whether or not we do it now we have to replace the

truck sooner or later,” Selectman John D. Flynn said. “This sounds more like a conversation we should have with the whole financial group.”

Gorski said that upgrades to the fire house itself are another consideration. In addition to updating the structure, he hopes to solve an emission compliance issue because all municipal public safety entities will need to meet OSHA standards starting next month.

Pole Replacement

Representatives from National Grid brought a proposal before the selectmen to replace three power lines along Mill Road with 45-foot “main line” poles. Joshua Pacheco of National Grid explained that stronger poles will be necessary with new solar development set to begin on the southern field at 220 Mill Road.

“Moving the poles would be the best engineering practice,” Pacheco said. “Two poles will be replaced with three poles to distribute the weight of the new three-phase line.”

The poles in question span the Scantic River on two separate plots of private property: one on Mill Road and another on Genevieve Drive. Russell Morton voiced his concerns about moving the poles on his Genevieve Drive property and refused to give National Grid permission to install anchors for the new poles.

“They have already re-

Please see **UPGRADES**, page 5

NEWS ABOUT TOWN

Zonta Clubs collect feminine products for women in need

In an effort to raise awareness and provide necessary personal care items, the Zonta clubs of Northampton, Quaboag Valley and Springfield have united for local women in need. The organizations are pooling their resources for #ThePeriodProject, to raise awareness and collect feminine hygiene products for women and teens.

Such products, which are not covered by SNAP or WIC funds, cost the average woman more than \$6,000 in her lifetime, the clubs estimate, and are often a burdensome expense during times of hardship.

As part of their initiative, the clubs are inviting the community to donate products that will be compiled into monthly menstrual kits for homeless women, which will be supplied at local shelters and service centers throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties. A list of items is available online at www.zontaqv.org/period.

Folks may also help assemble the kits with Zontians Monday, Feb. 11 at the Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive in Ludlow at 6 p.m. – register by Feb. 6 to 413-219-8260.

For more information, visit zontaqv.org or email info@zontaqv.org.

Card and Game Party rolls in to Wilbraham Jan. 31

WILBRAHAM – The annual Card and Game Party of the St. Cecilia’s Women’s Club will take place Thursday, Jan. 31 at St. Cecilia’s Church.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Participants may play any game of their choosing, including bridge, canasta and dominoes. In addition to the games, raffle prizes and gift certificates will be available.

Cost is \$7 and proceeds support the club’s charitable outreach and scholarships. For reservations or more information, call Sue Agnew at 596-9480.

Committee named to study solar bylaws

HAMPDEN – In response to the moratorium imposed for new solar development by voters at special town meeting, the Planning Board recently named a Solar Bylaw Committee to review and propose possible changes to the town’s zoning by-laws.

The committee consists of Donna Hatch, chair; John Matthews, Planning Board representative; Caroline Cabrini; Donald Davenport and Maura Ryan.

“Thanks go out to these five individuals who have volunteered their time and effort for this endeavor,” Planning Board Chairman Phill Schneider said.

Town Clerk’s office to close Feb. 6-8

WILBRAHAM – Town Clerk Carole Tardif announced her office will close Wednesday, Feb. 6 through Friday, Feb. 8 for the Massachusetts Town Clerk’s Association Winter Conference. The office will open Monday, Feb. 11. For more information, contact the office at 596-2800, ext. 200.

The Wilbraham-Hampden
TIMES

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Meeting Schedule

WILBRAHAM

Thursday, Jan. 17
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee
7 p.m. Minnechaug Regional High School

Wednesday, Jan. 23
Finance Committee
7 p.m. Town Office Building

HAMPDEN

Thursday, Jan. 17
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
7 p.m. Minnechaug Regional High School

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Board of Selectmen
6 p.m. Town House

Wednesday, Jan. 23
Planning Board
6 p.m. Town House
Conservation Commission
7 p.m. Town House


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Towns receive reimbursement for early voting

By Tyler S. Witkop
Staff Writer

Since its inception in 2016, the statewide early voting period for state and federal elections has proved to be popular with residents.

In November, 557 Hampden residents cast early ballots and nearly 20 percent of Wilbraham's 7,107 ballots were cast ahead of election day.

With the popularity comes a cost to the towns and once again, State Auditor Suzanne Bump has determined the requirement to be an unfunded mandate. Last week, Bump and Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin announced communities statewide would be reimbursed \$1,144,156.22 for unfunded, mandated costs.

"Early voting has proved to be enormously popular among voters in the last two state elections," Galvin said in a press release announcing the decision. "As we look to expand early voting to increase

voter access and convenience in the future, we need to make sure we are providing local election officials with the resources they need in order to hold successful elections."

The early voting law, which passed in 2014, requires municipalities allow any qualified voter to cast their ballot during a 12-day period in advance of election day. In total, Galvin's office reports more than 584,000 voters took advantage of early voting statewide.

Locally, the town of Hampden will receive \$1,321.88 for its expenses related to early voting. Wilbraham will receive \$6,868.71. While both town clerks are happy to receive reimbursement, they note the funds only cover a portion of their mandated expenses.

"By law, we're supposed to advertise with every local newspaper," Hampden Town Clerk Eva Wiseman said. She noted such expenses cost the town nearly \$1,000, of which none were reimbursable.

"People don't realize how expensive early voting really is," Wiseman said.

The bulk of the reimbursable expenses were those relating to payroll of extra election workers brought in to accommodate early voting.

Wilbraham Town Clerk Carole Tardif explained her office spent \$9,361 for the entire November election period. Of that expense, \$4,800 was solely for workers during the early voting period.

Overall, the clerks noted early voting in 2018 was slightly less expensive than 2016, as necessary ballot boxes, polling booths and related materials were one-time expenses.

"It's not an inexpensive process," Wiseman emphasized. Among the costliest aspects, she noted, is the time it takes.

She explained, just as with the normal election process, each early voter has to be checked in and

Please see **VOTING**, page 7

Open burning season now underway

HAMPDEN – With open burning season now underway, the Hampden Fire Department reminds those residents who intend to burn may do so only with a permit now through May 1. Burning permits may be obtained online at www.hampden.org or by calling the Fire Department at 566-3314.

Statewide, open burning season runs Jan. 15

through May 1 of each year. Burning is permitted only between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on days when conditions allow for burning. Fires must be out by 4 p.m. Burning must be at least 75 feet from a dwelling on land closest to the source of the material being burned.

Burning without a permit may result in a fine.

Computer expert to speak at next Women's Club meeting

WILBRAHAM – With cybersecurity a growing concern, local computer expert Aristeo Torres will deliver a talk during the next Wilbraham Women's Club meeting Thursday, Feb. 14 at noon in the Parish Center of St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main St. Sandwiches and desserts will be served.

Torres, of Post Computer Systems in Wilbraham, will deliver a presentation titled "Defensive Driving for your Computer," addressing safe Web surfing habits. He will discuss how folks may protect their computers against various viruses and malicious software, removal options, and data recovery.



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Sat. 1/19
THE HEALYS WITH CHARLIE BONGIOVI



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Boars Head
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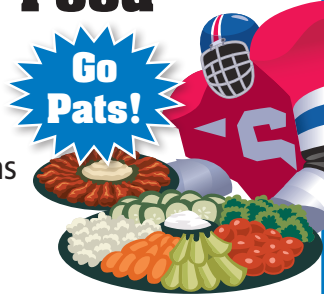
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VIEWPOINTS

Be a helpful neighbor this winter

With the recent bout of frigid winter weather recently experienced with extremely low temperatures, there is no better time for a reminder that being a helpful neighbor can actually save lives – especially if your neighbor is a senior citizen.

Be sure to check in on elderly adults during cold and snowy days. Older adults should also be mindful of some very important tips during this time.

Those over the age of 65 account for nearly half of all hypothermia deaths. As the body ages, the ability to maintain a normal internal body temperature decreases, creating an insensitivity to moderately cold temperatures. Seniors may not realize they are putting themselves at risk until symptoms appear. Symptoms of hypothermia include: shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and drowsiness. If symptoms are present, immediate medical attention is necessary.

The leading reason for hypothermia in older adults is due to poorly heated homes, which is entirely preventable.

Follow these simple tips to ensure a warm household.

Stay Warm:

Keep the thermostat at 65 degrees, at least. Consistently check it to make sure your home is sufficiently warm. Even as heating costs

rise, your safety should be a priority.

Put a carbon monoxide detector near where you sleep.

Ensure there is adequate insulation, and check and clean the fireplace and furnace. Furnace filters should be replaced monthly.

Minimize drafts by filling old socks with sand and using them in drafty windowsills and door jams. Weather-strip around windows and doors. Keep doors to unused rooms closed and close curtains at night.

Add an extra blanket to the bed and warm the bed in advance with a hot water bottle. Never use an electric blanket – it may be difficult to operate the controls if the temperature needs to be adjusted in the night.

Dress in layers of loose fitting clothing. If you go outside, make sure your head is covered.

Every year, more than 1.6 million seniors end up in the emergency room because of a fall. With the icy conditions of winter, the chances of falling are even greater.

Prevent Falls:

Take a couple minutes per day and stretch your limbs in order to loosen muscles.

Stay inside – make arrangements for someone to shovel and salt driveways and walkways. Professional caregivers can assist with to-do items, such as bringing in the mail and/or picking up groceries.

Wear shoes or boots with a non-skid sole.

Have handrails installed on outside walls for frequently used walkways.

If you use a cane or walker, check the rubber tips to make sure they are not worn smooth.

Winter weather can take a toll on everyone, especially seniors. Seasonal affective disorder can occur in seniors, as with any age group, and impact their emotional health. Some signs to watch for include: a loss of energy, an increased appetite and an enhanced feeling of lethargy and tiredness. If symptoms are present, talk to a medical provider about treatment options.

Additionally, winter storms can be unpredictable. It is important to be prepared in case of an emergency.

Build a network:

Stay in touch in with family, friends and neighbors. Schedule phone calls or enlist the help of a professional caregiver to come in for an hour a week.

Make arrangements for assistance in case of a blizzard or power outage. Keep important numbers in an emergency kit, along with non-perishable foods, water and medications.

Be familiar with your local resources. Visit www.ready.gov/seniors, www.noaa.gov or www.redcross.org for more information about cold weather.

WHEN SNOW BEGINS TO FALL

By Lou Scungio
Dec. 14, 2018

Out my window in the cold
I see a child at play ...
rolling snowballs to an' fro
as big as bales of hay.

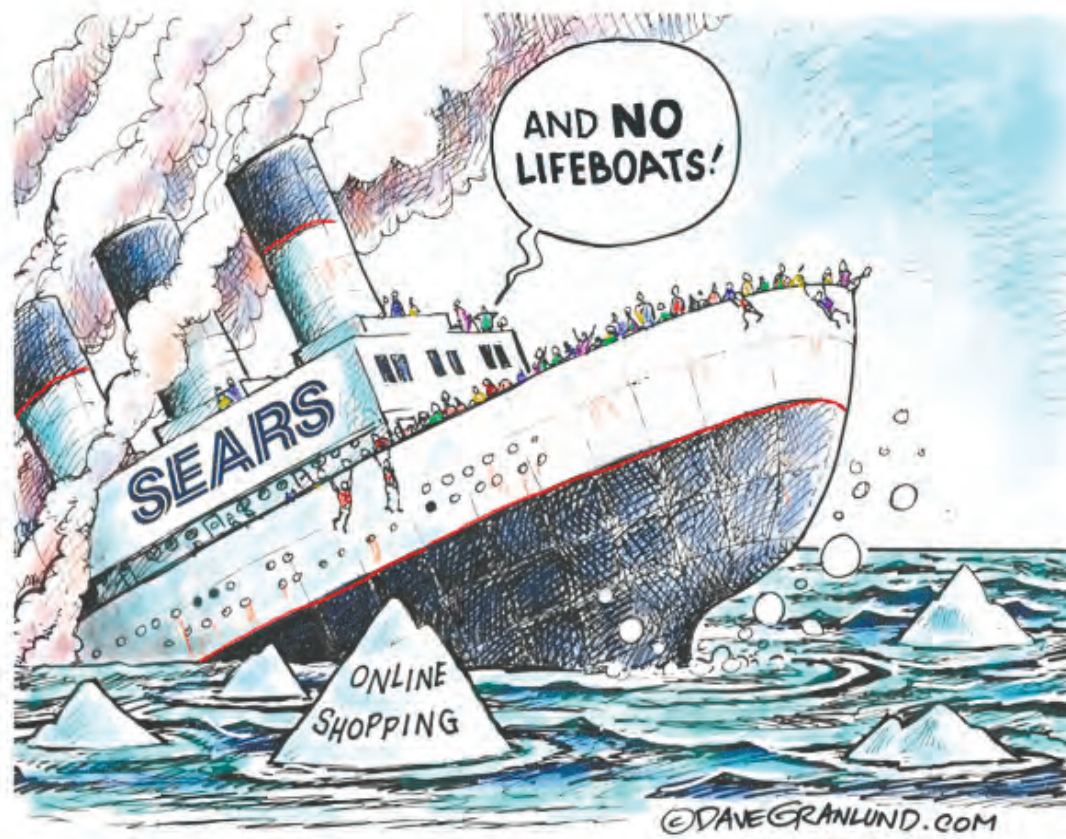
Beside the child a doggie pal's
a-jumpin' all around
an' sniffin' at those big round balls ...
the child curled on the ground.

Too heavy are those balls of snow
for this small child to lift;
but, to the rescue came a man ...
you know Him ... get my drift?

An' when the snowman stood up tall
the stranger went away
an' left the doggie an' the child
with both a pal to play.

My window is all frosted now ...
my view a bit obscured;
but, I know that the snowman there
is safe an' sound ... secured ...

a mem'ry of a time ago
when snowmen had a ball ...
a time I cherish every year
when snow begins to fall.



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Garden nomenclature important when perusing seed catalogs

It was a lot of fun cozying up with a few seed catalogs this past weekend! I was busy at “work” planning what we call our “Approach” beds at Old Sturbridge Village. This is the 30th time I have gone about this task and never once have I thought of it as work. For me it is like a puzzle, trying to make varying heights, colors and textures fit just right and end up beautiful! For me, looking through a seed catalog is “old hat” as they would call it but

it occurred to me how daunting this task could be for someone new to gardening, wondering just what all the terms specific to horticulture re-

ally mean, even those as commonplace as annual or perennial.

Why don't we start at the beginning with a little lesson in garden nomenclature. I bet this will be interesting to gardeners both new and old.

Merriam-Webster defines annual as “completing the life cycle in one growing season.” Think of a tomato plant that sets fruit or a marigold that flowers. By season's end these plants succumb to a frost and that is it. The definition of biennial is “continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and

dying during the second.” In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of green growth the first year. In year two the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant. Usually the mother plant will not return for a third season. Perennials on the other hand persist for subsequent years. They can be short-lived as in the case of pinks, or long-lived as with phlox or peony. Perennials are such based on the hardiness zone in which they are planted. Our hardiness zone is 5 or 6, depending on where you are reading. As a teenager one rite of passage each spring was to buy new “tender” herbs: rosemary, French lavender, sweet

bay and scented geraniums among others to plant in my garden. Sometimes I managed to dig up plants each fall, repot them and keep them alive through the winter. These tender plants would be hardy down south, but not for us, so sometimes we go through extreme measures to save our investments for another season of enjoyment.

The word “specimen” has its own definition in horticultural terms. Specimen plants are special, prized for their ability to can stand alone in a border or foundation planting. They don't need to be planted in a group of similar or differing plants to look their best. Simply put, one is enough! A specimen perennial may

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

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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.

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Library donations warming up the community

Have you seen this bumper sticker around our towns? “Chicken Pot Pie – My 3 favorite things”.

Rachel Hapgood of the Wilbraham Library gave us a piece of good news to start off the new year. Their Fleece Community Service Project of the library’s Teen Advisory Board donated 40 homemade blankets to Shriners Hospital last week. Sixteen teen volunteers were able to make 40 no-sew fleece blankets. Rachel, their advisor, said the teens wanted to help the Shriners’ young patients and Rachel was able to set it up with Shriners Hospital in Springfield. The Shriners said they gave a blanket to each child who came into the hospital. They invited the teens to come back and have a tour of the hospital to learn about what they do there. Rachel said the teens will continue to make blankets using the many fleece donations they still have and be able to deliver more blankets.

It’s that time of year again. Here’s a reminder from the Wilbraham DPW, with some guidelines that will help make the streets safe for everyone. They ask that you do not park your vehicle in the road when it snows. This allows the plows to efficiently remove the snow. Also, do not shovel snow into the road. This includes private contractors who may plow your driveway. The town’s plowing policy is posted on the towns website — www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Be prepared for winter storms by keeping 48 hours of food, water and medicine in your home.

Do you know someone who is under 40 and making a name for themselves in the business and civic community? BusinessWest magazine is now accepting nominations for its “40 Under Forty Class of 2019” You can make a nomination and submit background materials that will be weighed by the judges who will score the candidates. Submissions should be thorough and consider the following: Nominees must be under 40 as of April 1, 2019. Candidates should have achieved professional success and be active at a board level in civic organizations. Deadline is Feb. 15. Any supporting information (i.e. résumé) may be sent to peters@businesswest.com. Include the nominee’s name in the subject line. Nominations can be submitted

at <https://businesswest.com/40-under-forty-nomination-form/>. Selected individuals will be profiled in the April 29 edition of BusinessWest and celebrated at the annual 40 Under Forty Gala June 20 at The Log Cabin. For more information call **Bevin Peters**, marketing and events director, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or email peters@businesswest.com.

Northern Tree Service and the **Cambo Family** were thanked by the folks at St. Cecilia’s Parish for the tree work that was recently donated at the Rectory. Several large pine trees needed to be removed before the onset of snow this winter.

As far as I’m concerned, any day is a good day for eating pie, but next Wednesday, Jan. 23 is “National Pie Day” when the popular dessert will be celebrated at the Hampden Senior Center. Following the day’s lunch, diners will be welcome to stay for a slice of homemade pie. Cost is \$2 for the lunch. To register, call 566-5588.

The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. to sample recipes from the cookbook titled, “The Moosewood Restaurant Table,” by the Moosewood Collective. Newcomers are welcome. Stop by the library

library by Jan. 23 to register, or go online through the library’s website. For more information or to register, call 596-6141.

Not only does the library help you with your cooking but they can also help with your children’s homework. Wilbraham students may receive some homework help this month at the Library with tutor **Judith Epstein**. Judith, who has a Master of Education degree, will be available to offer help with assignments from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 23 and 30. Students are welcome to attend as many dates as they need with no registration necessary. For more information, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 596-6141.

Wilbraham artist Joyce Emerle is at it again. An eight-week watercolor class will begin later this month at the Hampden Senior Center taught by Joyce. The program starts Wednesday, Jan. 30 and takes place from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the center located at 104 Allen St. in Hampden. A materials list is available at the senior center. To register, call 566-5588. For course information, call Joyce at 413-455-1377.

The annual Card and Game Party of the St. Cecilia’s Women’s Club will take place Thursday, Jan. 31 at St. Cecilia’s Church. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch

games, raffle prizes and gift certificates will be available. Cost is \$7 and proceeds support the club’s charitable outreach and scholarships. For reservations or more information, call Sue Agnew at 596-9480.

Congratulations to the new members of the Wilbraham Knights of Columbus. They are **Rick Laffley, Jack McGrath, Dan Britt, Ralph Abbott, Clinton Mathias, Jim Hisgen, and Do-Han Allen**.

Hampden singer-songwriter **Peter Lehndorff** will be appearing on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the free Gateway City Arts Winter Festival, 92 Race St. in Holyoke at 2 p.m. For more information logon to GatewayCityArts.com.

Last week **Cong. Richard Neal** stopped by Life Care of Wilbraham to say happy 108th birthday to **Peggy Stearns**. She is the oldest living graduate of Springfield Technical High School.

Have you heard this one?

“Look at that one – the one staring at us through the bars. Doesn’t he look intelligent?”

“Yes. There’s something uncanny about it.”

“He looks as if he understood every word we’re saying.”

“Walks on his hind legs, too and swings his arms.”

“There, he’s got a peanut. Let’s see what he does with it.”

“Well, what do you know about that! He knows enough to take off the shell before he eats it, like we do.”

“That’s a female alongside of him. Listen to her chatter at him. He doesn’t seem to be paying much attention to her though.”

“She must be his mate.”

“They look kind of sad, don’t they?”

“Yes, I guess they wish they were in here with us monkeys.”

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett enjoys writing this regular column for the Times, but he needs your help. Club publicity chairs should send in notices of meetings and events. Have a special birthday or anniversary coming up? Have someone you would like to salute? Please send the info to cbennett4765@charter.net.

TALK OF THE TOWNS



Charles F. Bennett

News From Yesteryear

57 Years Ago

Minnechaug Gymnasts at Army

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940’s through 1970’s. From a January, 1961 edition. “*The Varsity Gymnastic Team of Minnechaug Regional High School will start the season today when the team leaves at 1 p.m. to play Army Freshmen at West Point.*”

Emerson Dunton, director of physical education, serves as coach for the team which is said to be the only varsity high school gymnast combine in Western Massachusetts to stack up against the Army team.”

to reserve a copy of the cookbook, then select a recipe, prepare it and bring it to the program. Space is limited, so call the

served at noon. Participants may play any game of their choosing, including bridge, canasta and dominoes. In addition to the

UPGRADE from page 1

quested cutting trees without actually surveying,” Morton said. “The offset is smaller than these plans suggest and there is a guard rail in the space where they want to move the poles closer to the road. The trees in the area are all locust trees and poplar trees, and every time they fall, they fall toward the road. With taller poles, they’ll contact other trees that will fall and hit the poles.”

According to Pacheco, the existing lines are too far from the road for crews to safely access and repair. Moving them closer to the road makes them easier to access and helps drivers keep an eye on the poles to avoid hazards.

Ted Zebert of the Conservation Commission said that moving the poles could impose less impact on the wetlands.

“This would distribute the poles in the marsh,” he said. “Bringing them closer to the road would have less impact. You’re actually making it better.”

Flynn suggested moving the poles to the other side of the road to keep them away from the trees. Pacheco said that, because of the angle, bracing poles and additional anchors would be necessary on both sides of the road in that case.

As for keeping the current path through the woods, Pacheco did not have high hopes for that strategy.

“It’s a more straight path,” he said, “but we’d have to install another pole in the marsh to bear the weight. With the old standards, you could put the pole that close to the river. With the new standards, you can’t.”

Selectmen requested National Grid to look at alternate ways of positioning the poles to minimize their impact and asked both parties to return at a later date.

Updates

In her report to selectmen, Town Administrator Mary McNally said that she received a letter from state Sen. Eric Lesser asking whether Hampden had projects in need of state funding. Beside the fire truck and roundabout project, the sidewalk between the Senior Center and Centennial Commons was suggested.

“Don’t worry about the sidewalks,” Villamaino said. “The engineering study, anyway. But we’ve formed a sidewalk committee.”

Flynn reported that upgrades to the town’s computers are happening department by department.

“We’ve got a new domain: HampdenMA.gov,” Flynn said. “We’ll roll out the new town website once everyone’s updated. Each department will have an email, so they will be easy to reach, and a place to post their meeting schedule.”

Selectmen also met with legal counsel in an executive session to discuss the upcoming litigation with the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and School Committee. Attempts to settle disagreement over the closure of Thornton W. Burgess Middle School and new arrangements at Green Meadows School have been unsuccessful, especially after voters in both towns rejected the district’s proposed configurations.

FACILITIES from page 1

and submit their SOI by Feb. 15. He said the state authorized districts to submit for new school projects Dec. 24 and the accelerated repairs after Jan. 1.

The officials informed selectmen they hope to replace outdated doors, windows and roofs, and were in the midst of gathering the necessary information.

A big reason for the meeting with selectmen, Ganem said, is to ensure support from selectmen through the application process.

“[The MSBA] wants to make sure we can afford it and that the community supports it,” he said of any state funded repair or new building project.

Several years ago, the MSBA approved repairs, including doors and windows at Soule Road School, but town voters struck down the request at a special town meeting. Bunnell said she felt the Board of Selectmen failed to educate the town about the project at that time, leaving voters confused

about the language and need.

“We didn’t do anything to promote the vote,” she said. “People didn’t know what they were voting for.”

Due to the tight window, the district will gather their application information and come back to the selectmen in early February for their approval.

In other news, selectmen appointed Thaddeus “Ted” Malysz to the Historical Commission. Malysz, who served for 24 years in the Air Force Reserves at Westover, is an avid local history aficionado.

“We have such a rich history and it’s something we should be proud of,” Malysz told selectmen.

His appointment was unanimously approved.

Planning Board member and lifelong Wilbraham resident James “Jim” Rooney was appointed to the Capital Planning Committee.

“I want to help the town be more efficient,” he said. “I want to help understand and be a part of the conversation.”



Resident and Planning Board member Jim Rooney (right) talks with the board in hopes of being named to the Capital Planning Committee. The lifelong resident received unanimous support. TIMES STAFF PHOTO BY TYLER S. WITKOP



Western New England University students including Wilbraham's Josh Henry (third from left) recently had the opportunity to spend their winter session studying in Australia. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED

Wilbraham student studies 'down under'

SPRINGFIELD – Ten business students from Western New England University recently had the opportunity to spend their winter session studying in Australia, as part of a “J-Term” program consisting of academic study and cultural experiences.

Among the students to participate in the program was Wilbraham student Josh Henry.

Participants arrived in Sydney in time for the

country's New Year's celebrations and returned for the start of the spring semester Jan. 14.

All of the students were enrolled in a two-week “International Business in Asia Pacific” course, delivered through Global Academic Ventures. The three-credit course consisted of 45 contact hours, including seminars, guest lectures from business executives, site visits, case studies and group projects.

'Tour de Minnechaug Mountain' coming in May

Although it's mid-winter now, it's time to think about tuning those bicycles for the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club's first ever “Tour de Minnechaug Mountain” to benefit the club's efforts supporting healthy youth development.

The fundraising event will be held Sunday, May 5 starting and ending at Fountain Park in Wilbraham.

The ride features three loops designed to take riders of all ability levels through the connected communities of Hampden and Wilbraham. Through historic main streets, country lanes and a hill-climb

challenge the 41.1-mile Long Route starting at 8 a.m. is designed for avid bicyclists and takes riders to nearly every neighborhood of the two towns; the tamer 20-mile scenic Medium Route starts at 9:30 a.m. The 8-mile Short Family Route starts at 11 a.m. and is comfortable and scenic.

Activities include DJ music, raffle prizes, T-shirts, free breakfast and lunch provided for ride participants and volunteers, and a bicycle safety check. For more information or how to register email Joe Kielczewski at tourdeminnechaugmountain@gmail.com or call 413-279-4343.

Sen. Lesser releases district office hours

EAST LONGMEADOW — State Sen. Eric P. Lesser, D-Longmeadow, and his office announced an office hours schedule at the start of his third term, with regular monthly meetings to be held throughout the First Hampden and Hampshire District.

Constituents and town officials are invited to attend and express any concerns, ideas and issues they may have, and representatives from Lesser's office will be on hand to assist constituents. Constituents are welcome to schedule an appointment if the scheduled meeting times are not convenient by emailing Lesser's District Director Joel McAuliffe at Joel.McAuliffe@masenate.gov or by calling Lesser's district office at 413-526-6501.

BELCHERTOWN
Every first Thursday
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
at the Belchertown Senior Center, 60 State St., Belchertown

LONGMEADOW
Every second Monday
10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Adult Center, 231 Maple Road, Longmeadow

CHICOPEE
Every first Wednesday
11 a.m. to noon at River-Mills Senior Center, 5 W Main St., Chicopee

LUDLOW
Every second Thursday
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Ludlow Senior Center, 39 Chestnut St., Ludlow

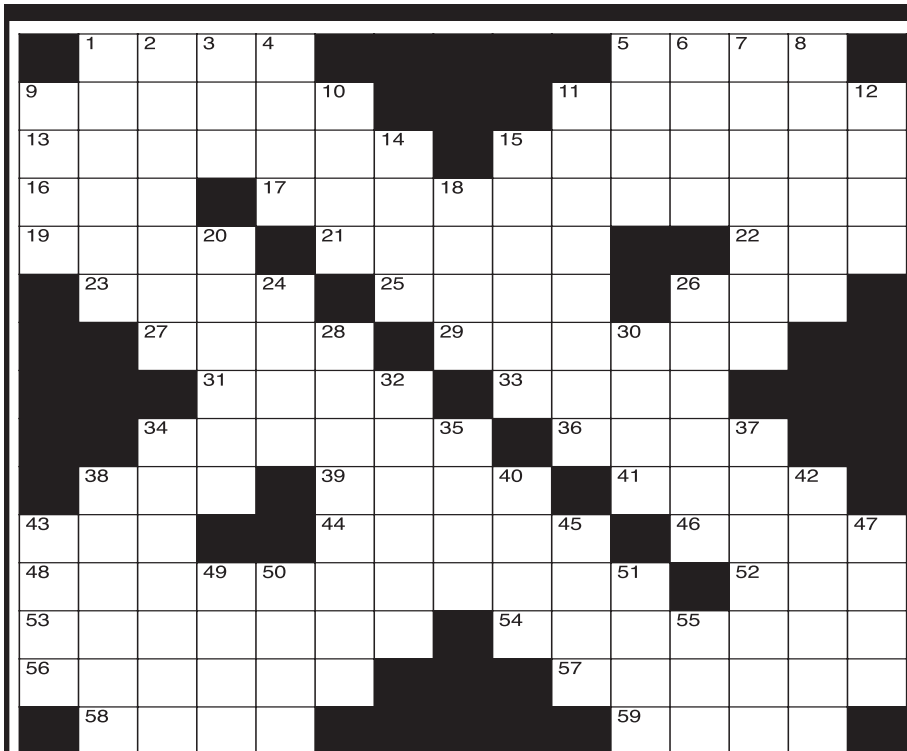
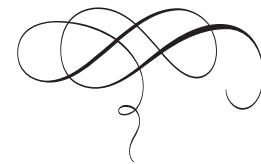
EAST LONGMEADOW
Every third Thursday
11 a.m. to noon at the East Longmeadow Senior Center, 328 North Main St., East Longmeadow

SPRINGFIELD
Every first Tuesday
1 to 2 p.m. at Sixteen Acres Library, 1187 Parker St., Springfield

GRANBY
Every first Thursday
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Granby Senior Center, 10 W State St., Granby

WILBRAHAM
Every fourth Wednesday
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 45 Post Office Park, Wilbraham

HAMPDEN
Every fourth Wednesday
11 a.m. to noon at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St., Hampden



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One-time Levi's CEO
- 5. Emperor of Russia
- 9. Islamic theology scholar
- 11. Hammer with a large, wooden head
- 13. Food
- 15. Can be combined
- 16. Midway between east and southeast
- 17. Governs a noun or pronoun
- 19. Gorilla
- 21. Type of trap
- 22. "Unforgettable" singer
- 23. Atomic #10
- 25. Practice fight
- 26. US gov't branch
- 27. Female deer
- 29. Remarks meant for the audience

- 31. Undergarments
- 33. Prevent from seeing
- 34. Masked
- 36. "A Suitable Boy" novelist
- 38. Invisible gaseous substance
- 39. Sour
- 41. County in New Mexico
- 43. No seats available
- 44. Pulitzer-winning composer
- 46. Fit or irritation
- 48. The ability to move objects through thought
- 52. Skywalker mentor -Wan Kenobi
- 53. Herbal medicine seed
- 54. "Zero Dark Thirty" director Bigelow
- 56. Preferences
- 57. Soundly

- 58. One precedes another
- 59. Au reservoirs

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Famed explorer
- 2. Transferred property to
- 3. Clerical vestment
- 4. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 5. Cab
- 6. Thin piece of wood
- 7. Persons without pigment in their skin
- 8. Fill again
- 9. Submissive
- 10. His and
- 11. Sources of stress
- 12. Shelter
- 14. French commune
- 15. Boggy ground
- 18. Old man
- 20. Peanut
- 24. Michael Corleone's personal enforcer
- 26. Geological formations
- 28. Wages
- 30. Insect repellent
- 32. Unit of time
- 34. Musician
- 35. Not good
- 37. Esteemed one
- 38. Structures
- 40. Where workers sit
- 42. Women who foretell the future
- 43. Quantitative fact
- 45. Missing soldiers
- 47. Diminutive
- 49. This (Spanish)
- 50. Hold on to
- 51. Thrust a knife into
- 55. Hengyang Bajialing Airport

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| <p>TUNE-UP SPECIAL Includes: plugs, timing/idle speed and complete diagnostic checks 4 cylinder \$39⁹⁵ 6 cylinder \$49⁹⁵ 8 cylinder \$59⁹⁵ Most Vehicles - With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> | <p>EXHAUST SPECIAL 25% OFF EXHAUST WORK Excludes Catalytic Converters Most Vehicles - With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> |
| <p>BRAKE SPECIAL STARTING AT... \$99⁹⁵ replace front pads & turn rotors or replace rear pads and turn rotors Most Vehicles - With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> | <p>WHEEL ALIGNMENT CHECK FRONT \$49⁹⁵ 4 WHEELS \$59⁹⁵ Most Vehicles INCLUDES TOE...ALL OTHER ADJUSTMENTS EXTRA With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> |
| <p>RADIATOR FLUSH up to 1 gallon of anti-freeze \$39⁹⁵ STARTING AT... Most Vehicles - With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> | <p>TRANSMISSION FLUSH STARTING AT... \$99⁹⁵ Most Vehicles - With this coupon - Expires 1/31/19 T</p> |

SCHOOLS

Computer expert to speak at next Women's Club meeting

WILBRAHAM – With cybersecurity a growing concern, local computer expert Aristeo Torres will deliver a talk during the next Wilbraham Women's Club meeting Thursday, Feb. 14 at noon in the Parish Center of St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main St. Sandwiches and desserts will be served.

Torres, of Post Computer Systems in Wilbraham, will deliver a presentation titled "Defensive Driving for your Computer," addressing safe Web surfing habits. He will discuss how folks may protect their computers against various viruses and malicious software, removal options, and data recovery.

VOTING from page 3

out, their ballots sealed and signed, and entered into a computer system. On election day, workers duplicate those efforts, casting the ballots on election day.

Although the towns will not be reimbursed for all of their expenses, both clerks are happy to recover some of their cost.

"That's pretty much what I submitted," Tardif said.

"When I put in for reimbursement, there's no guarantee I'm going to get it," Wiseman commented. She noted during regular elections, the state only covers the cost of printing ballots.

School Lunch Menus

Elementary and Middle Schools

Monday, Jan. 21 - No school

Tuesday, Jan. 22 - Ham and cheese flatbread melt, potato smiles, and celery sticks with hummus

Wednesday, Jan. 23 - Chicken fajita, peppers and onions, lettuce and salsa, and corn

Thursday, Jan. 24 - Totally Taco Soup, tortilla chips, shredded cheese, and corn

Friday, Jan. 25 - Cheese pizza with whole grain crust, and veggies with hummus

Alternates are offered daily, including chef salad and bagel lunch, and are served with yogurt or cheese stick. Fresh local fruits and vegetables daily. Daily lunch is \$2.75. Milk is 50 cents, included with all lunches, 1% or fat free chocolate. Make checks payable to School Food Services.

Minnechaug Regional High School

Monday, Jan. 21 - No school

Tuesday, Jan. 22 - Mozzarella sticks, tomato sauce, seasoned noodles, and green beans; Main Street Deli – Caesar chicken wrap; Falcon Grille Daily – Cheese/veggie or chicken burger w/toppings; Pizza Daily – BBQ chicken; Specialty - Grilled chicken, Caesar salad, Buffalo chicken salad, chef salad, assorted wraps

falo chicken salad, chef salad, assorted wraps

Wednesday, Jan. 23 - Mexican Bar – Taco, burrito, or nacho; chicken, bean or turkey; lettuce/salsa/cheese; and corn. Main Street Deli – Chicken salad wrap. Falcon Grille Daily – Cheese/veggie or chicken burger w/toppings. Pizza Daily – Meatball. Specialty – Grilled chicken, Caesar salad, Buffalo chicken salad, chef salad, assorted wraps

Thursday, Jan. 24 - French toast sticks, sausage links, home fries, and applesauce. Main Street Deli – Buffalo chicken wrap; Falcon Grille Daily – Cheese/veggie or chicken burger w/toppings; Pizza Daily – Chicken and broccoli; Specialty – Grilled chicken, Caesar salad, Buffalo chicken salad, chef salad, assorted wraps

Friday, Jan. 25 - Pasta Bar – Meat or white sauce, Caesar salad, and garlic knot; Main Street Deli – Veggie wrap; Falcon Grille Daily – Cheese/veggie or chicken burger w/toppings; Pizza Daily – Buffalo chicken; Specialty – Grilled chicken, Caesar salad, Buffalo chicken salad, chef salad, assorted wraps

Meal prices \$3, reduced 40 cents, adult \$3.75, milk 50 cents, breakfast \$1.75. All meals served with choice of fruit, vegetable and 1% or fat free milk. Offered daily: salad bar, grab & go sandwiches and salad, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, PB&J, veggie burgers and yogurt bar.

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Wilbraham Hampden Times, please email twit-kop@turley.com.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Who are you?

Wilbraham resident Craig Lareau photographed this barred owl hunting in a field near Minnechaug Regional High School Jan. 12. Are you wild for wildlife? Send your photos and tales to tyler@turley.com.

TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED



Making spirits bright...

Wilbraham firefighter Victor Robidoux (center) joins Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and the conductor to spread holiday cheer to the children of Life Care at Wilbraham employees Dec. 15. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED



A visit with the governor...

Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden President Larry Ottoson (left) introduces District Gov. Kate Sims to the club, during the club's meeting Jan. 9 at the Anchor House Restaurant, where she was updated on the club's activities and service projects. Those interested in attending a meeting may contact club Secretary Brad Sperry at 537-4171.

TIMES PHOTO COURTESY ZBIGNIEW KIELCZEWSKI

Life in WILBRAHAM & HAMPDEN

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

Happy birthday...

State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (left), state Sen. Eric Lesser (back center) and Life Care at Wilbraham Executive Director Dennis Lopata (back right) celebrate the birthday of resident Rose Cira (front center) Jan. 4. Cira, 101, is joined by her daughter Rosalie Parylak. TIMES PHOTO BY DAVID MILES



Ring in the New Year...

Children celebrate the New Year from the Minnechaug Regional High School Eve party Dec. 31. TIMES PHOTO BY DAVID MILES

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Heartwarming teens...

The Teen Advisory Board at the Wilbraham Public Library celebrates the end of their fleece blanket drive during the holiday season. Through the help of the community, during two meetings 16 teens made nearly 40 fleece blankets for the Shriners Children's Hospital in Springfield. A



These roots run deep...

Jen Adams and Ricky Theberge celebrate their marriage by planting a tree at Bruuer Pond. While the couple currently resides in West Hollywood, Calif., they planted the tree on a recent visit to their home community. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED



gymnasium during the Peach Blossom Festival Committee's Nine Year's

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:



'A Window on the Community'...

Editor's note: Each week we provide a glimpse at Greg the Barber's window. This is the next in our series of photos.

Greg wishes everyone a Happy New Year. TIMES PHOTO BY DAVID MILES

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FOR SALE



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FOR SALE



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UNDER AGREEMENT



108 Woodland Road, Springfield

BUSINESS

Wild Apple wins international design award

WILBRAHAM – Out of more than 5,000 submissions from 24 countries, Wild Apple Design Group of Wilbraham was named a Silver winner in the 2018 Summit Creative Award competition for its work in designing and building the new website for GreatHorse golf and country club www.greathorse.com. Hampden residents Amy Scott, director of project management and business development, and Eric Belliveau, director of operations and technology, are part of the Wild Apple Design Group team.

“Our team at Wild Apple is so honored to receive this award with our client, GreatHorse,” Scott said. “We had a great time collaborating on the intensive design and build of this project and working with the outstanding visual assets of this stunning property. Winning an award is the cherry on top.”

The Summit Creative Award recognizes and celebrates the creative achievements of small- and medium-sized advertising agencies worldwide with annual billings under \$30 million.

This year’s panel of international judges included professionals representing Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, South Africa, and the United States. During its blind judging the Board of Judges searches for and identifies innovative and creative concepts, strong executions and user experience, and the ability to community and persuade. Winners were selected in a wide range of categories from print to broadcast, to online advertising and social media.

This year’s SCA creative competition included companies from 24 countries including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, and England.



Wild Apple Design Group was recently named a Silver winner in the international 2018 Summit Creative competition for their work designing and building a new website for GreatHorse. Representatives from the two businesses celebrate at the golf and lifestyle club in Hampden. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED



Cutting the ribbon on Boston Road...

Cumberland Farms celebrates the opening of their new Wilbraham gas station and convenience store located on Boston Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony Dec. 11. To commemorate the occasion, the store held a four-week fundraiser for the Scantic Valley YMCA, bringing in \$1,628 for the organization. Joining for the occasion are Dexter Johnson (right with sign), president and CEO of the Greater Springfield YMCA; Rose Gates (center), store manager; and Debbie Kelder, Scantic Valley Y executive director. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED

ARTS & LIFESTYLES

Watercolor classes to start in Hampden

HAMPDEN – An eight-week watercolor class will begin later this month at the Hampden Senior Center. Taught by local artist Joyce Emerle, the program starts Wednesday, Jan. 30 and takes place

from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the center located at 104 Allen St. A materials list is available at the Senior Center. To register, call the center at 566-5588. For course information, call Emerle at 455-1377.

Amelia Holstrom named partner at Skoler, Abbott & Presser

SPRINGFIELD – Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C. announced attorney Amelia J. Holstrom was named a partner in the firm Jan. 1. Holstrom, who has been with the firm since 2012, focuses her practice on labor law and employment litigation including personnel policies and practices review, wage and hour compliance, and separation and severance agreements.

Attorney Timothy Murphy, a partner at Skoler Abbott said, “Amelia is renowned state-wide for her legal and professional skills. She as a Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly ‘Up & Coming’ honoree in 2017, selected to the Super Lawyers ‘Rising Stars’ in 2018, and is a regular contributor to the Massachusetts Employment Law Letter. She helps her clients make difficult employment decisions within their legal obligations. She provides counsel to management regarding strategies to avoid litigation, but is an experienced litigator prepared to vigorously defend her clients in court when necessary. We are thrilled Amelia has accepted partnership with the firm.”

“I’m proud to be able to take on more of a leadership role for one of the region’s



Amelia Holstrom

most vibrant, well-respected firms,” Holstrom said. “Growing up, I watched my parents, who worked in management at different companies, make challenging decisions about employees. When I took a labor law class in school, I was reminded of the myriad of difficulties employers face and the laws that impact those decisions. That served as the basis for my legal career, while my

work at Skoler Abbott has helped me finely hone my skills. I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue to grow with the firm.”

A resident of Wilbraham, Holstrom frequently speaks about employment-related legal topics for a wide variety of associations and organizations. She is a member of the Massachusetts, Hampden County and Connecticut bar associations, and also sits on the board of directors for Clinical & Support Options in Northampton, which provides support to individuals and families striving for self-sufficiency; Girls Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts; and is an ad hoc member of the Personnel Committee for the Food Bank of Western Mass.

Artisans to host January ‘Art Blizzard’

HAMPDEN – Later this month, the Scantic River Artisans hope for a heavy blizzard ... of art that is, with their “Art Blizzard” show at the Hampden Senior Center.

Featuring art displays of various mediums and live demonstrations, all are invited to the Artisans’ gallery in the center located at 104 Allen St. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. In the event of in-

clement weather, the show will take place Sunday, Jan. 27.

In addition to the exhibit that celebrates the talents of local artists, guests are welcome to meet with the creators during a reception from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information about the show or the Artisans, visit scanticriverartisans.org or call President Nan Hurlburt at 413-205-7985.

Youth artists sought for annual junior duck stamp contest statewide

Young artists in grades K-12 are encouraged to enter the state’s annual Junior Duck Stamp contest.

The JDS program links the study of wetlands and waterfowl conservation with the creation of original artwork. Students learn about the habitat requirements of various kinds of ducks and geese and then express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity, and interdependence of these species artistically, by creating a drawing or painting which can be submitted to the JDS art contest. The art is judged in four

age group categories in a statewide competition; the entry judged Best of Show moves on to represent Massachusetts in the national JDS competition.

The entry deadline is Feb. 15. For more information contact Pam Landry at 508-389-6310, or pam.landry@state.ma.us. Contest and application information is also available online at www.mass.gov/service-details/junior-duck-stamp-program-connecting-youth-with-nature-through-science-and-art.

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Kowal notches 100th point in win over Agawam

By **Nate Rosenthal**
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - It was a big day for Minnechaug hockey as Matt Kowal reached 100-point career milestone, leading his team to a 4-1 victory over Agawam. He had a part in all four goals getting his first hat trick of the season and third of his career on the big goal. On this night, it was three goals and an assist.

With the just over a minute to play the Falcons took a timeout and sent Kowal back on the ice. He then took a pass from Eddie Wurszt, who had just won the face off in the right circle. Kowal picked up the puck in the slot just to left of goalie Nick Brady. He skated around two defenders and then flipped it past Brady on the backhand at the 1:02 mark. His teammates gathered around him to congratulate him and the Falcons a minute later would be

celebrating a big win with their goalie Tommy Sheehan.

Kowal, with 47 goals and 53 assists, came into the season needing 23 points. He got those 23 on 14 goals and nine assists to lead his team. In his freshman year, Kowal had just 12 points, seven goals and five assists. Getting to 100 would have appeared to be a tall task. He followed that with a 43 point season, a year later, scoring 14 goal and assisting on 29 others. Now after two years, he was more than halfway there. Last season, Kowal went 12 and 10 and with 77 points, he was still on pace to get to the magic number. In this his senior season, Kowal has scored those 23 points in just 11 games, comparable to what he did as a sophomore. The team made sure that he was able to do it with time to spare. Consistency has been his game and he has scored at least one point in nearly every game he has played

in his career. And when he has been held scoreless in game, it has been just one game.

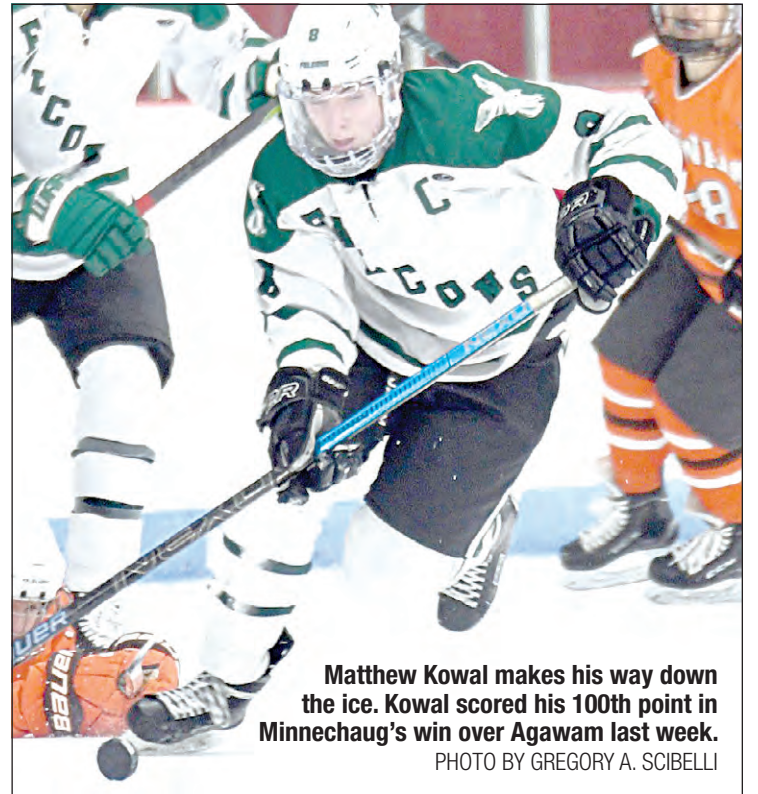
On the final goal, Wurszt said, "I was thrilled to be the one who assisted Matt on that goal. I was looking for him as soon as I won the face-off. I am so happy for him."

Wurszt was out there already, but with the timeout, Coach Gene Shaw got Kowal one last chance.

This was the second meeting of the season between the Brownies and Falcons. Agawam won the first, 4-3, despite being outshot 37-17. They did benefit from an 11-4 penalty difference, including several five on threes. Agawam made the most of their shots in the first encounter and Brady was stopping shot after shot. To this point, that is Agawam's lone win of the season.

In this go around, the shot

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 12



Matthew Kowal makes his way down the ice. Kowal scored his 100th point in Minnechaug's win over Agawam last week.
PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Falcons winning streak stopped by Pacers

By **Nate Rosenthal**
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee High boys basketball beat Minnechaug, 68-49. This was a game that had two teams going in different directions. The Pacers had lost three in a row, while Falcons had won their previous two games. Though they led throughout, Chicopee effectively put the game away in the fourth quarter.

The Pacers were in danger of falling four games under .500 as the midpoint of their season approached. They truly needed a victory and getting it against a team like the Falcons was most welcome. Their record is now 3-5 and they begin league play this next week. Minnechaug, with the loss, dropped to 6-6 and have yet to go off on a big run. They also

Please see **BOYS**, page 12



Gabriella Ofcarcik makes her way down the court.



Serena Fiore makes it around a defender to head for the basket.



Emily Howard makes a bounce pass inside the paint.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Minnechaug takes care of Monson

By **Nate Rosenthal**
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug girls basketball team beat Monson, 63-32 this week. For the Falcons, it was their third win in a row, after opening the season with two losses. The Mustangs have been going in the opposite direction as this was their third consecutive loss after a 2-0 start.

This season has been particularly difficult for Monson. A year ago, they were the top seed in the Division 4 tournament and they went on to win Western Mass and got to the state finals. The Mustangs have managed to play up with Division 1 rivals like the Falcons. Minnechaug made it to the sectional finals last year.

For the first six minutes, this was a game, as the teams traded points with regularity, Sydney

DeVries got the first basket of the game and Monson had the initial lead. Bella DeMattia tied it up and the teams went back and forth. While DeVries kept things close with her six first quarter points, that was more than the rest of the team combined. Minnechaug was led by Serena Fiore's seven, including a big three by her and another by Autumn Strange and by the end of the quarter, the score was 22-10.

It was more of the same in the second, as the Falcons began to pull away. Despite a three by Kaitlyn Santos, the margin got to 24 points, 37-13 on baskets by Caitlin Bonavita, Fiore and Madison Sanborn. Santos made one of two free throws with 1:30 left to break the run. Alivia Skowyra had a free throw in the final minute, but a basket by Rhea Harrigan brought it back to 24 with a score of 39-15.

There was very little score in the third. More significant was that the Falcons held the Mustangs to four points, that coming after a five point second. Kelsey Duggan had a field goal and DeVries added two free throws. Lauren Barry had four of the Falcons seven points. Minnechaug led 46-19.

The scoring picked up in the final frame. DeVries opened it with two free throws, but Minnechaug kept pulling away, finally getting the margin to 30 plus in the final minute. Emily Howard had a big quarter with eight points and Strange added another three. DeVries had five for the Mustangs.

Both teams were busy at the foul line. Monson had 24 free throws, while Minnechaug took 21 shots. The difference in the game the 27-13 edge on shots

Please see **GIRLS**, page 12



Michael O'Toole gets a shot off. TIMES PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY

Gaziano places in opening meet

Brunswick, ME – Senior Ryan Wittenberg (Bedford, NH) and sophomore Oliver Thomas (Goffstown, NH) each set a new school and facility record as the WPI men's indoor track & field team opened the 2019 season with a first place finish Saturday at the Bowdoin Invitational.

The Engineers, who entered the meet ranked 41st in the USTFCCA NCAA Division III preseason national rating index, accumulated 216 points while the hosts were second with 148. The event also included Wheaton (49 points), Husson (46), Thomas (36), Rhode Island College (27), Connecticut College (23), St. Joseph's (ME) (8) and Colby-Sawyer (3).

Wittenberg captured the 600-meter run (1:20.77) after Thomas guided a herd of Engineers in the 60-meter hurdles with an 8.18, which is tied for sixth on the NCAA Division III performance list as of 8:15pm. He was followed by sophomore Malek Elshakhs (Storrs, CT), sophomore Mark Bray (Shrewsbury, MA), freshman Anthony Algieri (Nutley, NJ) and junior Fabian Gaziano (Wilbraham, MA) in second through fifth.

Gaziano and Bray were third and fourth in the 400-meter dash while Junior William Kopellas (Needham, MA), Fleury and senior Kevin Pawlak (Westford, MA) were third (20-10), fifth and sixth in the long jump. Boyd led the Engineers in the weight throw with a distance of 42-1.5.

Chaug among teams to participate in HoopHall

SPRINGFIELD — The Nasmith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame confirmed today the schedule for the 2019 Spalding HoopHall Classic presented by Eastbay. The event is an annual basketball showcase now in its eighteenth year at Springfield College, the birthplace of basketball. Games will be played Jan. 17-21, 2019 at Blake Arena on the

campus of Springfield College.

The event will feature 29 games in five days, showcasing local boys and girls on Thursday and Friday respectively. MLK Weekend will be headlined by 14 nationally ranked programs, including the current Top 8 in USA TODAY's Super 25: #1 LaLumiere School (Ind.), #2 McEachern High School (Ga.), #3 DeMatha

Catholic High School (Md.), #4 The Ranney School (N.J.), #5 IMG Academy (Fla.), #6 Montverde Academy (Fla.), #7 Oak Hill Academy (Va.), and #8 Sierra Canyon School (Calif.).

ESPN will carry 10 premier match-ups across ESPN, ESPN+ and ESPN+, the premium direct-to-consumer video service from The Walt Disney Compa-

ny's Direct-to-Consumer and International (DTCI) and ESPN. Oak Hill Academy (Va.) vs. IMG Academy (Fla.) will be televised on ESPN on Sunday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. ET.

Minnechaug girls basketball will be one of the teams participating in this year's HoopHall. They will place West Springfield on Friday night at 5:30 p.m.

HOCKEY from page 11

difference was even greater, as the Falcons peppered Brady with 45 shots. The Brownies, for their part could only get 12 on Sheehan and very few were of a threatening nature. The Falcons dominated the play from

start to finish, even though the score may not have reflected that. Penalties did not play a big part in this one, as Minnechaug was called four times and Agawam just twice.

Like the first game, it was scoreless after one and Minnechaug had a 14-5 advantage

in shots, similar to the 12-4 earlier. Kowal got the Falcons on the board at 4:08 of the second period, some 33 seconds after that had killed a penalty. Dominic Terzi assisted. With 5:53 remaining in the second, Dylan Slicch tied with Nate Manser assisting. That came 20 seconds

after another Minnechaug kill. Kowal, though answered at 4:41, unassisted. The Falcons also had a 17-3 edge on shots. Just 1:14 into the third, Kowal fed Austin Kareta to make it 3-1. Seconds before the big goal, both teams had returned to full strength after matching penalties.



Stephen Mushenko takes a quick shot on goal.



Joseph Manning makes his way down the ice. PHOTOS BY LISA THOMAS-DUFRESNE

GIRLS from page 11

from the floor for the Falcons, including 3-2 on treys.

DeVries led the overall

scoring with 13, but she was the only Mustang in double figures. Fiore and Howard had 12 apiece for Minnechaug, with Barry right behind at 11.

BOYS from page 11

begin their league schedule.

Kobe Parker gave the Pacers a 2-0 lead just 209 seconds into the game. After both teams had misses on their next possessions, Eric Johnson tied it up for the Falcons. A steal and another Johnson basket put the Falcons on top. Before the second minute was over, Parker hit two free throws and it was 4-4. Michael O'Toole put the Falcons ahead by one with a free throw with just under six minutes to play. The Pacers then ran off the eight points in the next two minutes to lead 12-5. After baskets by Damien Ocasio and Jopaul McKrieth, Isaiah Haines went back to back. Johnson ended the run and then the teams traded points to a 15-9 score after one quarter.

Chicopee began the second quarter with baskets by Josiah Hernandez and Ocasio and the lead was ten with two and a half minutes played. Back and forth they went for the remainder of the quarter. At 2:37 McKrieth

made a three for a 24-13 score. With 43 seconds to play Johnson got the Falcons back inside ten at 26-17.

In the first minute after the break, Haines scored for Chicopee and Matt DeVine hit three to cut it to eight. Two minutes later Max Torres scored for the Falcons and the score was 30-24. The Pacers built the lead back to 11 points on back to back baskets by McKrieth at the 4:00 mark. Then it was Johnson with a layup and a three followed by a jumper by Luke Angelica with 50 seconds left. Minnechaug had closed to four. DJ Daniels got the Chicopee lead back to seven, 42-35 just before the third quarter ended.

In the first minute of the fourth, McKrieth made a free throw and Haines a trey to put the Pacers back into a double-digit lead. After baskets by Johnson and Jason Ofcarcik, Ocasio made it 50-39. Johnson scored for Minnechaug. The Pacers scored the next six and with a three by Hernandez with 4:10 to play, they led 56-41. A minute

later, it was still 15 points following a three from Johnson. In the final minute Johnson hit another three, but that was matched by Dwayne Luvera for the 68-49 final.

Johnson led the game with 25 of his team's 49 points. For Chicopee, it was Ocasio and Haines, each with 15 and McKrieth right behind at 13.



Lauren Barry heads up for a shot. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Eric Johnson goes for the layup. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY



Luke Caltabiano reaches out to make rebound.



Maxiel Torres changes the direction of his dribble as he looks to deke the opposition.

SPORTS



Taylor signs National Letter of Intent

Dan Taylor signs his National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Pace University next fall. The signing was held last week at Minnechaug Regional High School. Taylor is a member of the Minnechaug boys lacrosse team and will play his final season this spring. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Week Ahead

MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

| Boys Basketball | | | | Indoor Track | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 22 | | | | Friday, Jan. 18 | | | |
| Home | West Springfield | 7 p.m. | Away | TBD | | | 3:45 p.m. |
| Girls Basketball | | | | Swimming | | | |
| Friday, Jan. 18 | | | | Friday, Jan. 18 | | | |
| Home | West Springfield | 5:30 p.m. | Home | Agawam | | | 4 p.m. |
| Ice Hockey | | | | Wrestling | | | |
| Thursday, Jan. 17 | | | | Saturday, Jan. 19 | | | |
| Away | Amherst | 5:10 p.m. | Away | Longmeadow | | | 4 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 21 | | | | Thursday, Jan. 24 | | | |
| Away | Ludlow | 12 p.m. | Away | Burt Burger Invitational | | | 9 a.m. |
| | | | Away | South Hadley | | | 7 p.m. |

OBITUARIES

Walter S. Szaban (1927-2019)



Walter S. Szaban, 91, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. Born in Indian Orchard on March 22, 1927, he was the son of the late Peter and Mary (Bernat) Szaban. At age 18, Walter proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Army Tank Corps under Gen. George Patton during World War II.

Walter is survived by his wife of 66 years Helen and son Peter and his wife Donna. He also leaves his sister Helen DeSellier, the sole survivor of his nine siblings. Sadly his daughter Beverly died in 1964 at age 2. Walter was also predeceased by his siblings Stephen, Edward, Stanley, Sophie, Anna, Genevieve and Jane.

The family extends their gratitude and appreciation to the staff of Life Care at Wilbraham for Walter's care and family support. We are blessed to have met new friends with a common bond.

All services are private, with burial at the convenience of the family. Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home is handling arrangements. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com

Death Notices

Dempsey, Joseph P.
Died Jan. 12, 2019
Funeral Service Jan. 18, 12:30 p.m.
St. Cecilia's Church

Szaban, Walter S.
Died Jan. 9, 2019
All services are private
Kapinos Mazur
Funeral Home

Wawrzyk, Joan M.
Died Jan. 4, 2019
Burial at the convenience of the family
Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Joan M. Wawrzyk (1932- 2019)

Joan M. Wawrzyk, of Lake Alfred, Florida and Wilbraham, passed away peacefully on Jan. 4, 2019 in Florida. She was born on March 8, 1932 in Newark, New Jersey and was the only child to parents Robert Wesley Schneegas and Viola M. (Preston) Schneegas. Joan attended schools in New Jersey and was a Marine Corps veteran. Joan retired from Sears at Eastfield Mall. Joan was predeceased by her parents and husband of 62 years Frank Wawrzyk (2014) and her daughter-in-law Carolyn Wawrzyk. Joan leaves her four children John of Florida, Joyce of Florida, James and his longtime loving companion Jeanne Callahan of Springfield, and Jerry and his wife Lisa of Wilbraham. He also leaves her six grandchildren: Eric, Mat, Troy, Adam, Brooke and Zack, her one great-grandchild Hrorik and several nieces and nephews. The burial will be at the convenience of the family at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD18P2448EA Estate of: Wordsworth S Wisenburn Jr. Also Known As: Woodsworth S. Wisenburn, Jr. Date of Death: 11-22-2018 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in

the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David Wisenburn** of Hampden, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Anne G Chernick** of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but

interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 1/17/19

PUBLIC HEARING: NEW LIQUOR LICENSE
The Wilbraham Board of Selectmen will hold a hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 12, on **Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, to hear public comment on an application for a new Section 12: Wine and Malt Beverages Service License submitted by Blue Elephant Restaurant LLC, 2000 Boston Road, Wilbraham, with W. Andrew Czepiel proposed as designated alcohol service manager.

Persons wishing to comment on the referenced application will be heard. **WILBRAHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
Local Licensing Authority
1/17/19

PUBLIC HEARING NEW ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE
The Wilbraham Board of Selectmen will hold a hearing under Chapter 140, Section 183A of the General Laws to consider a new application for an annual (Monday - Saturday) entertainment license at Blue Elephant Restaurant, LLC, located at

2000 Boston Road, to include entertainment consisting of pre-recorded soft music in the restaurant and also on the facility's outdoor patio. The hearing is scheduled for **Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:10 PM** at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed entertainment license will be heard. **WILBRAHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
1/17/18

GARDEN from page 4

be a gas plant, peony or Baptisia. A weed by definition is simply a plant that is not valued where it is growing. Surely the dandelion stands out in our minds and in our lawns as an unwelcome guest. But a weed doesn't have to be in the ranks of dandelions for it to be troublesome in the garden. Sometimes overzealous annuals like cleome, Johnny jump up, or even tomatoes can drop seed and germinate years later, all at the expense of the poor gardener's back! They too can be considered weedy. An organic symbol next to a seed listing means that the seeds were harvested from plants that were grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. OG seeds are likewise 'untreated' and not dipped in rot-preventing fungicide. "Treated" seed, on the other hand, is usually listed as such in the catalog. Look for this

term most often in varieties of bean, corn and squash. A F1 hybrid is made from crossing two genetically unlike but related plants. Increased vigor and fruiting along with improved disease resistance result. The drawback, however, is that F1 hybrids remain stable for only a single generation. In other words, if you save the seeds from your prizewinning Jet Star hybrid tomatoes, chances are what will grow in your garden next year will be inferior to the parent. OP or open-pollinated varieties, on the other hand, are stable genetically and can reproduce themselves. It's safe to say that most seed sold as "heirloom" is open-pollinated. Grow Brandywine tomatoes, for example, and save the seed then rest assured that you will have the same pinkish-red fruit on your plate year after year. Some gardeners

prefer to grow only open-pollinated varieties rather than depend on a few big seed conglomerates for their food. Seed saving is an added dimension to gardening that will be fun to explore in future articles this summer. Until then, have fun as you too cozy up with a seed catalog or two this winter!
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the

Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 29 years, she has held the position of horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmer@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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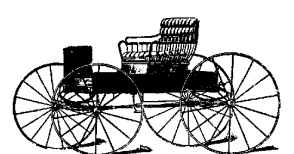
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COOKIES from page 1

have to keep waiting," she said, although the second truck did arrive as the volunteers began loading boxes in the backs and sides of troop leaders' vehicles.

One of those vehicles was a utility truck operated by Amanda Merrick, of Troop 11714, who loaded boxes with her daughter Audra.

"I got this truck when I realized just how many boxes I needed to pick up," she said.

A first-time "hauler" from the Cookie Drop was Tom Fournier, of Ludlow, who was picking up cookies for Girl Scout Troop 64693.

"This was the first time I've been to this, but I was really impressed with how they had everything mapped out," he said.

Girl Scout cookie sales officially begin this weekend with booths set up at venues across

the region. To find times, additional dates and locations of sales, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org or use the free Girl Scout Cookie Finder App.

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, according to

its mission statement, girls discover their leadership potential and also their earnings to fund experiences including travel, outdoor adventure and science, technology, engineering and math programming.



The cars line up in the early morning hours at the K-Mart Plaza in Palmer to get Girl Scout cookies to take back to troops throughout the region. TIMES STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS FARMER



Sam Budynekiwicz, of Hampden, and her friend Lyle Smith Jr., of Connecticut, look over the piles needing to be taken to the waiting cars.

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- Brenna

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"People see me in a wheelchair, and they think I'm disabled," Brenna says. "But in reality, this injury has just put more mountains in front of me to get to the top. I think my calling is to help people with disabilities enjoy their lives to the fullest."

To watch Brenna's incredible story, go to BaystateHealth.org/Brenna.

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