



GARDEN from page 6

the garden and which I needed to discard and order new. Although viability decreases as seeds age, proper storage can insure that you will get at least three years worth of sprouting out of many of your favorites. It is important to fold over used seed packets and seal them with tape after use, and if you are just getting to it now, it’s better late than never. Put them in a location that is cool and dry.

Since temperatures around 37-41 degrees are ideal, many people assume that storage in the refrigerator is preferred. It is, as long as the seeds are first placed in an airtight container along with a desiccant to absorb

moisture. Desiccants such as silica gel are available in the floral section of craft shops, or you can reuse the pouches of silica that come in vitamin bottles or shoe boxes.

If you’d rather not take up space in your fridge, storing the container of seeds in a cabinet in a dry part of the house will also work.

Whatever you do, don’t put them in a hot attic or damp basement! It is also not a good idea to purchase seeds from stores that have their seed displays in greenhouses. Temperature and moisture extremes can affect viability even if the seeds are brand new!

Some seed companies sell their seed in foil-lined packets. These are very good at keeping them fresh for

the longest amount of time – especially if they are unopened.

Now that you have inventoried your seeds, it will be a whole lot of fun to order exactly what you need. That’s what I will be doing after one more family game night and that last Christmas movie!

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

CONTRACT from page 1

tract mediation through the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations after the negotiations reached an impasse.

Maureen Russell, a third-grade teacher at Stony Hill Elementary School, focused on curriculum, explaining how “the expectation of students and teachers is not sustainable.”

“Our new curricula are rigorous and engaging, but are also guides meant for educated, experienced teachers to use in combination with how we know children learn best. We are not given autonomy to do that,” Russell said. “Since it has been deemed necessary to follow these curricula and their corresponding pacing guides strictly, there is no time to go over content students didn’t understand. Rushing through at this fast pace means students aren’t able to process and internalize the skills. Thus, more are being identified as needing interventions, which the classroom teacher is also expected to deliver.”

Russell said educators, now, have four curricula to plan for, implement and grade, or five if Second Steps is expected to be taught during morning meetings.

“24, that’s the number of students in our classrooms, too high. Three, the average number of extra hours we work per day. 74, that’s how many days we’ve been in school this year. That adds up to 222 extra hours of work or approximately 32 additional workdays. 170, the number of days we’ve gone without a contract and 12 is the number of meetings the HWEA Negotiating Team has had with the School Committee with no outcome,” Russell said. “As a teacher and a resident, I find this shameful.”

After noting the paraeducators need fair wages too, Russell said this.

“Our district is already getting the most we can give. We love our students and we want to work hard so that they get the best education possible. But educators are losing time with their own families and risking our own health,” Russell said. “We ask that you give us the same respect that we give to our students. Pay us what we have earned and deserve.”

Jessica Paris, a second-grade teacher at Stony Hill Elementary School, asked for a fair contract “because I care about the sustainability of our schools and the ability of dedicated educators to continue serving our students with the time, energy and commitment they deserve.”

Patis said the schools are filled with “hardworking,

caring professionals who give everything they have to ensure students feel safe, supported and capable of success.”

“Teachers in our district are carrying more responsibilities than ever before. Larger class sizes, expanded curriculum demands and increased behavioral and mental health needs among students. We are under increasing pressure to integrate rapidly evolving technology into our classrooms while often working with outdated and frequently broken Chromebooks that disrupt learning and add to our workload,” Paris said.

Paris added that asking for a fair contract “isn’t about asking for more, it’s about recognizing the realities of the job” and “ensures that teachers can continue providing the high-quality education our community expects and deserves.”

“When teachers are supported, students benefit. A fair contract is an investment in the entire community. Better supported educators attract families, strengthen local economies and keep property values stable. It is not simply about compensation. It is about retention, recruitment and respecting the professionalism of teachers. Our district cannot retain or attract the educators our students rely on if the message they receive is that their dedication is limitless, but their support is negotiable,” Paris said. “The decisions you make in this negotiation will shape not only the quality of our schools, but also the future of every child who walks into our classrooms. It is a message to families that our district is committed to excellence, it is a message to teachers that their dedication is not invisible and it is a dedication to students that the adults they rely on are worthy of respect, stability and support. They deserve to see that their community values the people who show up for them day after day and year after year.”

Paris ended her comments saying a fair contract “is not just about dollars, but it’s about what kind of district we want HWRSD to be,” and asking the School Committee “to demonstrate your commitment to our students by settling a contract that truly reflects the value of the people who serve them every day.”

“I urge you to take action that reflects the compassion, strength and vision our students count on,” Paris said.

Franchesca Dubois, a teacher at Mile Tree Elementary School, is expecting her first child and has taught for four years, fighting back tears as she shared

how lucky she feels to work “with our youngest learners” and teachers who “that consistently put students’ needs, learning and even personal fulfillment at the center of each day.”

Dubois explained she spends early mornings and late evenings with her colleagues “to make sure each student gets the best possible experience in first grade and beyond.”

“At school, their entire educational journey can be determined by those first years of experience. Each one of us knows the importance of the beginning years of childhood and the effect it has on a child’s development,” Dubois said. “Unfortunately, for my son, his beginning year of development may be different and forced into the hands of someone that is not his mother.”

Dubois said she and her husband are bracing for financial obstacles “due to the lack of maternity leave,” and her returning to work as early as four weeks post-partum.

“I have only accumulated 20 sick days. Throughout pregnancy, there are many appointments monthly, biweekly and eventually, even more. Some of those appointments I have been able to schedule for after hours. Many I cannot given restricted time for our overwhelmed, local specialist doctors. Those upcoming appointments will slowly take my accumulated days, my time with my newborn,” Dubois said. “Once I use my accumulated days, I will no longer hold an income, so I ask for your guidance. What are my options? A second job? Leaving teaching entirely for a career that can provide basic support for my growing family? My husband will carry our young and growing family in a new world that so desperately requires two strong incomes. We already worry about paying our mortgage, insurance, medical bills, student loans and high grocery bills with my first step salary that is under livable wage. Soon enough, diapers and formula will be added to a growing list and an income that will soon stop.”

Dubois shared her story to express she’s not the only young parent “that this effects.”

“Please look at the age graphics of our district. Many more may soon be in this position. I encourage you all to follow suit with other surrounding districts and careers to adapt paid family leave for my son and my family and the rest to come,” Dubois said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Mark Fulton for a Special Permit (SP25-06) to exceed the size limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of a 864 square foot (26’ in height) detached accessory building on property owned by Mark and Kristen Fulton located at 28 Longview Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

James Rooney, Chair

1/08, 01/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD09P1912EA Estate of: Robert Jablonski Date of Death: 01/08/2008 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Brenda Jablonski of Chappaqua, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Brenda Jablonski of Chappaqua, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must

file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 23, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate

01/08/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 16, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2005 Kia Sportage
VIN: KNDJE723457063817
LKO: Louis Cote
55 James Rd., Ware MA 01082

2003 Chevrolet Cavalier
VIN: 1G1JC52F837212188
LKO: Christopher Edge

11 Chnura St., Apt. C
Ludlow MA 01056

2006 Volkswagen Passat
VIN: WVWMA23B9YP3015858
LKO: Rosa Fraga
37 Essex St., Ludlow MA 01056

2008 Nissan Versa
VIN: 3N1BC11E48L363404
LKO: Brianna Babineau
4040 Main St.
Thorndike MA 01079

R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374

01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 9, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2017 Hyundai Elantra
VIN#: KMHD74LF2HU433078
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Joanne Hish
167 Kirkland Ave.
Ludlow, MA 01056
Lein: Santander Consumer USA
Fort Worth, TX 76161

R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-4374

12/25/2025, 01/01, 01/08/2026

NOTICE

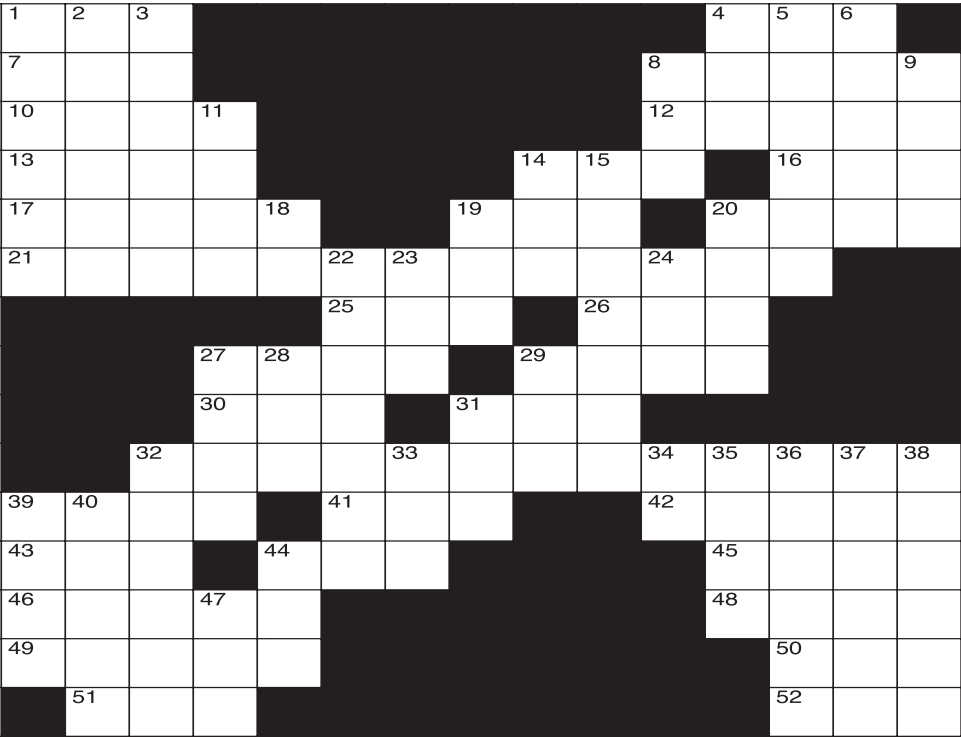
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Former CIA
 - 4. Language
 - 7. Constrictor snake
 - 8. Demand
 - 10. Rich man
 - 12. Short-tailed marten
 - 13. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 - 14. Superconducting super collider
 - 16. International group of countries within the Americas
 - 17. Sacred state for Muslims
 - 19. Shock therapy
 - 20. Engrave
 - 21. Localities
 - 25. Paddle
 - 26. Periodical
 - 27. Dishonestly gained money
 - 29. Gain possession of
 - 30. Actor DiCaprio
 - 31. High schoolers' test
 - 32. Mr. October
 - 39. Sign of healing
 - 41. One's grandmother
 - 42. Entrap
 - 43. One who simultaneously buys and sells
 - 44. ___ Francisco
 - 45. Web-based data provider of marine life
 - 46. Type of snake
 - 48. Dark mark or stain
 - 49. Member of the Sallii
 - 50. Former measure of length
 - 51. CNN's founder
 - 52. Witness
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Acquire
 - 2. Console
 - 3. Hunting expedition
 - 4. Pie ___ mode
 - 5. Simple shoes for peasants
 - 6. Eurasian shrub
 - 8. Reciprocal of a sine
 - 9. Work together in harmony
 - 11. Grenade
 - 14. File extension
 - 15. Minute pores in a plant
 - 18. Medal of Honor
 - 19. Make a mistake
 - 20. Advance slowly, as if by inches
 - 22. Sandwich meat
 - 23. An awkward stupid person
 - 24. Strong tree
 - 27. Commoner
 - 28. Electroencephalograph
 - 29. ___ Mahal
 - 31. Congressman
 - 32. Disorderly crowd
 - 33. 007's creator Fleming
 - 34. Atomic #55
 - 35. Part of a door
 - 36. Short-tail martens
 - 37. Baltimore ballplayer
 - 38. Cuddle
 - 39. Gang in "The Outsiders"
 - 40. Of Croatia
 - 44. Body cavity
 - 47. Get free of