

The Republican.

PLUS

1860 Main St.,
Springfield, MA 01101

ABOUT

The Republican Plus section is published on Thursday. We encourage your contributions of announcements, stories and photos. All submissions must be accompanied by your name, address and telephone number. For information, call 413-788-1200.

MAIL

The Republican Plus Paper
P.O. Box 1329,
Springfield, MA 01102-1329

FAX

413-788-1301

EMAIL

Articles: news@repub.com
Photos: photo@repub.com
(Photos must be high-resolution .jpg images attached to an email with full caption information.)

TO ADVERTISE

413-788-1250

TO SUBSCRIBE

413-788-1100

Toll-free: 800-458-5877

SUDOKU ANSWERS

5	9	8	2	4	6	7	3	1
7	1	4	3	5	8	9	6	2
6	3	2	1	7	9	5	8	4
8	5	7	9	3	4	1	2	6
3	4	1	5	6	2	8	9	7
9	2	6	8	1	7	3	4	5
1	7	9	4	2	3	6	5	8
4	8	5	6	9	1	2	7	3
2	6	3	7	8	5	4	1	9

WILBRAHAM

Walk aims to turn tragedy into action

3.3 Miles for Change honors Sima and Dylan Pariseau

The community is invited to participate in the inaugural 3.3 Miles for Change walk, an event honoring the lives of Sima and Dylan Pariseau, and supporting survivors of domestic violence. The walk will take place Saturday, June 14, at Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road in Wilbraham, with registration opening at 9 a.m. and the walk commencing at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

Sima, 56, and her 27-year-old son, Dylan, tragically lost their lives on June 16, 2024, in an act of domestic violence. This event aims to honor their memory by raising awareness and funds to support others affected by similar tragedies.

Across the United States, nearly 1 in 2 women and more than 2 in 5 men have reported experiencing intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. All proceeds will benefit the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, directly supporting its domestic violence assistance and awareness programs.

“This walk is my way of standing up, not just for my mom and brother, but for every family, every survivor, and every victim who has not yet found their voice, and every life we still have the power to protect,” Sophie Pariseau said. “I am not naive enough to think that we can change the landscape of domestic violence, but I do know that by coming together, raising awareness, and sharing Sima and Dylan’s story, we might help even just a few find a way out, or avoid the heartbreak that my family has faced. My hope is that this walk becomes and is remembered as a symbol of hope, support, and change in our community.”

The registration fee for individuals is \$33, \$12 for children 12 and under, and \$10 for Fenway’s Friends (dog registration). There



Sima Setian Pariseau, Liz Setian, and Dylan Pariseau are pictured in this provided family photo. (SUBMITTED)

is also the option to donate an additional amount.

The 3.3-mile distance and \$33 registration fee hold special significance, representing Dylan’s beloved baseball jersey number, 33. Participants will also receive an exclusive 3.3 Miles for Change T-shirt, with the first 500 registrants guaranteed a shirt.

Additionally, the first 100 dog registrants will receive a special 3.3 Miles for Change dog bandanna. Attendees are encouraged to stay after the walk for a community raffle, with both cash and Venmo accepted for participation.

By joining the 3.3 Miles for Change walk, participants contribute to a cause that extends beyond remembrance. The event seeks to provide crucial support to survivors of domestic violence and to raise awareness about the pervasive issue affecting countless individuals and families.

To register for the walk or to make a donation, visit <https://milesforchange.redpodium.com/33-miles-for-change>

For more information, contact Sophie Pariseau at 3.3milesforchange@gmail.com

DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Pet of the week



Name: Nova

Species: Domestic shorthaired cat

Age: 1 year old

Gender: Male

Nova is a sweet, chill guy who’s just waiting for the right person to curl up with. His previous family describes him as incredibly loving and friendly with his people. Nova is a big fan of the simple things in life: cozy cat naps, tasty treats, and a little sprinkle of catnip to brighten his day. While he can be a bit shy with new people at first, his foster said within an hour with her he was purring and making biscuits. He loves being petted all over but especially enjoys belly rubs. Nova loves attention and makes the sweetest meow to get it! He has lived with other cats and even a Husky, and he did great with both! He will do well with older kids who give him gentle attention, but also space when he needs it. Young kids would be very disruptive to him. Nova is what we call a Spirit Cat. These are cats who are fearful of people and need a quiet home where they can be loved just the way they are. One day they may become more outgoing and social, once you’ve earned their trust, but there are no guarantees. Spirit Cats may enjoy being around their own kind and sometimes make great companions for other cats. For more information, visit <https://www.dakinhumane.org/adopt-a-pet>

HOMETOWN NOTES

HAMPDEN

Memorial Day events

Pat Ledoux VFW Post 9397, in partnership with the Town of Hampden, invites the public to attend the annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 26, to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country.

The parade will set off at 10 a.m.

from St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 27 Somers Road, and proceed down Main Street to the Veterans Memorial at the Hampden Town Center, where the town’s Memorial Day ceremony will begin at approximately 11 a.m.

This year’s parade will feature local veterans, civic leaders, scout groups, youth sports teams, community organizations, musical performances by Minnechaug Regional High School’s Marching Band and Choir and vintage military vehicles and patriotic displays

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served at VFW Post

9397 for all veterans, participants, and community members.

In the event of rain or inclement weather, the parade will be canceled, and the Memorial Day Ceremony will move indoors to Hampden Town Hall, 625 Main St.

HOLYOKE

Shad Fest

Shad Fest 2025, a celebration of the Connecticut River and the annual Shad fish migration, will be held on Sunday, June 8, at Holyoke Rows, 25

Jones Ferry Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy live music, delicious food, crew races, kayak excursions, fishing, river-themed crafts, shad planking, local vendors, river views from the docks and deck, and more. Admission is free. The schedule is as follows:

- 10 a.m.: Kayak excursions, crew races and fishing begin
- Noon: Salsa lessons followed by an afternoon of music with Banda Criolla
- Noon-4 p.m.: Food trucks, local vendors, and river-themed crafts for everyone.

For more information, visit www.holyokerows.org

LONGMEADOW

Shavuot event at LYA

On Monday, June 2, come and celebrate the auspicious moment when Jews reaffirm their commitment to the Torah on Shavuot, at a festive holiday event at Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy (LYA), 1148 Converse St., Longmeadow.

On June 2, Jews will once again

SEE **NOTES**, PAGE C8



The Republican. **ONLINE**

Rise & Dine!

Dig in to breakfast and brunch on May 25 in The Republican online.

There’s something magical about waking up to the anticipation of a delicious morning meal. Breakfast brims with scones, eggs or fruit-filled muffins, while brunch blends savory quiche, eggs Benedict or French toast casserole. For recipes that make every bite a simple pleasure, click through our subscriber-exclusive Rise and Dine special section.

FREE for subscribers.

All customers can access **The Republican online** and many extras at no extra cost. Available 24/7 on mobile, desktop and tablet.



Is your account
activated?



No. I don’t have a login.

Start by activating your account.
Visit myaccount.masslive.com.



Yes. I already have a login.

Explore all that our online edition offers. Visit reader.sr.repub.com.

Not a subscriber?

Call 413-788-1100 or
subscribe.masslive.com.

WILBRAHAM from page 1

“Their legacy is not only one of war, but also of rebuilding, compassion and hope. Our responsibility doesn’t end when the parade stops or the flags are folded. We owe it to the living as well, to the veterans who returned, carrying both visible and invisible wounds. They deserve not just our thanks, but comprehensive care, opportunities, dignity and a future that reflects the depth of their sacrifice. To do anything less is to dishonor the memory of those who did not return,” Renna said.

Oliveira thanked the community for continuing to remember and honor their servicemen, reflecting on his late friend Sgt. Josh DeForge who died during his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2010.

“As we look at our 250-year history that we’re celebrating next year and we just celebrated the Battles of Lexington and Concord just last month right here in Massachusetts, whether your family was here 250 years ago or came this last week, we all come together on this weekend to pay respect for those families who lost loved ones and to honor those who gave their all for their nation,” Oliveira said.

Oliveira also focused on policies put in by the state to continue supporting Gold Star Families, including how a loophole for Gold Star spouses was closed during the FY26 budget debate.

“In the Commonwealth, prior to the passage of this law, Gold Star spouses were not eligible for the annuity benefit if they remarried after they lost their spouse,” Oliveira said. “We closed that loophole this past week in the legislature because we want to do and make sure that we do everything that we possibly can to honor not just the sacrifice that those families made to make sure that their government stands behind them, and we will continue to do more to make sure that Gold Star Families get the support that they deserve for losing a loved one in defense of our nation.”

Squindo said that Memorial Day “is more than just a date on the calendar, it is a reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring legacy of courage, duty and love for our country.”

“As we stand beside the flag that they defended, we remember so their sacrifice was not in vain. These heroes gave their lives not only for our safety and security, but also for the ideals that define this great nation: liberty, justice and freedom for all,” Squindo said.

Squindo then listed the freedoms listed in the Constitution, which include freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and right to petition the government, calling them “our sacred inheritance.”

“Those we remember today died for a country that believes not just in liberty,



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
2023 Veteran of the Year Robert Kelliher, Jr. talks with State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) after the Memorial Day ceremony in Wilbraham.



Pat Serra, president of the Wilbraham Garden Club, presents the Memorial Day Wreath to Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services.

but in thoughtful, principled determination,” Squindo said. “On this Memorial Day, let us remember those who gave their lives for the liberties and freedoms we claim each day. Let us honor their actions by recommitting ourselves to the principles they died for, not only in our words today, but in our actions every day. Thank you and may we forever hold our fallen heroes close to our heart.”

Reflecting on his first ceremony since succeeding Jered Sasen, the prior director of Veterans Services, Renna was thrilled with the turnout and support.

“I really felt privileged to speak some words for Memorial Day and couldn’t be happier with how many people showed up and just all of the positive, great attitudes everyone had. Volunteers helping with everything from setup to tear down,” Renna said. “Everyone was great and just really puts a cap on all of the support I got from the community so far, which is wonderful.”

Renna hopes attendees take time to remember and reflect on this Memorial Day.

“Generations before them have gone off to war and have not made it home and it’s because of those sacrifices that we have all the rights and freedoms that we have today,” Renna said.



State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) shares Memorial Day reflections.



Cody Erskine leads the POW/Missing in Action Presentation on behalf of the Minnechaug Regional High School Military Community Club.

Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduates 83



The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Class of 2025.

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduated 83 seniors and postgraduates on May 24 at its 221st Commencement Exercises.

The Class of 2025 hailed from 7 states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia) and 22 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Angola, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Turkey,

Ukraine, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe).

The following students graduated from local towns in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut:

- From Belchertown: Kayla Makkiya
- From Brimfield: Ludmilla Venades
- From East Longmeadow: Abigail Brunelle, Ryan Clark, Lauren Garvey, Sophia Najeebi, Regan Zhao
- From Ellington: Rose Marie Sadlak
- From Fiskdale: Ally Orquiola

From Hampden: Jason Foerster, Mark Tobias

From Longmeadow: Emma Landry, Alexander Torres

From Ludlow: Rebecca Kakule, Benjamin Presz

From Somers: Ashley Birkenshaw, Cooper Dwyer

From Springfield: Malena Donovan, Ashley Li, Isabelle Rivera

From Wilbraham: Kayden Chhoun, John Crocker, Seamus Dineen, Mariana Mujica, Oliva Tierney, Breslin Grozio, Katherine Healy, Gabriel Enrico Cruz, Elena Baltazar

Wilbraham walk turns tragedy into action:

3.3 Miles for Change honors Sima and Dylan Pariseau

WILBRAHAM - The community is invited to participate in the inaugural 3.3 Miles for Change walk, an event honoring the lives of Sima and Dylan Pariseau, and supporting survivors of domestic violence.

The walk will take place on Saturday, June 14 at Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham, MA, with

registration opening at 9 a.m. and the walk commencing at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

Sima, 56, and her 27-year-old son, Dylan, tragically lost their lives on June 16, 2024, in an act of domestic violence. This event aims to honor their memory by raising awareness and funds to support others affected by similar tragedies.

Across the United States, nearly one in two women and more than 2 in 5 men have reported experiencing intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. All proceeds will benefit the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, directly supporting its domestic violence assis-

Please see **WALK**, page 10

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
 - ❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
 - ❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs
- 201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360

ROBERTS ROOFS

SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair

Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com



CAMERON PAINTING

Painting, Staining & Restoration

Superior preparation for a long lasting job

Quality Workmanship-Reliable & Fully Insured
Owner Supervised
cameronpainting.com **265-0263**
don@cameronpainting.com



Presents



The Miracle Worker
by William Gibson

June 6th
at 7pm
June 7th
at 2pm & 7 pm
June 8th
at 6pm
admission is free

Evangel Assembly
348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham

THE DOCTORS ARE IN...

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Call our office to learn more about our practice



Gary J. Nielan, M.D.
Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.
Amy C. Kasper, M.D.
Kimberly A. Dewey, M.D.
Kimberly J. Martins, M.D.
Priya S. Malik, M.D.
Julia Komatsu, M.D.

Melissa Maciborski, M.D.
Shatabdi Pinky, M.D.
Rachel McKenna, N.P.
Solmaz Masoudi, P.A.
Nicole Santos, LMHC
Rachel Kluk, MHC

2 Convenient Locations!

Most Insurances Accepted

2207 Boston Road, Wilbraham • 35 Turkey Hill Road, Suite 205, Belchertown
(413) 599-1201 • Fax: (413) 596-2940 • www.pamcares.com



Jered Sasen, quartermaster of Hampden's Pat Ledoux VFW Post.

Rev. Mark Stelzer brought his dog, Maggie, to the parade.

The Minnechaug Regional High School band marches up Main Street.



Hudson and Blake Rogers of Hampden watch the parade with their mother, Faith Przybycien.



The Hampden Police Department distributed free hot dogs.

HAMPDEN from page 1

families gathered beneath the World War I Monument on the village green. "It feels like a Lifetime movie here today," Jered S. Sasen, quartermaster of Hampden's Pat Ledoux VFW Post, spoke about the significance of Memorial Day. Sasen, a Navy veteran, is a national service officer for the Executive Office of Veterans Services.

"I've seen first-hand the power of this day, the weight of this day and the importance of this day....It's a day etched in blood, forged in sacrifice and hallowed by the memory of heroes. It's a day to walk among the rows of white stones in our national cemeteries to read the names etched in granite and to feel the profound absence of those who should be standing with us here today," Sasen said.

Sasen closed his remarks saying: "Remember our nation's heroes and their sacrifices. Remember their legacy and the families they left be-

hind. And let us resolve together to live lives worthy of their sacrifice, to build a nation worthy of their devotion and to ensure that their memories live on forever."

Following Sasen, the Girls Scouts led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and released memorial flowers in the Scantic River. Rev. Mark Stelzer of Hampden's St. Mary's Church delivered an invocation and The Minnechaug Regional High School choir sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Hampden Selectboard Chair Don Davenport also addressed the crowd.

"Our gathering is not a lot but is one small way we can honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in freedom. Your presence here today—all of you—and that of the people gathering all across America is a tribute to those lost troops and their families," Davenport said.

Cody Erskine of Minnechaug's Military Community Club and Pastor Skip Gunn of Hampden's LifeStream Church paid homage to fallen soldiers as well as POWs and MIAs.

The ceremony concluded with the laying of a wreath presented by the Hampden Garden Club, a gun salute by six VFW members and the playing of Taps.

Following the ceremony, Heath Joseph, commander of Hampden's VFW Post, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said: "I've had some friends of mine who didn't come home so I get to remember them today—I remember them every day, but this day is special."

He added, "We had a great turnout. The town of Hampden has always been very supportive of what we do at the VFW."

After the ceremony, many



Brian and Jennifer Wood of Hampden with their children.

in the crowd lined up for free hot dogs and ice cream.

The Hampden Fire Department grilled 70 pounds of hot dogs, donated by Hampden's Village Food Mart, while the Hampden Police Department purchased 503 ice cream cups to distribute to the crowd.

The day was bittersweet for Hampden Chief of Police Scott Trombly. After 31 years on the force, he will retire in July.

Although looking forward to more free time and time for his family, he said, "I have mixed emotions. I love our community and the people in it."

By noon, bake sale goods were half off and the Hampden Garden Club's many sale tables were nearly empty.

Garden Club President Lil Fedora said the club will use the proceeds from the sale to plant trees in Hampden, support scholarships and fund another tradition—planting daffodils around town. Over the years, club members have planted well over 10,000 bulbs in Hampden.

As the crowd dispersed, Hampden Selectboard Member John Flynn walked home with pumpkin bread and chocolate chip cookies to bring to the next day's Selectboard meeting.

"I remember watching the parade as a child in the early sixties," Flynn said. "This was the biggest crowd in years. We had a range of ages and perfect weather. It was really wonderful to see so many people come out today."

Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

HAMPDEN - Hampden Community Garden is now accepting plot reservations for 2025. The 20'x20' plots are tilled, staked, and ready for your flower and vegetable seeds and plants. For the \$20 fee, gardeners will enjoy having water and hoses on site, ample parking and easy access.

The garden is located beyond the parking lot at Green Meadows School on North Road. To secure your plot, contact Clark Kadis at ckadis13@gmail.com.

Gardening is a family and friends activity with tasty and money saving rewards. Join us!

please recycle this newspaper

WALK from page 9

tance and awareness programs.

Sophie Pariseau, Sima's daughter and Dylan's sister, is hopeful the event will raise awareness and help other families.

"This walk is my way of standing up, not just for my mom and brother, but for every family, every survivor, and every victim who has not yet found their voice, and every life we still have the power to protect," said Sophie Pariseau. "I am not naive enough to think that we can change the landscape of domestic violence, but I do know that by coming together, raising awareness, and sharing Sima and Dylan's story, we might help even just a few find a way out, or avoid the

heartbreak that my family has faced. My hope is that this walk becomes and is remembered as a symbol of hope, support, and change in our community."

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025

Time: Registration at 9 a.m.; Walk begins at 10 a.m.

Location: Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham, MA

Distance: 3.3 miles

Registration Fees: Individual Participant: \$33

Children 12 and Under: \$12

Fenway's Friends (Dog Registration): \$10

Donation Only: Any amount

The 3.3-mile distance and \$33 registration fee hold special significance, representing Dylan's beloved baseball jersey number, 33. This symbolic ges-

ture underscores the personal connection and the community's commitment to honoring his legacy.

Participants will receive an exclusive 3.3 Miles for Change T-shirt, with the first 500 registrants guaranteed a shirt. Additionally, the first 100 dog registrants will receive a special 3.3 Miles for Change dog bandana.

Attendees are encouraged to stay after the walk for a community raffle, with both cash and Venmo accepted for participation.

By joining the 3.3 Miles for Change Walk, participants contribute to a cause that extends beyond remembrance. The event seeks to provide crucial support to survivors of domestic violence and to raise awareness about the

pervasive issue affecting countless individuals and families.

About the YWCA of Western Massachusetts:

The YWCA of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Their domestic violence programs offer shelter, counseling, and advocacy services to individuals and families in need.

Registration and Donations:

To register for the walk or to make a donation, please visit: <https://milesforchange.redpodium.com/33-miles-for-change>

For more information, media inquiries, or general questions, please contact Sophie Pariseau at 3.3milesforchange@gmail.com.