

TOWN Reminder

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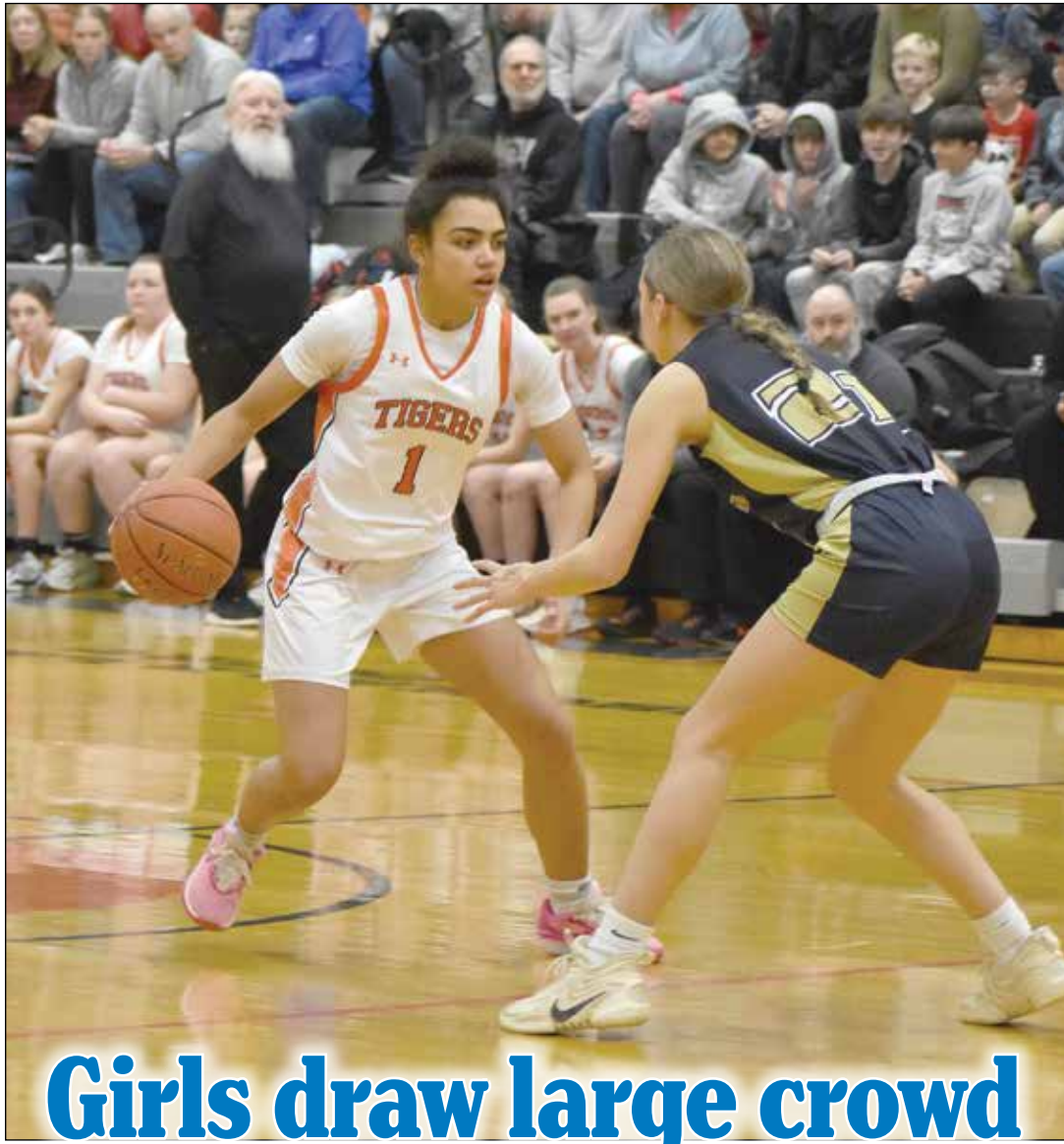
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Girls draw large crowd

Drew Alley makes her way down the court during last week's game against Saint Bernard. The South Hadley girls basketball team are continuing to battle for the state title. See story and more photos on page 9.

Submitted photo

Voters support merging Fire Districts

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Voters approved a non-binding ballot question asking the Prudential Committees of the town's two Fire/Water Districts to complete a merger of those districts in the

town's election held on March 5, according to unofficial results released by the town.

The measure won nearly 70% support from the town, with 2,029 votes cast in favor of the merger, and 944 cast against it.

The first meeting of the District 1 Prudential Commit-

tee following the election was scheduled for March 7, at the South Hadley Public Library. The District 2 Prudential Committee holds its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the District 2 Fire Station on Woodbridge Street,

Please see **VOTERS**, page 6

Board greenlights zoning amendment

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Planning Board, in a public hearing held on March 4, voted 4-1 in favor of recommending that Town Meeting approve a proposed zoning bylaw amendment affecting the Business A-1 district, giving its blessing to a measure that would allow multifamily development on certain business-zoned properties.

Votes in favor of recommending the amendment to Town Meeting came from Chair Diane Mulvaney, Vice Chair Nate Therien, and members Mike Davis and Brad Hutchison. Board Clerk Joanna Brown cast the lone dissenting vote.

The proposed amendment comes from a petition submitted by Himanshu Patel, managing partner of Liquor Town on Granby Road, to "allow multifamily residential uses as part of a mixed use development within the Business A-1 zoning district," according to a memo pre-

pared by Planning Director Anne Capra. Patel had been interested in developing multifamily housing units in the space behind Liquor Town, but was unable to do so under the existing zoning regulations.

To avoid engaging in "spot zoning," an illegal form of circumventing zoning rules for a specific property, the petition calls for the amendment to apply to the entire Business A-1 district. A total of 85 parcels across town lie within the district, but criteria laid out in the proposal practically mean that only six would qualify for mixed use development, according to Capra's memo.

Former Planning Director Richard Harris, whom Capra succeeded in 2021, was present at the hearing representing Liquor Town as a planning consultant. He made the case to the board and the public that the type of multifamily development that this amendment seeks to allow would help to close the gap of

Please see **ZONING**, page 6



Turley Photo by Nick Boonstra

The area behind Liquor Town is one of six parcels that could potentially be used for mixed use development, if a suggested zoning amendment were to pass at Town Meeting.



BIRD'S EYE View

This red-tailed hawk perches on a tree in South Hadley taking a respite.

Submitted photo

Review Committee hears from public

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Know Your Town hosted a public discussion with the Town Meeting Review Committee at the South Hadley Public Library on Feb. 29, giving members of the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the town's major legislative body.

The Town Meeting Review Committee is an advisory body tasked with "report[ing] its findings and recommendations regarding ways and means to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of Town Meeting to

the Selectboard," as laid out by the town's bylaws.

Representing the Town Meeting Review Committee at the forum were Meghan Bristol, Ira Brezinsky, Nicole Casolari, Carlene Hamlin and John Hine. Other members of the Committee include Mike Davis, Larry Dixon, Jim Everett, David Solender and Rudy Ternbach.

Hamlin highlighted two surveys conducted by the Committee as being central to the work they had done since they began in August.

These surveys asked respondents how they felt about various aspects of Town Meeting. One was specifically directed

to Town Meeting members, while the other was intended for South Hadley residents at large.

Casolari outlined the results of the survey of Town Meeting members, which came back with generally positive results about Town Meeting and town government. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide written feedback on questions, which Casolari said provided helpful suggestions on points such as whether alternative locations should be explored for Town Meeting.

Bristol gave attendees a helpful explanation of the role

Please see **REVIEW**, page 6

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March Programs

Office Hours for Sen. Oliveira and Rep Carey

Tues., March 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Office hours with South Hadley's local legislators: Rep. Dan Carey and Sen. Jake Oliveira and/or their key staff.

Local History Lecture: Burial Grounds of South Hadley and Granby throughout History

Wed., March 13 at 6 p.m.

What are the origins and history of the burial grounds of these two towns?

Exoplanets with Professor Thomas Burbine of Mt. Holyoke College

Wed., March 20 at 6 p.m.

One of the biggest discoveries of the last 30 years is that planets exist around other stars. Currently over 5,600 have been discovered but billions most certainly exist in our galaxy. This talk will discuss how we discover exoplanets and what we know about them so far.

Tabletop Gaming Showcase

Sat., March 23 from 10 - Noon

Age 10+ through Adults. Come on down for card games such as Pokemon, magic the gathering, etc. You can also play Pokemon Go Mobile. Please BYOC (Bring Your Own Cards). No trades- just gaming. Hosted by Ethan.

Women Impressionists with Professor Andrew Lee of Mt. Holyoke College

Wed., March 27 at 6 p.m.

There was a small but impactful group of women artists in the late 19th Century that forwarded art to include women's experiences and spheres. This was a view that was not always welcome in the male dominated art world. Come learn about the women who broke those barriers.

Book Clubs

Between the Covers Romance Book Club

March 12 at 3 p.m.

2nd Tuesday at 3 pm Do you enjoy happy endings? Perhaps a series of romance novels? Whether you are already a romance reader or are new to the genre, join us for a monthly get-together of romance novels that offer happy endings and often are part of a series. Books will be available to check out from the library in the weeks prior to each meeting.

Silent Book Club

March 12 and 26 at 4 p.m.

Friends and strangers gather at a set time share what they're reading, and settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. At the end of the hour, attendees can socialize—or not! For all ages- children, teens, adults and seniors. Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Tea will be available.

Ongoing Programs

Gatehouse Writer's Group (Online Writing Group)

Every Friday Online via Zoom from 10 a.m. - Noon

Contact Linda Rowland-Buckley rowbuc1998@gmail.com. Our library writing group, the Gatehouse Writing group, the Gatehouse Writers, is a supportive peer-led environment open to all levels and styles. The group philosophy is a simple one: every person is a writer, and every writer deserves a safe environment in which to experiment, learn and develop their craft. This group is led by Linda Rowland-Buckley and Richard Buckley.

Tuesday Night Knitters

Every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Join the library Tuesday Night Knitters from 6 - 8 for some quality knitting or crocheting. All skill levels are welcome.

Mahjong At the Library

March 15

First and Third Fridays from 1 - 4. For experienced players

Spanish Conversation Corner

March 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Third Saturday of the Month. An opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills. Participants should have some basic conversational skills to join the group. This is NOT a language class.

Library Tech Assistance with Desi

March 21 at 4 p.m.

Third Thursday of the Month. Need help with Libby? Your E-reader, tablet, smartphone of accessing the online catalog? Desi will help you one on one.

'Let's Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops' on March 23

Eight classes designed to educate, empower home gardeners

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

dzbierski@turley.com

WESTFIELD – The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is excited to present the "Let's Get Growing: Spring Gardening Workshops" on March 23 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

The event will occur at Westfield Middle School and feature eight classes designed to teach and energize gardeners of all skill levels. Rosey Bonner, a member of the WMMGA Symposium Planning Team, offered a glimpse of what can be expected on the fourth Saturday of March.

"Believe it or not, this is our 25th year," Bonner said. "We will work with all gardeners from beginning to experienced and will continue our mission, which is not only sustainability and the idea of 'do no harm' but also rejuvenation and regeneration. We need to help the ecology get back to where it should be. Hopefully, our workshops offer a variety of things that can do that."

The event is structured so that there are four programs beginning at 8:30 a.m. and another four starting at 10:30 a.m. Attendees will be able to attend two.

One 8:30 a.m. program is "Planting for the Birds in Your Backyard" and will include information on turning your yard into a year-round sanctuary for birds with proper plant selection and placement. The session will be led by Dan Ziomek, the manager at Sugarloaf Gardens in Sutherland.

"He's known at least in the master gardeners' circle for being a great pruner, but one other thing in Dan's background is he's a birder," Bonner said. "He even runs a talk show on birding once a week, so he's going to put together his mastery of plants and birds and present on planting for birds in your backyard. He'll be talking about plants that are pretty, plants that are useful and how to bring them together."

Another 8:30 a.m. program is "Start Your Own Seeds – A Hands-on Workshop", which will educate gardeners on when and how to start seeds, care for seeds and plant them.

Each participant will prepare a peat pot and plant tomato seeds to take home in this session led by Master Gardener George Kingston.

"They'll learn the nitty gritty for everything from how do you choose seeds; do you get them from a catalog, or do you get them from Costco? What planting medium do you do? When do you transfer? All those kinds of ideas," Bonner said.

A third 8:30 a.m. program is "Pruning for Better Blooms" and will demystify the "when, why and how" of pruning shrubs to create the best flower show. Led by Horticulturist Jen Werner, a retired professor of Landscape Design Management at STCC, the session will review tools, techniques and specific pruning tips for popular flowering landscape shrubs such as hydrangeas, lilacs and rhododendrons.

"(Werner) is going to be talking about what plants to prune and what not to prune," Bonner said. "She'll talk about a variety of bushes and shrubs and how you can prune them."

The last 8:30 a.m. program, "The Joy of Container Gardening", is led by Master Gardener Priscilla Touhey. The session will demonstrate how to create your own ornamental container garden for spring, what plants are appropriate and how to maintain it.

"You can grow everything from vegetables to flowers in containers and make them beautiful," Bonner said.

One 10:30 a.m. program is "Garden for Life: Using Native Plants in the Landscape" and will be led by Blue Stem Natives Nursery Owner Kristen Nicholson. The session will address the immense value of native plants and discuss why planting natives in your yard is so important.

"You may know a lot about native plants, but you may not. Here are some good ones to start that are good combinations for butterflies or bees," Bonner said.

A second 10:30 a.m. program is "Essentials for the Upcoming Growing Season 101" and is led by Master Gardener and Green Thumb Guru Ed Sourdiffé. The workshop will help attendees learn what to expect in the spring, how to prioritize and what to do to ensure a successful gardening season.

"(Last year), several people wanted to know, 'Okay it's spring, it's March, what do I do?' That's why we put that workshop in," Bonner said. "How do you open a garden? Do you till or do you not till? If you

ever watch Mass Appeal, Sourdiffé is their resident gardener."

A third 10:30 a.m. program is "Setting Up Your Vegetable Garden for Success", led by Beth Carmichael, Margery Gerard and JoAnne Palmer, master gardeners and co-leaders of the Full Circle Food Pantry Garden in South Hadley. The workshop will empower attendees to start their own vegetable gardens or enhance their current gardens, helping to improve production and yields.

"A major issue out there is food security and also the cost of food," Bonner said, noting the garden produces 2,000 pounds of food every year for the South Hadley food pantry. "Even if you're able to feed your family, the cost has gone up, so we're really focusing this workshop along those lines of being able to set up your own vegetable garden for success."

Lastly, at 10:30 a.m., is "Friend or Foe: Helpful and Harmful Garden Insects and Worms", led by Entomologist Dr. Olga Kostromytska, an assistant professor at the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture. The program will discuss both beneficial and pest insects in New England and how to spot invasive species such as invasive worms.

"Rounding out our workshops, (Kostromytska) will be talking about insects that are good, so don't get rid of them all," Bonner said. "She'll talk about which ones are beneficial and which are harmful. She'll also talk about the hot topic out there, which is the Asiatic Jumping Worms that are destroying our soil and becoming more prevalent."

In between sessions, the Marketplace Fair will occur. The fair will include information tables on urbs, monarch butterflies, composting, bees and "Ask a Master Gardener".

"We've expanded that break in response to people giving us suggestions for topics, knowing we can't cover every topic, but how do we share more information. We're trying to take advantage of that middle piece more; not only get your coffee and look at vendors but get your questions answered," Bonner said.

One can register for the event online at WMMGA.org. If one registers on or before March 22, the cost to attend is \$30. On the day of the workshop, tickets will be sold for \$40, cash only.

South Hadley Chorale to present concert March 24

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 3 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley. The program features Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, Paul Basler's Missa Kenya, plus works by Alice Parker and Anita Anderson Cooper. Ms. Anderson Cooper conducts the 60-voice chorus and orchestra. Ludlow's Harris Brook Elementary School Chorus, directed by Melanie Sroka, will also perform.

Interim conductor, Anita Anderson Cooper, is a well-known area musician, conductor, teacher, and composer. She received degrees from Westminster College, Boston University, and Delta State University. She also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College Handbell Choir.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also

be purchased prior to the concert day for \$20 \$15, and \$5 from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at www.eventbrite.com.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.



Send Us Your Sports Photos!

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Area fire chiefs stress importance of smoke/CO detectors

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – Led by State Fire Marshal John Davine, fire personnel from across the state gathered at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on the morning of Feb. 22 to emphasize the significance of maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

“We have carefully reviewed the recent data from fatal fires and have noticed some trends,” Davine said. “A total of 45 people lost their lives from fire in Massachusetts last year, and nearly 70% of those deaths took place in the home. Two-thirds of those fire victims were older adults ages 65 and up. Tragically, more than half of those homes that had fatal fires did not have working smoke alarms.”

There was a time in the state’s history where a single fire could take the lives of 492 people, as occurred during the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942, so 45 fire fatalities statewide in 2023 represents generational progress, but more progress could be made if all residents installed working detectors.

Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff noted that 30% of the state’s residential fire deaths last year occurred in Western Massachusetts. Egloff is vice president of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, which represents more than 100 communities west of Worcester, ranging from larger urban centers to small rural towns and everything in between.

“No matter where we work, we all agree on one thing: working smoke and CO alarms are vital, lifesaving tools that belong in every home, apartment, moving house and dorm,” Egloff said.

Egloff relayed that fire personnel are realistic and know fires will occur as long as people are cooking, heating their homes, smoking and using electricity. However, almost every fire death can be prevented if residents install, test and maintain their smoke detectors and alarms.

“Smoke alarms alert you to the danger and give you time to



Westfield Fire Chief Patrick Egloff speaks at the East Longmeadow Fire Department on Feb. 22.

escape safely, especially in the overnight hours while you’re sleeping,” Egloff said. “The sooner you know about the danger, the faster you can escape, and the sooner we’re notified, the faster we can be there to help.”

Davine, formerly the Northampton fire chief, said that in the case of several dozen fatal fire incidents last year, investigators found smoke alarms disabled, outdated or altogether missing.

Springfield Fire Commissioner B.J. Calvi spoke of a tragedy that occurred in the city on March 30, 2023, during a structure fire. Multiple people were trapped in the residence and couldn’t escape.

“When (firefighters) made entry and knocked down the fire, they found two elderly adults who never made it out of their bed. The subsequent investigation showed that there were no smoke detectors present in the house,” Calvi said.

Calvi noted that there were five fire fatalities in Springfield last year, of which four had no smoke detectors present.

“These are tragedies that could have been averted and need to stop,” Calvi said, noting that all the fatal fires in Springfield last year occurred between midnight and 8 a.m.

“Please don’t spend a single night in your home without a



Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews, shown speaking in East Longmeadow on Feb. 22.

working smoke detector,” he said. Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris encourages residents to check their detectors and alarms when they change their clocks, as the devices don’t last forever. If you don’t remember when you installed your smoke detector, the manufacturing date is printed on the back.

“Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If your alarm was made before February of 2014, or if there’s no date at all, it’s time to replace it,” Norris said. “We recommend alarms made by well-known, national brands. You should be able to find most of these at your local hardware stores.”

Chicopee Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said smoke detectors and alarms are the first line of defense against a fire in your home and that everyone should know what to do when the alarm goes off.

“That’s where your home escape plan comes in,” Stamborski said. “First and foremost, take a look around your house on a daily basis, be sure to keep furniture and clutter away from your doors, windows and stairways because you don’t want anything blocking your way out during an emergency. And, when we respond to your home, you certainly don’t want to impede our access to get to you.”

Stamborski encourages families to practice their escape routes and choose two or more ways to leave the building, which can include windows if you are on a lower floor. Pick a meeting place outside; it should be a safe distance away where everyone can gather.

“Once you’re at the meeting place, never go back inside, not for anything. Call 911 and let the firefighters enter with their protective equipment,” Stamborski said.

Once you create your escape route, practice it often, both during the day and at night until it becomes muscle memory. Also, sleeping with your bedroom door closed is the simplest way to keep fire, smoke and carbon monoxide out.

“You’d be amazed how much protection a simple closed door offers,” Stamborski said.

Wilbraham Fire Chief Michael Andrews spoke about CO, a poisonous gas created by burning fuels that is often produced by home heating equipment. CO is harmful and potentially fatal, especially for young children or older adults.

“What makes CO so dangerous is that you can’t see it, smell it or taste it. Carbon monoxide is a silent, invisible killer,” Andrews said. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. Here in Massachusetts, more than 350 people end up in the emergency room each year because of CO poisoning.”

Last year, in Massachusetts, there were more than 5,000 calls reporting carbon monoxide, and the vast majority ended safely because people had working alarms.

Andrews said be sure to have CO alarms in every level of your home, test them every month and replace the batteries twice a year. The alarms themselves need to be replaced every five, seven to 10 years; one can check the manufacturer’s instructions or look up the make and model online to find out.

“Finally, if you hear it going off, get outside and dial 911. Don’t disable them or write it off as a malfunction. Let us check to see if it’s safe,” Andrews said.

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ROUTE 202/33 RE-ZONING PROJECT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED
**** Applications are due Wednesday, March 13th by 3pm ****

The Advisory Committee will consist of the following members, to be appointed by the Town Administrator:
Business owner within the study area (1)
Residential property owner within the corridor (1)
Resident at large (2) - each representing Town Meeting Precincts other than the corridor (corridor spans A, C and E)
Planning Board Member (1)

To apply, complete the application form here:
<https://www.southhadley.org/FormCenter/Selectboard-4/Application-for-Appointment-to-Board-Com-44>
In the field “Other” write in “Route 202/33 Corridor Re-Zoning Advisory Committee”.

The Advisory Committee will work with the project consultant and Director of Planning and Conservation to review and comment on analyses, draft re-zoning recommendations and draft design guidelines. Committee members are expected to participate in the following meetings and public engagement activities between April 1, 2024 thru May 1, 2025:

- Attend Advisory Committee meetings (6 to 8) – virtual and in person
- Review and comment on draft materials as developed by project consultant
- Attend public workshops (two in person, one virtual)
- Attend Planning Board public hearing (up to 4)

A summary of the project and scope of work is online on the Planning Board webpage:
<https://southhadley.org/1400/Route-202-33-Corridor-Re-Zoning>
Questions: acapra@southhadleyma.gov | (413) 538-5017 x6128

Opinion



Fox sparrow

I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis. He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter. I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing blackbird last week." He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, "Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door." Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 1/2 inches long.

More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, "Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most often seen in a group especially this time of year."

The Brimfield resident said, "When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week."

He said three days ago "I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a 'log' that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms."

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He recently had three starlings, who seemed to like

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 11



Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows

no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Voice

YOUR VIEW!

What are your thoughts on issues in town? Voice your view!

Write to us in Letter to the Editor format and we'll print your opinion on our Op/Ed page.

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Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Foreign policy rises in public attention

Americans seem to be more interested in foreign policy than usual.

Four in 10 U.S. adults named it as an important issue to address in 2024, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's twice as many as a year earlier.

That sounds right to me. From what I can tell, Americans are paying closer attention to foreign policy than they have for some time.

Part of it, no doubt, is driven by media coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. When the media pay attention to a topic, the public pays attention; and when the public pays attention, the media pay attention.

It works both ways.

Of course, what really captures the public eye is the prospect of U.S. casualties, as we saw in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which killed thousands of Americans. There's been nothing like that yet in the current conflicts, although about 30 U.S. citizens were killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and an estimated 300 Americans

were stranded in Gaza by the fighting.

In the AP-NORC poll, 20% of respondents said they were concerned about U.S. involvement overseas, up from 5% a year earlier. That's a significant increase, and it's reflected by debates in Congress over helping fund the wars.

But whether foreign policy has much of an impact on the 2024 elections is an open question.

Even if Americans follow foreign policy, I don't have the sense that they vote on those issues. Problems at home are more meaningful to most voters, by far.

They're worried about inflation, affordable health care, gas prices and the cost of housing and food. They are concerned about crime and public safety. They pay attention to interest rates, jobs and other economic indicators.

Many Americans are deeply concerned about immigration, especially at the southern border. Immigration is a domestic matter, but it's entwined with foreign policy.

Immigrants and refugees often are fleeing dire conditions in their home countries. We need to work with those regions to address the issue.

I learned early in my time in Congress that foreign policy wasn't something most constituents were eager to discuss. I rarely spoke about foreign policy on visits to the district, where people were more likely to want to know about a local dam project or government actions that directly affected them.

Interestingly, I was most likely to get questions about foreign policy when I spoke at high schools. High school students were well prepared for my visits, and they would zero in on foreign policy issues.

With current issues, most Americans were outraged

by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and inspired by Ukraine's brave resistance. But, as the war dragged on, it receded from the headlines, and interest in the U.S. has flagged.

Recently, center stage has gone to Hamas' attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, and Israel's response, which has reportedly killed 25,000 people in Gaza. The Middle East is almost in a category by itself for public attention.

Many Americans feel strongly about Israel's importance in U.S. foreign policy. Conflicts in the Middle East, and relations between Israel and its neighbors, get more coverage in U.S. news media than news from Asia, Africa or even from Europe.

Wars and conflicts draw news coverage, but other foreign policy issues also matter a lot. Our relationship with China is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and problems there can have a global impact.

Climate change is an existential issue that transcends national borders. Trade, terrorism, cybersecurity and global migration require multinational cooperation.

Foreign policy issues may not rise to the top of the public's concerns, but voters – and politicians – should pay attention to them in this election year.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Chocolate...Luscious indulgence or food for the gods?

By Dale Gonyea

There were only two mornings each year that I was allowed to eat chocolate for breakfast: Easter and Christmas.

The Easter basket and Christmas stocking were the place to find my holiday treats for each of those days. There was always one treat in particular that stood out from the rest: chocolate.

Just the name brings images, memories and even the delicate aromas alive! But what is in a name? Where does chocolate come from and how do you make it? Why is it so irresistible and indulgent? What mysterious properties does it have?

The history of this delectable chocolate is very old – 4,000 years old.

Etymologists trace the origin of the

DALE'S Corner

word "chocolate" to the Aztec word "xocolatl," which referred to a bitter drink brewed from cacao beans. The Latin name for the cacao tree, Theobroma cacao, means "food of the gods."

I find that title absolutely appropriate!

About 70% of the world's cocoa beans come from four West African countries: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. The Ivory Coast and Ghana are by far the two largest producers of cocoa, accounting for more than 50% of the world's cocoa.

The process to grow, refine and make chocolate is lengthy so I shall summarize.

Cacao beans are harvested from the trees in pods. The pods are disassembled, and the beans are roasted and cleaned leaving the cacao nib.

Nibs are then ground and then separated from the cocoa butter. The heat generated by grinding causes the cocoa butter or fat to melt and form a fine paste or liquid known as chocolate "liquor".

After conching, tempering and adding flavors to the liquor, you are left with chocolate which can be molded. Depending on the sugar added in relation to cocoa solids, you are left with distinctive different forms of chocolate.

For dark chocolate lovers, bars with

70% cacao or higher are ideal. Dark chocolate is a rich source of antioxidants and minerals, and it generally contains less sugar than milk chocolate.

Some research suggests that dark chocolate may help lower the risk of heart disease, reduce inflammation and insulin resistance, and improve brain function. Happy Day!

This chocolate can also be called bittersweet. If we reduce the solids to around 60% we would call it semi-sweet.

For me, milk chocolate is where it's at! Milk chocolate contains not less than 10%

Please see **CHOCOLATE**, page 12

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The Board of Water Commissioners – Fire District No.1, South Hadley is seeking a qualified individual for an entry-level position as laborer. The position involves semi-skilled manual labor and use of various tools and equipment for installing, maintaining and repairing water systems for South Hadley Water Fire District No.1. Requirements for the position include High School Diploma / G.E.D., Massachusetts Class B CDL Drivers license, Valid D.O.T. medical card, Massachusetts Class 2B Hoisting Engineer License. On-call availability and relevant job experience desirable. Applicants will be required to obtain the required Distribution and Treatment Licenses. Pre-hire drug testing required. Starting pay is competitive with an excellent benefit package. Applications can be filled out at the Water Department office located at 438 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA, Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Applications can also be requested on-line by emailing shwd1water@gmail.com Application deadline is March 28, 2024

Equal Opportunity Employer

March 13, 2020

Members of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee, award winners, and the Grand Colleen's Court were recognized at the City Council meeting.

South Hadley Public Library March events

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley Public Library are excited to roll out this lineup of March events. SHPL is the local source for no cost, high quality, all ages programs. From educational speakers to pure fun, the public libraries have something for everyone this month.

Adult Programs at SHPL:

A three-month series from the Hampshire Visiting Nurses Association with Hospice 101: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask begins on Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m. Sign up is encouraged but not necessary. Visit the website for details.

Join in for a monthly get-together on romance novels that offer happy endings and often are part of a series. The next meeting of the Between the Covers Book Club is Tuesday, March 12, at 3p.m.. Copies of the book that will be discussed, *The Best is Yet to Come* by Debbie Macomber, are available at the library.

Robert Comeau's talk on The

Burial Grounds of South Hadley and Granby Throughout History will be on Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m.

To top off the month the library will be celebrating Women's History month with a lecture by Mt. Holyoke College Professor of Art Andrew Lee on Women Impressionists on Wednesday, March 27, at 6 p.m. These women artists forwarded art from a female perspective and broke glass ceilings long held by the male dominated salons of Paris. You are bound to find this program to be beautiful and informative.

The library also has some new programs beginning in March:

A Silent Book Club held Tuesdays, March 12 & 26, from 4 to 5p.m. Bring a book, have coffee, tea, or hot cocoa, sit in comfy chairs and read quietly with like-minded readers. This program is for all ages if patrons are just learning to read or are a reading veteran please come and enjoy the space.

Library Tech Assistance will be offered on Thursday, March 24,

from 4 to 5 p.m. Need assistance understanding the new card catalog, the Libby app for eBooks, or how to use the Commonwealth Catalog? See Adult Services Librarian Desi Smelcer for help. No sign up is needed- just drop in.

On Saturday, March 30, at 11 a.m., Professor Bugman presents his Arthropod Petting Zoo, a show-and-tell-and-touch program for kids ages 3-11 and their families (registration strongly recommended).

All of our regular weekly and bi-weekly programs continue, including Build with Lego, Rhyme Time (with special guest Mr. Liam on March 12), Comics Club, CFCE Playgroup, Chess and Board Games, Pajama Storytime, and Read to a Dog. Pokémon Club will meet on Friday, March 15.

Caregivers of babies are welcome to come to our casual caregiver cafe on Thursday, March 21, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

For more information or full schedule of events visit www.shadleylib.org.

VOC offers Tax Assistance Program

CHICOPEE – Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providing free tax preparation to those of low- and moderate-income.

VITA in-person tax preparation appointments are available from Jan. 29 through May 15 at 35 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Chicopee, 300 High St., Holyoke and new this year, 20 Lathrop St. in West Springfield.

To schedule an appointment, call 413-612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts with an income of up to \$60,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and Sundays.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing (e-filing) of tax returns, allowing for individuals to receive their refunds much quicker than paper filings.

The core mission and goal of

VITA is to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees.

In 2023, VOC helped 743 individuals file their state and federal tax returns through the VITA program. VOC has been providing the VITA program for 25 years in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and more recently, Westfield.

VOC is the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

ZONING from page 1

“missing middle” housing as referenced in the town’s Housing Production Plan.

He specified that any residential uses in the Business A-1 district would need to be mixed use, with a pre-existing commercial development required to be present at the location before any multifamily development could begin. He also pointed out the amendment’s restriction on ground-floor residential units within 200 feet of the principal road on which an eligible property fronts.

Additionally, Harris highlighted that the amendment sets a moratorium on applications for these mixed use developments until March of 2025 to allow the Planning Board time to draft their own design review process and standards for such applications. The amendment allows for applications to begin to be submitted at that time whether or not design standards had yet been agreed upon by the board.

Harris did concede that not all of the signatures collected for the petition were from residents of the town, but said that “at least 127 are from South Had-

ley,” and that those signatures were from residents that were spread throughout town.

Early on in the hearing, Brown raised a concern that would be echoed by members of the public throughout the hearing, expressing a desire to hold off on recommending this amendment in favor of waiting for the forthcoming results of the Route 202/33 Corridor Study being conducted by the town.

“I would like to hear from the applicant in terms of why he is choosing to bring this, what I regard as an expedited process, when we have been through several stages of mapping and reviewing the Route 202 and 33 Corridors,” she said. Patel and his representation were mistakenly referred to as applicants rather than petitioners by multiple individuals throughout the hearing, and the matter before the board was the consideration of a proposed bylaw amendment as opposed to an application for any individual project.

“I would say we’re not expediting it,” Harris responded. “We’re just following the options afforded to my client by Mass. General Law.” Chapter 40A Section 5 of Massachusetts

General Laws allows “an individual owning land to be affected by change or adoption” of a zoning bylaw amendment to petition their municipality for such an amendment.

“My client would like to be able to begin work on the project next year sometime, as opposed to waiting to 2026 or 2027,” Harris said, adding, “There’s a need for it now, and there’s no certainty that the recommendations that may come out of your 202 Corridor zone process would support this type of development.”

Hutchison expressed support for the amendment, but felt that it might not go far enough in helping the town address its housing situation, given that so few properties in town would qualify for mixed use development under it. Mulvaney and Therien said they had been similarly surprised that so few properties qualified.

A number of members of the public appeared before the board to voice their opposition to this amendment, with many such residents urging the board to instead prioritize deed-restricted, or “Capital-A,” affordable housing in pursuit of coming into compliance with the state’s requirement that 10% of a mu-

nicipality’s housing inventory be designated as affordable.

Calls were also made by multiple members of the public to allow the Route 202/33 Corridor Study to come to completion before approving an amendment like the one proposed. M.P. Chevrette summarized the sentiment by saying, “If the process is good, the result will be good, but here I think the process is flawed, because we have another process in process, and that is the 202/33 study.”

Additionally, a number of residents of the Hadley Village condominium association, which is located next to Liquor Town, spoke up to oppose the amendment, raising concerns about privacy and traffic if a multifamily development was to be built next to their properties.

Members of the community that supported the amendment were also in attendance at the hearing. One such individual was Joel Prough, who said he struggled to identify any downside to the amendment, given the boost that additional housing would give to the town’s tax base, as well as the level of control the Planning Board would be able to exert over the types of

developments allowed under the amended bylaw.

In closing comments made by board members, Brown reiterated her desire to wait for the results of the Route 202/33 Corridor Study, and said she hoped the board would “take this more cautious, and much more deliberative, and more public-participatory, approach.”

Hutchison said, “I don’t think that this application short-circuits a process in any way, shape or form,” adding that “this is an avenue that’s open to any citizen, or business owner, or resident.”

With regard to the Corridor Study, Hutchison said he recalled “a lot of negative reaction to it – a lot of, ‘Why are we doing this? Who asked for this?’” He went on to say, “Now some of the very same folks are saying, ‘We need to stop this short-circuit and go back to the Corridor Study.’”

Ultimately, the Planning Board’s vote of approval recommends the amendment to Town Meeting, but the amendment would still need to be passed by Town Meeting in order to take effect.

VOTERS from page 1

according to its website.

In the District 1 elections, Kurt Schenker narrowly beat out Mitchel Malinowski for a seat on the Prudential Board, by a total of 349 votes to 335. Pauline McClaffin defeated retired Fire District 1 Chief Bob Authier for District 1 Water Commissioner by a wider margin, with 498 votes to 242.

In the state’s presidential primary elections, conducted the same day, President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump won their respective parties’ contests at the town level, as was true state-wide. Biden received 1,929 of the 2,393 votes cast in the Democratic primary, while Trump won 954 of the 1,611 Republican ballots cast, according to unofficial results from the town.

REVIEW from page 1

and responsibility of Town Meeting, drawing a helpful distinction between the legislative body known as Town Meeting and the regular assembly of that legislative body in an event also known as Town Meeting.

Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Committee members present for the discussion, and a number of questions were posed around the responsibility and availability of Town Meeting members to the town as a whole and their constituents in particular.

Martha Terry commented on this notion early in the event. “I’d like to see more responsibility by Town Meeting members to meet with and be available to the people they represent in their district.” Acknowledging her own role as a Town Meeting member, she admitted that this



Turley Photo by Nick Boonstra

Town Meeting Review Committee meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Meetings are held in a hybrid format, with the Committee meeting variously at the Library or the Senior Center, and with access available virtually via Zoom. Meeting agendas can be found on the town’s website, www.southhadley.org.

was an area in which she would like to grow herself.

Another attendee had questions about how to contact one’s

Town Meeting member, and why contact information was not publicly available for them. Committee members explained

that a general form was available on the town’s website to contact Town Meeting members, but that Town Meeting itself had voted down a proposal years ago that would have mandated that Members’ email addresses be publicized.

Other public comments revolved around aspects such as the scheduling of Town Meeting, the timing of notifications about Town Meeting and the level of preparation of Town Meeting members.

Meetings of the Town Meeting Review Committee are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Meetings are held in a hybrid format, with the Committee meeting variously at the Library or the Senior Center, and with access available virtually via Zoom.

Meeting agendas can be found on the town’s website, www.southhadley.org.



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Education



Submitted photo

Holyoke Community College celebrates grand opening of Scholarship Resource Center

HOLYOKE - Feroza Sherzai holds the distinction of being the first Holyoke Community College student to apply for a scholarship through the school's new Scholarship Resource Center.

Sherzai, a Holyoke resident, arrived at the center on Wednesday, Jan. 31, just as the open house celebrating its grand opening got underway. She sat right down at one of the center's three computer workstations.

"This is a very good opportunity for students," said Sherzai, a student in HCC's Academic English as a Second Language program. "I came here to fill out the application. I had a lot of questions."

On hand to answer those questions was Laura Freeman, manager

of stewardship and donor relations for HCC and coordinator of the center.

"She was very good," Sherzai said. "She was very patient with me." The Scholarship Resource Center is the first of its kind among community colleges in Massachusetts. Its purpose: to make it easier for students to apply for scholarships available through the HCC Foundation.

"We're here 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, to help with all things scholarship related," Freeman said. "It's great to have this very warm, inviting and inclusive space where students can come and get the assistance they need."

Each year, the HCC Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships worth about \$350,000 to more than

300 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible.

The center saw a steady stream of students throughout the four-hour open house, which culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon led by President George Timmons.

"This is such an exciting time for HCC," he said, "and we're excited to continue to provide services that remove barriers to education. What a great way to start your academic career and journey than here in this wonderful, new, lovely space. Not only is it functional, but it's also social."

Among the other students who

Please see **CENTER**, page 13

Granby Jr. Sr. High School lists honor roll

GRANBY - Granby Jr. Sr. High School would like to extend congratulations to those students who achieved Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Seventh Grade, Maximum Honors

Allisandra Crowley, Jocelyn Curran, Addison Hill, Natalie Parent, Macie Pelletier, Stella Siudak, Mia Smith and Marcela Tapia.

Seventh Grade, High Honors

Rowan Cook, Arianna Mislak, Teagan Spear, Zachary Vega, Kaylee Vincelette and Kara White.

Seventh Grade, Honors

William Ariza, Matthew Carney, Ella Clark, Honor DeCarlo, Jack Krupski, Sophia Silchuk and Marley Skipton.

Eighth Grade, Maximum Honors

Gianna Capone, Noah Chambers, Emily Durham, Ralph El Aouji, Analise Huertas, Wyatt Kennedy, Sophia Labonte, Emma Murphy, Kaileena Smith, Richard Sweet, Isabella Tetreault and Jacob Weglarz.

Eighth Grade, High Honors

Abigail Esquivel, Adrien Harrington, Sophia Press, Colin Sicard and Kaelynn Slapski.

Eighth Grade, Honors

Aiden Gardner, Vitaly Gavel, Chase Hauschild, Gabriel Helbok, Abigail LaDuke, Preston-Brady Sexton, James Vulpe and Carli Zobka.

Ninth Grade, Maximum Honors

Meredith Bartosz, Sydney Chateaufneuf, Tessa Healey, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Lydia Pike, Jaidyn Roberge and Eleanor Szlosek.

Ninth Grade, High Honors

Madelyn LaPointe and Audrey Pleisch.

Ninth Grade, Honors

Daniel Brown, Parker Dufresne, Morgan Justin and Kalli White.

10th Grade, Maximum Honors

Emma Beaulieu, Kaitlyn Curran and Benjamin French.

10th Grade, High Honors

Lea Charest, Allison Charron, Quinn Fuller, Braeden Gallagher, Daniel Hackett, Maxwell Kennedy, Braydon LaDuke, Mylin Laliberte, Scarlett LaRose, Keith Patterson, Faith Ramos, Addison Scott and Isabella Woods.

10th Grade, Honors

Ethan Bergeron, Brodie Funk, Addison Gardnrm, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Allison Maslak, Savannah Rushlow and Stephen Szlosek.

11th Grade, Maximum

Jena Abbott, Nathan Benson, Raymond D Colon, Cole Fuller, Gavin Kennedy, Alexis Lapite, Cheyenne Laramee, Cameron LeBlanc, Ava McFarland, Tristan Moe, Emma Parsons and Austin Smith.

11th Grade, High Honors

Aiden Beach, Margaret Crawford, Cassandra Flaherty, Bear Lacharite, Justin Merced, Olah Roller and Autumn Sicard.

11th Grade, Honors

Xavier Arroyo, Cody Breault, Mabel Carillon, Sawyer Clarke, John Crawford, Brennan Dwyer, Gavi

Please see **HONOR ROLL**, page 11



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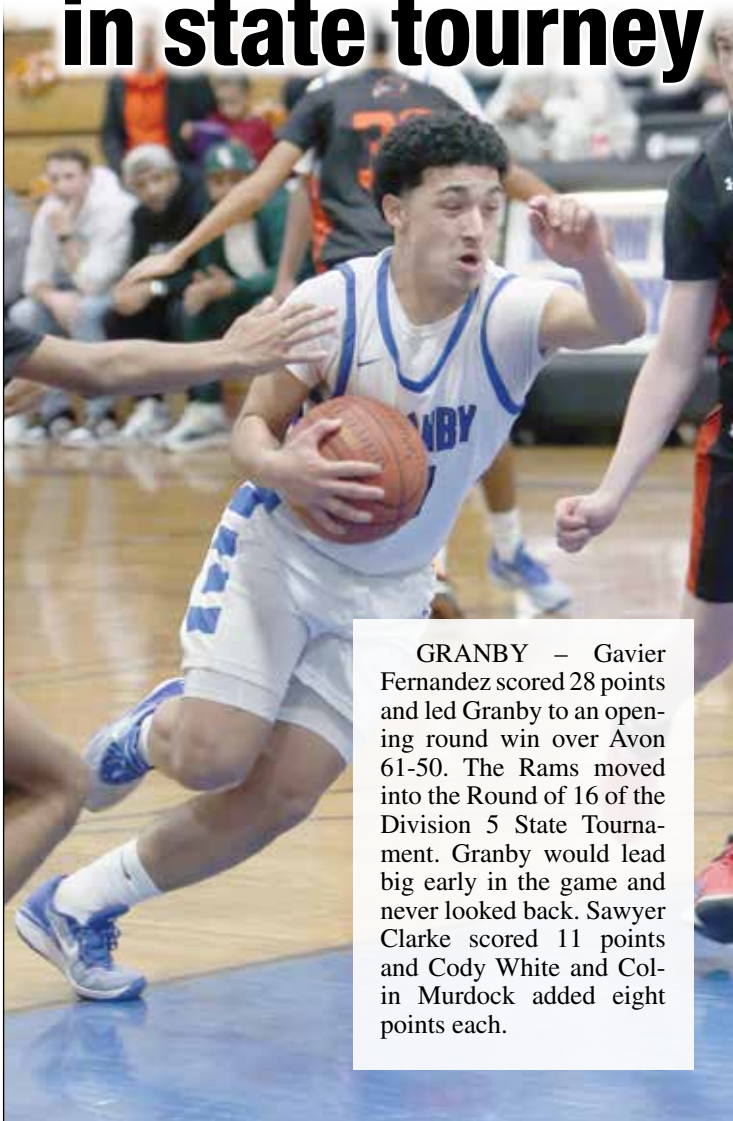
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Granby boys roll over Avon in state tourney



GRANBY – Gavier Fernandez scored 28 points and led Granby to an opening round win over Avon 61-50. The Rams moved into the Round of 16 of the Division 5 State Tournament. Granby would lead big early in the game and never looked back. Sawyer Clarke scored 11 points and Cody White and Colin Murdock added eight points each.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Raymond Colon drives to the hoop.



Colin Murdock goes for a three-pointer.



Maddie Soderbaum gets the layup attempt off.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kate Phillips takes a free throw.



Tigers open state tourney with win

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School girls basketball team is out to a good start in pursuit of a state title. After winning the Western Mass. tournament, South Hadley defeated Saint Bernard's easily 62-28. Cara Dean led the team with 15 points while Drew Alley turned in 13 points. Also making double digits were Kate Phillips with 12 points and Cianna Gurek with 10 points.

Caitlin Dean makes an off-balance shot.



Sawyer Clarke heads up for easy lay-in.



Gavier Fernandez gets the short-range shot.



Riley Goodhind scores just ahead of a block.

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames

failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Had-

Please see **BRACKETS**, page 11

Sports

Rams suffer loss in sectional quarterfinals



Eleanor Szlosek holds the ball back from the opposition.



LEFT: Brenna Moreno makes her way down the court.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

GRANBY – Granby High School girls basketball opened up their playoff campaign with a quarterfinal matchup in the Western Mass. Class D Tournament on Feb. 19. Granby faced off with Pioneer Valley Christian School on the road. Granby would lose to PVCA 54-46 after suffering an early deficit of nine points and not being able to recover. Kalli White had a good game for the Rams with 17 points. Aubrey Parent finished with 10 points. Granby would enter the state tournament last week. Highlights from those matchups will be in next week's edition.

RIGHT: Mabel Carillon tries to get around an opponent.



Aubrey Parent looks to go for a put-back after making an offensive rebound.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley

normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk.

It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko's first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game's early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and outbattled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White's first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions' Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers' second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for New England return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jacked sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for

the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke's official home for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

"Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially be-

ing able to get to Victory Lane at Florence," Jack Baldwin said. "Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough."

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware

Racing.

"Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence," Luke Baldwin said. "We showed race winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job

easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loflin on his first career win."

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

Sports

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Bri-

an Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some push-back in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakob Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They

will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

BRACKETS from page 9

ley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed

when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.

BACKYARD from page 4

a feeder containing suet pellets. He said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and female bluebirds were at my suet cake, which contained fruits. I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car.

One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

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

Silchuk.

12th Grade, High Honors

Ciara Charest, Rhea Gagnon, Neil Lindberg, Thomas Merced and Noel Summerlin.

12th Grade, Honors

Benjamin Berger, Annabella Brown, Sophia Gagnon, Nicolas Grandmont, Peyton Justin, Madeline Mallette, Colin Murdoch, David Silchuk and Emily Tremblay.

HONOR ROLL from page 8

er Fernandez, Jr, Brianna Houghton, Lydia Kicza, Gavin Moreno, Jaedyn Pike, Ava Saunders, Maxwell Seymour and Stewart Szlosek.

12th Grade, Maximum

Zachary Auclair, Chloe Castro, Brandie Dumais, Andrew Feldman, Jessica Holubowich, Cindy Kusumo, Tia Looney, Maya Nott, Corey Rondeau and Phillip

MacDuffie School announces first semester Honor Roll

GRANBY – The MacDuffie School would like to extend congratulations to all of the students who achieved Honor Roll for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

The following is a list of the local students:

Amherst

Maximum Honors, Ruoxing Roy Peng, 11th Grade

Belchertown

Maximum Honors, Gabrielle Gabby Benoit, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Ganxi Kathy Guo, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Jiarui Alex Hu, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Ava LaChance, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Katelyn Piercey, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Andrew Gojgini, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Tiancheng Eddie Wu, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Noah LaChance, Ninth Grade; Maximum Honors, Ryan Mavlouganes, Eighth Grade; Maximum Honors, Jacob LaChance, Seventh Grade; and Regular Honors, Yichen Eason Gu, 11th Grade.

Chicopee

Maximum Honors, Emily Parnicky, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Nikhil Injeti, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Kylie Li, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Alex Li, Eighth Grade; and Honors, Brielle Burkett, Ninth Grade.

East Longmeadow

High Honors, Brooklynn Moore, 11th Grade

Granby

Maximum Honors, Samantha Sam Keser, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Mateo Lopez, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Andrew Tishchenko, 11th Grade; Maximum Honors, Arwen Silva, 10th Grade; Maximum Honors, Icaro Neves, Eighth Grade; Maximum Honors, William Flood, Seventh Grade; Maximum Honors, Ryan Roulier, Seventh Grade; Maximum Honors, Lilyana Maddux, Sixth Grade; Maximum Honors, Luiza, Neves, Sixth Grade; and High Honors, Thaddeus Mulder, 12th Grade.

Holyoke

Maximum Honors, Yang Alan Gao, Ninth Grade; Maximum Honors, Jefferson Wood, Ninth Grade; Honors, Grace Marquez, 12th Grade; and Honors, Lingqian, Jack Meng, Ninth Grade.

South Hadley

Maximum Honors, Ayden Legowski, 12th Grade; Maximum Honors, Seth Tramazzo, 11th Grade; and Honors, Landon DeLuca, 10th Grade.

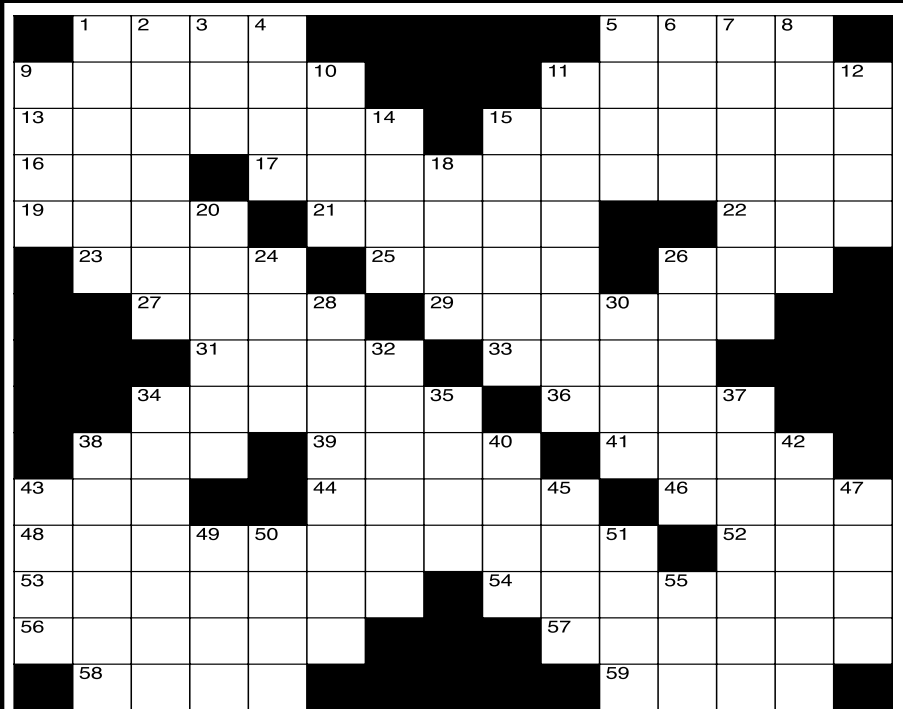
Springfield

Maximum Honors, Adrienne Ogar, Ninth Grade; and High Honors, Mariel Reyes, 10th Grade.

Wilbraham

Maximum Honors, Charlotte O'Grady, Sixth Grade; and Effort Honors, Violet O'Grady, Eighth Grade.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of
- annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one

CLUES DOWN

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

EVENTS and announcements

SOUTH HADLEY – The following announcements pertain to events that will be occurring in and around South Hadley.

Plains School Kindergarten packet pickup for South Hadley residents

SOUTH HADLEY – Plains School will be having Kindergarten and Grade One students new to South Hadley pick up packets from March 1 – 29.

Please stop by the school between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to pick up your packet. Any questions please call the main office at 538-5068.

Lenten Lunches return to All Saints Church

SOUTH HADLEY – Celebrating its 54th year of serving lunches, All Saints Church Lenten Lunches will again be available this year from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parking area behind the church off Rt. 116 and Dunlop Place. First Come! First Served! Make your advanced reservations for lunch by emailing the chairperson, Laura Marsh, at l.marsh1250@yahoo.com

Lunches are conveniently offered “grab and go,” and will be ready for pickup on two more Fridays: March 8 and March 22, prepared and served by the “lunch bunch”: Laura Marsh, Marietta Campbell, Cammie Daigle, Sue Frazier, Marilyn Gass, Dee Martin, Marilyn O'Connor, Mary Alice Osgood, Michele Pietras, Carol Reynolds, Annie Spinks and Emily Young.

This year the menu will include two choices: a complete lunch of the famous

All Saints' lobster rolls, a cup of vegetable soup or clam chowder, chips and a dessert brownie. The smaller lunch includes a cup of soup or chowder and a dessert brownie.

Lunch sales will benefit the All Saints' local mission ministry. Also for sale, plan to pick up the All Saints' Cookbook filled with “tried and true” recipes by parishioners and friends. A great gift for a kitchen shower or a housewarming!

Remember at All Saints' Church the “All” means everyone is welcome!!

Mount Holyoke College students recreate 1940s radio show

SOUTH HADLEY – If it's March, it must be time for The Big Broadcast, the popular annual event that, this year, will be held Saturday, March 9 in Chapin Auditorium on the campus of Mount Holyoke College. There will be two performances - at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Big Broadcast is a unique recreation of a 1940s-style radio show, complete with news, commercials, popular songs and a radio play in the detective serial style. Mount Holyoke has designated the yearly concert as a Signature Event.

Sponsors are Mount Holyoke College, 22News, Loomis Communities, NEPM, PRIME magazine, NEPM 88.5 and The Republican

22News meteorologist Brian Lapis returns to The Big Broadcast in his role as the show's emcee “Fred Kelley.” Mark Gionfriddo, director of the Jazz Ensembles of MHC, is the show's creative director.

Gionfriddo noted that this year marks the 25th anniversary season of the jazz program at Mount Holyoke. The Big Broadcast is a production of the college's Big Band, Jazz Vocal and Chamber Jazz ensembles.

“There's really nothing else like it,” Gionfriddo said, about The Big Broadcast. Part concert, part theater, the show is produced by students with Gionfriddo playing the role of “Matt Morgan,” who conducts the fictional WJAZ Big Band and is Fred Kelley's musical sidekick.

This year's selections include “The American Patrol” from the Glenn Miller Orchestra; Rodgers & Hart's “This Can't Be Love”; “Romberg & Hammerstein's “Lover, Come Back to Me”; the iconic Gene Krupa drum feature “Sing Sing Sing;” and Cole Porter's “Don't Fence Me In” as popularized by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters.

Tickets are available locally at the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-broadcast-2024-2pm-show-tickets-800425964607>. More information is available on the Facebook page of the Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College and on their web page at www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/music/big-broadcast.

Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theatre Presents: 'Marisol' by José Rivera

SOUTH HADLEY – The Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theater invites you to experience the disintegration of urban society in America with José Rivera's Obie Award-winning dark fairytale, “Marisol.”

In a dystopian world where apples are extinct and people turn into mounds of salt, the angels plot an epic battle to save the human race. Marisol, a Puerto Rican woman from the Bronx, embarks on a journey through the apocalypse to survive on her own, facing the possibility of her death amongst chaos and crisis.

The two-act play provides an atmosphere of human vulnerability that raises the existential questions of homelessness, ecological disaster, paranoia, mental illness, theology, sexuality and civil disorder.

Mount Holyoke's production is directed by Liz Almonte '24, featuring Set Design by Lee Heintzleman '24, Costume Design by Jensen Glick, and Lighting & Sound Design by Lara Dubin.

“Author Franny Choi says, ‘By the time the apocalypse began, the world had already ended.. This play makes me envision tomorrow even when my eyes are clouded by fear. Fear and destruction seep into every crevice and corner of our lives. Hope is not a feeling, but a state of being that fuels revolution. Marisol forces us to embellish destruction with hope. To fuel our pain with as much hope as possible so as to relinquish it. What is pain without hope and vice versa? How do we begin again if hope is lost?’” - Director Liz Almonte '24

Performance Dates and Times:

Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please visit <https://mhc.ludus.com/index.php> or contact our box office at MHCrookeTheatre@gmail.com

Tickets: \$10 general | \$8 students and senior citizens

CAMPUS NOTES

Local residents named to Dean's List at Dickinson College

CARLISLE, PA – Dickinson College has announced the following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. All students earning a position on the dean's list-a recognition of academic excellence-must have a grade-point average of 3.7 or above on a 4.0 GPA scale for the semester.

Dickinson College, located in historic Carlisle, Pa., was chartered in 1783. The private college is nationally recognized for its cross-disciplinary, active approach to learning, international education, civic engagement and its commitment to teaching its students about sustainability across the curriculum, the community and the globe. www.dickinson.edu.

Christine Gurek, junior data analytics major, South Hadley High School, daughter of Shannon and Dale Gurek of South Hadley, Mass.

Allison Smith, junior mathematics and computer science major, South Hadley High School, daughter of Douglas and Sarah Smith of South Hadley, Mass.

Endicott College announces local Dean's List students

BEVERLY – Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2023 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below “C,” have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following students have met these requirements:

Ella Marion, Nursing, daughter of Kathryn Marion and Kevin Marion

Max McCurdy, Exercise Science, son of Lisa Gustafson and Chris McCurdy

Lily Provost, Nursing, daughter of Charity Provost and Albert Provost JR

Local students selected to Univ. of Minnesota Twin Cities Dean's List

The following students have been named to the 2023 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

South Hadley

Teagan Gawron, Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts



CHOCOLATE from page 5

by weight of chocolate liquor, not less than 3.39% by weight of milk fat, not less than 12% by weight of total milk solids and the remaining percent by weight of sugar and/or spices.

It is a creamy and luscious confection, that excites and animates the senses and mind. Whichever your chocolate favorite, this creation melts invitingly on the tongue, longingly on the mind and deliciously from start to finish.

The “other” chocolate we haven't discussed yet has a locally fascinating history.

Is white chocolate real chocolate? This is a frequently asked question and a hot debate.

The FDA said to be called white chocolate, the candy must have at least 20% cocoa butter, 14% milk solids, and 3.5% milk fat – and no more than 55% sugar or other sweeteners. Vanilla is added for flavor, and a fatty substance called lecithin is in there as an emulsifier.

White chocolate is first recorded to be used in Europe around 1930 by the Nestle Corporation in Switzerland. A fascinating fact is that local candy maker, Hebert Candies in Shrewsbury, is credited with bringing this new chocolate to our country!

I had the privilege of having a conversation with Tamara Beland, Retail and Community Engagement for Hebert Candies.

Tamara was so gracious and accommodating as we discussed Hebert's history, products and status.

Hebert's has been a New England staple since 1917, as one of the first roadside confectioners. The original chocolatier, Frederick Hebert, was the first to introduce white chocolate to this country after bringing the recipe back from Europe around 1955.

Tamara confirmed that this recipe has been and still is in very strong demand with customers. Hebert's has indeed survived the COVID threat so far. Tamara reports strong holiday sales and shoppers still frequent the mansion, despite COVID restrictions.

We are indeed fortunate here

in central Massachusetts to have Hebert's as a chocolate staple. Many of us can recall visiting the mansions and watching the candy being made.

I am reminded of the film “Chocolat”. Juliette Binoche plays the mysterious woman that comes to the French village and sets up a chocolate shop.

Soon, the residents have pushed a sort of reset button with their lives, the dreamy and intoxicating chocolate creations have unlocked secret yearnings and desires. Does chocolate have this power?

Chocolate is perhaps the world's best escape. The French believe that food is an experience, not just a necessity.

When enjoyed, one should

not be in a hurry. One should slow down and allow the experience of the food to take them wherever it wishes.

When you experience your chocolate, does it take you away? What does it make you long for? As long as the delicate flavors and smells take over your senses, the escape and pleasure are a wonder.

Chocolate is many things. It is mysterious, elegant, majestic and complex.

When you bite the head off that Easter bunny, pop in a Lindt truffle or sit down with a Godiva sampler, allow yourself the luxury and moment to savor and escape. You never know, you may have just shared a piece of food that gods enjoy.

South Hadley Council of Aging events

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Council of Aging, 45 Dayton St., is open from Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., On Tuesdays they are open until 7 p.m. For a full schedule of events visit www.southhadley.org/324/council-of-ageing. For more information or to register for an event call 413-538-5030 extension 3.

LGBTQ+ Movie Showcase: Carol Wed., March 13 at 1 p.m. There will be free refreshments. The LGBTQ+ group will be meeting to watch this historical drama. An aspiring photographer develops an intimate relationship with an older woman in 1950s New York.

Hero's Journey presentation with Janet Lucier: Thursday, March 14 at 3:15 p.m. Each of us has a story. Our life experiences form the narrative. It is therapeutic to craft your story as a means to find relevance, closure, and meaning. Learn more about Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey and how to utilize it for growth and inspiration. Including the possibility of sharing your story in our Podcast.

This Is Your Life: Senior Wisdom Welcome Spring Breakfast at the SHCOA prepared by the Chefs of Loomis Tuesday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. Join in welcoming spring and share a free continental style breakfast by the Chefs of Loomis.

Talking History with Leo: Tuesday, March 19, at 3:30 p.m. Join Leo Lebonite for coffee and a discussion about our local

history and some surprising stories.

Cosmic Inflation in the Early Universe with Gary Felder: Tuesday, March 19 at 5 p.m. The theory of inflation says that for a tiny fraction of a second, just after the Big Bang, the universe expanded so quickly that all distances grew by much more than a trillion trillion times. In this talk you'll learn how much we know, and how much we still don't know, about the very early universe.

Sponsored by The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Luncheon Outing to the Tigers' Den: Wednesday, March 20. Tickets are \$12 per person, a limit of 24 must be reserved at the welcome desk. Join our own Chef Maggie for a wonderful lunch at the SHHS and support our culinary students under the direction of Chef Popp. Luncheon menu choices will be available when you get your tickets.

Monthly Social Dance Club with Ritchie Mitnik: Wednesday, March 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$4. Ritchie plays all the songs you want to hear, and dance to. Two hours of great music to get you moving and feeling great.

Table Talk: SH Commission on Disabilities: Thursday, March 21 9 a.m. to noon. This committee will bring information and will answer your questions.

Cornhole rematch: Friday, March 22, beginning at 9 a.m. The Athletes from the

SH Cornhole team are taking on both Fire District 1 and 2. The rematch is also to highlight the Fall Safety programs.

Westmass ElderCare Presentation: Friday, March 22, 11 a.m. Katie Defore-Raymond will present on Heart Health.

Visit The Woodlawn Café Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Tuesday evening's the Café is open from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Café has baked goods, soup, sandwiches and beverages. The menu changes daily and the Café only accepts cash.

Monday, March 11- Penne and meatballs

Tuesday, March 12- Chicken Divan
Wednesday, March 13- Cheeseburger
Thursday, March 14- Corned Beef and Cabbage

Friday, March 15- Crab Cake
Monday, March 18- Shepherd's Pie
Tuesday, March 19- Mongolian Pork Chop

Wednesday, March 20- Southern Chicken Stew

Thursday, March 21- Pot Roast with gravy

Friday, March 22- Stuffed Salmon
Monday, March 25- Lazy Golumpki

Tuesday, March 26- Taco Tuesday
Wednesday, March 27- Jerk Grilled Chicken

Thursday, March 28- Roast Turkey with gravy

Friday, March 29- Jumbo Ravioli

Upcoming events at the South Hadley Senior Center

Week of March 11-15

Tuesday March 12

10:00 a.m. – Low Vision Group meets. Any senior who has received a medical diagnosis of legal blindness, visual impairment or low vision can join.

11:30 a.m. Big y Shopping – call for reservations for a ride

12:30 p.m. Diamond Art. Learn a new way to create. This 4-week series will introduce you to Diamond Art with Instructor Laura Debreil.

4:00pm – St. Patrick's Event with the entertainment by the Earls and the Pearls. This is a free event.

Wednesday March 13

9:00 a.m. Veterans' Social Hour. Free pastry and coffee provided by VFW Post 3104 and American Legion post 260.

Attention Veterans – show South Hadley your time in Service. Memorabilia Poster workshops April 10th and 17th 9:00-12:00pm. In May, the SHSC will be displaying posters and Memorabilia of Veterans of all Military branches. To participate please contact Gene Maag at genemaag@yahoo.com or Kathy Florence at the Senior Center

1:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Coffee hour. Free refreshments! The LGBTQ+ Group will be meeting to watch this historical drama. "Carol" An aspiring photographer develops an intimate relationship with an older woman in 1950's New York.

2:00pm – CC Outing. We will be visiting our friends at Newton Manor. Stop by for refreshments and friendship. Contact Kathy Florence, kfflorence@southhadleyma.gov if you want to become a volunteer. Refreshments sponsored by The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Thursday, March 14

11:00 a.m. join Riley as he visits the COA

1:00 p.m. Our Public Health Nurse will be available.

3:15 p.m. Holistic and Wellness Series: Hero's Journey presentation with Janet Lucier. Each of us has a story. Our life Experience forms the narrative. Learn more about Joseph Campbell 's Hero's Journey and how to utilize it for growth and inspiration.

Friday, March 15

8:30 a.m. Gentleman's Breakfast with scheduled hosts: Steven Laplante and Enrique Pacheo from ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate. Please be sure to register at the Welcome Desk.

12:30 p.m. Reserve your spot on the van for shopping at Walmart.

Dance class workshops registration now open

NORTHAMPTON—Registration for Group Dance and Community is now open. In this series of 4 workshops, participants will develop resources for group movement through connection with themselves and others.

Joshua Swift (they/them/all pronouns) is a disabled dance artist and teacher. They have 7 years of dance training in modern, contemporary, and improvisational dance techniques, including Mettler-based creative dance and place-based dance via the lineage of Anna Halprin. Recently, Swift attended the AXIS Dance Summer Intensive in 2023 to study in the company of

other disabled dancers and to learn more about integrated dance.

Mettler-based creative dance prioritizes accessible movement and teaches ways to liberate and cultivate the natural movement resources of individuals and groups through developing freedom, awareness, and control in improvisational group dances.

Open to all levels, including folks with no dance experience, and advanced dancers looking to improve improvisational technique. These workshops are also open to all levels of ability.

Register by going to tinyurl.com/

groupimprov. The classes will be Saturdays, April 13, April 20, April 27, and May 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. The price is \$0-\$60 for all 4 workshops, or \$0-\$20 per session.

This class is open to individuals 18+. Please email jtmswift@gmail.com with any questions. Classes will take place at Northampton Center for the Arts, 33 Hawley St., in Carole's Dance Studio.

This program is supported in part by Mettler Studios and by grants from the Hadley Cultural Council and the South Hadley Cultural Council, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

CENTER from page 8

came to the open house to apply for a scholarship was first-year student Sunrise Iaim Smith of Chicopee.

"I read that HCC had created a new facility where we can get support in applying and be able to ask questions during the application process," Smith said. "I figured that's a nice support to have. It's not always easy navigating financial aid or understanding expectations when you're filling out an application.

Just having people who know the process there to support you makes it feel a little better, especially since it's my first time."

The Scholarship Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Donahue Building. The center is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students in need of assistance can drop in any time during office hours or schedule an appointment to meet with center staff.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are

scholarships for new students, current students, and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For more information or for assistance, please contact the Scholarship Resource Center at scholarships@hcc.eduor visit the center in Donahue 158.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY SELECTBOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Selectboard hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing being held on **Tuesday, March 26 at 7:05 p.m. at the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 and on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87906171247?pwd=RU5qS0dMWMN-VaDNaEtVMG85aUVdZz09>, with Webinar ID 879 0617 1247, passcode 596346 and phone number of +1 646 558 8656**, pursuant to G.L. c. 138 and the Town's Bylaws, as applicable, to determine whether potential violations of any and all provisions of G.L. c. 138 and including, but not limited to: G.L. c. 138, §§ 64 and 77 occurred at **H&H Retail, Inc. d/b/a 3 Corners Package Store**, located at **460 Amherst Rd., South Hadley, MA** and whether a penalty, up to and including revocation of the beer & wine package store license, should be imposed and to allow a reasonable opportunity for the licensee and/or their representatives to provide full and up to date information on the status of this beer & wine package store license.

The licensee risks cancellation of its license for non-use pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 77 unless it: (1) begins operating the licensed business; (2) files an appropriate application to transfer the location of the license where the licensee will conduct the licensed business; (3) files an appropriate application to transfer the ownership of the license to a licensee that will conduct the licensed business.

Selectboard public hearing notices are printed in the

Town Reminder and may also be downloaded from the following site: <http://masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx>

SELECTBOARD:
Andrea Miles, Chair
Carol Constant, Vice Chair
Jeff Cyr
Renee Sweeney
Nicole Casolari

03/08/2024

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Special Permit filed by the Mary Callahan to establish a non-owner-occupied Short Term Rental at 5 Pine Street, Assessor Map 40 Parcel 10, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw 255-51 (Residential Short Term Rentals); Article IX (Special Permits); and the Zoning Dimensional Regulation Schedule.

The public hearing will be conducted virtually on Zoom. Persons may join as follows: URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88620883053?pwd=TEw5TWs3UHZmZlVBSWVNa3ZNa18yUT09> Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 Webinar ID: 886 2088 3053 Passcode: 598729

The property is located within the Residential A-1 zoning district and is an existing single-family home.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications' - 'Special Permit' under section 'Pine Street (5) - Short Term

Rental' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/08, 03/15/2024

Town of Granby Massachusetts

Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday March 12, 2024, at 7:30** at *1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor-B West State Street, to consider the following:

1. Continued NOI-filed

by Heather L. Ruel Trustee for a proposed driveway within a resource area to access a proposed single-family residence including the development of a replacement wetland area with regards to property located on Kendall Street and known as Map 8-C7 and 8-C8-12 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code: 282-289-4210** or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "RDA" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.
03/08/2024

Notice of Public Sale

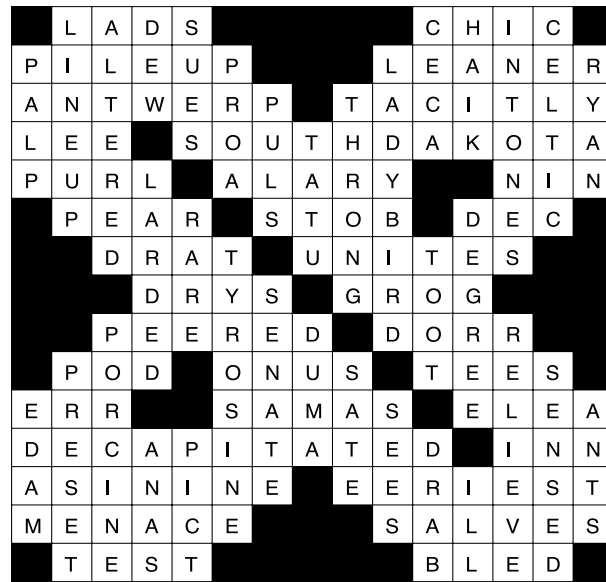
Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law, General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government, Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A, Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.

LocalStorage Granby,
138 W State St, Granby, MA

01033 will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on March 21, 2024, 10:00AM.

Unit:#037 Kathleen Batchelor,#057 Bethany Quinlan,#110 Kelly Waters
03/01, 03/08/2024

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



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Teens enjoy 'Snackternoon' at the library

By Dalton Zbierski
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SOUTH HADLEY – On the fourth Thursday of each month, teenagers are invited to the library to enjoy "Snackternoon," a popular activity that involves creativity and tasty food.

"It really depends on what we're making, but pretty much you just make the snack and then you eat it. My favorite part is eating it," Noah, a 14-year-old, said. "It's very customizable. Last time, we made sundaes with yogurt, and you could choose whatever you wanted to put onto it out of the toppings we had. It was a great time."

Teen Program Coordinator Bethany Roberts launched the program last September and said it has been well-received. Each

month involves a different snack. "We've done Chex muddy buddy mix, apple nachos, breakfast sundaes, Reese's fall snack mix. This month, we're making brownie batter dip. Next month is leprechaun bait," Roberts said.

Making brownie batter dip took about 10 minutes and used numerous common kitchen ingredients. Roberts said that the aim of the program is to create something delicious that kids can make at home by themselves.

"The goal is that it doesn't use specialty kitchen equipment, it doesn't use a stove or the oven," Roberts said. "We've used a microwave so far, and the hand mixers are the newest thing we're using, but you could mix it by yourself at home. It would just be more labor intensive, and a hand mixer is safe for anyone to use."



Brownie batter dip was on the menu during last Thursday's Snackternoon session in the library's Teen Room.



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

Matthew and Hannah make brownie batter dip on Feb. 22.

While the activity has occurred in several library spaces, the Teen Room is suited to accommodate most editions of Snackternoon. Roberts joked that all she needs is a vacuum and she's alright.

Each week, the participants leave with a recipe. Roberts said that when the teens make the snack themselves, they can add or remove ingredients from the list.

"The idea is it needs to be something that's kind of simple, something a teen could think up on their own, something that doesn't use anything more than like the hand mixer or the microwave and something that's easy to recreate for themselves. That's kind of my criteria," Roberts said.

Roberts enjoys baking and cooking and is happy to teach the teens a variety of kitchen skills. She said that everybody needs to know how to feed themselves, and by learning to do something like cutting an apple, you can also cut tomatoes or carrots.

"For instance, when we did apple nachos, we were learning knife safety and how to properly cut an apple on a cutting board and things like that and how to be safe

while we did that. It's a good skill," Roberts said.

Matthew, 14, enjoyed making the brownie batter dip and encouraged his friends to stop by next month. He said his favorite part of Snackternoon is definitely the food, and his favorite snack thus far has been Chex muddy buddy mix.

"It was just delicious," he said. "We had to use a microwave to melt the chocolate. Then, I froze it. I put in my freezer, and it was a lot better frozen."

Hannah, 11, also said her favorite part is eating the food, and she considers herself lucky to be able to attend. Her favorite snack was also the Chex muddy buddy mix.

When asked what the greatest challenge of Snackternoon is, she responded honestly.

"It's following the instruc-

tions. I'm really bad at doing that, but when I'm done, it's really great because I get to eat it," Hannah said.

Roberts hopes that new teens visit the program each month and said that there is a core group of attendees in place that is welcoming and happy to include everyone. For those looking to participate, she asked that they sign up ahead of time so she can accommodate food allergies and make sure she buys enough supplies.

When asked what he would say to persuade his friends to come to the next edition of Snackternoon, Noah kept it simple.

"You get to make the food, and it's a great time eating it. You should probably come on down," he said.



A core group of attendees is always present at Snackternoon sessions on the fourth Thursday of each month at the library.

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