

TOWN Reminder

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MESMS Drama Club

shines bright
in spring
musical

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - From March 21 to 24, the Michael E. Smith Middle School Drama Club will transform the South Hadley High School auditorium into Egypt for its production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

"Our cast is extremely excited to perform on the SHHS stage in front of 400 plus people," said co-director Stefani Holmes. "The majority of the cast participated in our presentation of A Christmas Carol in December, but that was on the middle school's stage in the cafeteria. Many of them have been looking forward to joining drama club from when we performed for the fourth graders at Mosier or when they came to past performances with their families."

Much different from last year's production of Frozen, this

Please see **MUSICAL**,
page 6



Elena Carpentier and Wyatt Estes are fine turning their performances.

Stark takes over as Fire District 1 Chief

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Officially promoted on Feb. 22, South Hadley Fire District 1 Chief Tom Stark has settled into the role of guiding the department through the next years.

"I'm grateful and honored to be here and I look forward to working with the Prudential Committee," said Stark. "There are a lot of people to thank for getting me where I am today, a

lot of people that I learned from."

One of the most important aspects of Stark's job is to maintain the training levels of his department members and to ensure that the equipment is well-maintained and satisfies the needs of the department.

"The fire service is always changing, so training is paramount to it. We continue to train because we're always adapting," explained Stark. "I plan to evaluate the department



Chief Tom Stark

Please see **CHIEF**, page 5

Supt. and Asst. Supt. decline salary increases

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - Superintendent Mark McLaughlin stated during the School Committee's March 7 meeting that he and Assistant Superintendent Jenn Voyik would not accept increases to their salaries in the upcoming budget.

The announcement came as McLaughlin and Voyik laid out

the highlights of their proposed budget for the coming school year. Among the proposals was a cut of four teaching staff, a move that the superintendents argued would still allow the district to maintain class-size ratios on par with the state's target figures even when considering the potential for an influx of students moving into the district or coming in via school choice.

Please see **SALARY**, page 12

Selectboard interviewed candidates to fill vacancies

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY - The Selectboard met this week to interview several new committee members and looked into creating new programs and discuss various budgets.

The March 12 meeting was led by Chair Andrea Miles, and she was joined by Vice Chair Carol Constant, Clerk Nicole Casolari, and Members Renee Sweeney, and Jeff Cyr.

Interviews and appointments

Mary Jo Maydew joined the meeting to express her interest in joining the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Diane LaRoche came to talk about joining the Historic District Study Committee. A member of the Historical Society, LaRoche's interest is to maintain the historical buildings of South Hadley.

"I am committed to securing historic status for those properties," LaRoche said. "I would like to see these buildings preserved."

Alexander Hunter came forward regarding the Historical Commission and wanted to join. "I want to see us enhance what we know, and bring it to the community," Hunter said. "My interest comes from my own family history."

The Selectboard, after the interviews, moved into discussing the tri-annual appointments to fill vacancies across various committees.

These vacancies include two in the Historic District Study Committee, and three vacancies in the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

The Cultural Council has three vacancies, and the Historical Commission has one vacancy. The board moved to appoint the new applicants to the various committees.

New business

The Selectboard discussed wastewater and recommendations for the rate structure for the next five years.

Town Administrator Lisa
Please see **VACANCIES**, page 3

FLOWERS in Bloom



Mount Holyoke College Greenhouse features thousands of plants and flowers. The show is ongoing through March 17, free admission. See more photos on Page 8.

Turley Publications photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

► South Hadley

Planning Board discusses bylaw, approves sign

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Planning Board continued discussions about possible amendments to the town’s Flexible Development bylaw at their meeting on March 11.

The board also approved an illuminated sign for All Creatures Great and Small Animal Hospital on Granby Road.

The meeting was unique in having been the third consecutive Monday on which the board met, after a special meeting had been held on March 4 to discuss a petition to allow multifamily residential development in the town’s Business A-1 zoning district. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for March 25.

All Creatures Great and Small placed their illuminated sign request after work done by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation on Granby Road resulted in the removal of a previous sign. The request was approved by the board unanimously, with clarification around the expected hours of illumination for the sign comprising most of the brief discussion on the subject.

Most of the meeting was devoted to furthering discussion around potential amendments to the town’s Flexible Development bylaw. The bylaw intends



Turley Publications Photo by Nick Boonstra

The Planning Board approved an illuminated sign for All Creatures Great and Small Animal Hospital.

to offer potential developers the trade-off of an increased density allowance for residential units in exchange for the protection of open space on a parcel.

Few developers have elected to pursue projects through the bylaw since its inception, and Planning Director Anne Capra began the discussion around amending the bylaw by putting the focus on making it more attractive to developers.

“At our last meeting we were trying to figure out, how can we still continue to incentivize flex-

ible developments?” she said. “How could we make them more enticing so that people would build housing and conserve open space at the same time?”

Among the most significant changes discussed was the proposed treatment of affordable housing units and units smaller than 1,000 square feet as half of a unit each for the purposes of calculating how many units will be allowed on a parcel, according to draft bylaw language displayed at the meeting. Previously, the bylaw provided smaller

unit bonuses for affordable units, for units in a restricted 55-and-over community and for additional open space.

The language capping how many bonus units a development could be awarded was also removed from the draft bylaw, though in practice a parcel’s acreage and zoning would functionally limit how many units a development would be able to construct.

Board member Brad Hutchison said during the meeting that the idea for counting certain

types of units as half a unit for density purposes came from similar measures adopted by other municipalities.

“I’ve actually seen this in some other local towns, dwelling units that are less than a certain square feet – I think some towns have 800, some towns have 1,000 – you just count them as half a unit,” Hutchison said. “And then for capital-A affordable housing, similarly, dwelling units would count as half a unit.”

Capra said she hoped an increase in flexible developments in town would in turn bring new forms of community and connection to South Hadley. “One of the things that this alternative model with flexible development offers us is alternative community networks,” she said.

Giving an example, Capra said, “People have been talking to us at Town Hall about interest in developing communities that are multi-generational, or that support people with disabilities.”

The board’s meeting on March 25 is set to include a public hearing on a special permit for a short-term rental application. The board approved its first such application at their Feb. 12 meeting, for a South Hadley resident who operates an Airbnb out of her home.

The March 25 meeting will be held virtually, and is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

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School Committee member resigns

By Nick Boonstra
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SOUTH HADLEY – Lynnda Pickbourn has submitted her resignation to the town’s School Committee, citing “reasons related to the health and well-being of my family” as the motivation for her decision.

Committee Chairperson Eric Friesner read the letter of resignation from Pickbourn, who was not present, at the committee’s meeting on March 7, in which Pickbourn expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with the committee and called out what she saw to be the major challenges facing the institution of public education going forward.

In her letter, Pickbourn laid out her perspective of public education as a positive force that had the potential to bring people and communities together. “The institution of public education is probably one of the most progressive institutions of our time,” she wrote.

She went on to write, “Public education has the potential to adjust the inequities that are fundamental to capitalist societies. Public education offers all of us an opportunity to build bridges across the divides of race

and class, and to develop empathy and understanding of others who may be different from ourselves.”

However, she expressed her concern that some of these same inherent inequities were keeping public education from working to correct societal shortcomings.

“When I joined the South Hadley School Committee two years ago, I assumed that simply advocating for more generous funding for the school district from the town would be enough,” Pickbourn wrote.

However, she came to find that the solution was not so straightforward. “As a nation, we have a peculiar system of funding education that ensures that richer towns and cities have better-funded schools than their poorer neighbors,” she wrote. “It is a system that is guaranteed to reinforce in perpetuity existing inequalities.”

Pickbourn said the choices faced by towns were challenging in a time when students face hunger, homelessness, and a vast array of special needs.

“Towns like South Hadley have to make difficult choices,” she wrote. “More funding for schools means less funding for the needs of other vulnerable residents; less funding for schools means the needs of some

of our most vulnerable students are not met.”

In light of these challenges, Pickbourn called for changes in how public education is supported. “We need a more equitable system of funding public education – one that does not rely so heavily on municipal resources – so that public education can live up to its promise,” she wrote.

Despite these issues facing public education at large, Pickbourn felt confident in the position of the town and its school district. She referred to her participation in various contract negotiations as “a reminder that the administrators, the faculty and the staff in South Hadley School District are invested in our students and are doing their best, even in the face of funding challenges.”

She closed her letter by expressing her thanks to the committee and the town.

“I’m deeply grateful for all the administrators, faculty and staff with whom I have worked, and to you my colleagues on the school committee for your commitment to South Hadley students,” Pickbourn wrote. “I’m grateful also to the residents of South Hadley, whose votes made it possible for me to serve on the School Committee.”

It was to the next generation

that she gave the letter’s final words. “I reserve my greatest gratitude for our young people, the students of South Hadley and beyond, who make this work worthwhile.”

After reading the letter, Friesner thanked Pickbourn for her service and commitment to the town and its schools. “We will miss you here,” he said.

Committee member Daniel View also expressed his gratitude to Pickbourn for her service. “Thank you for the time that you spent working with us,” he said.

Committee member Larry Dixon further echoed these thanks, and elevated the points made by Pickbourn in her letter. “A really key point that she makes in the letter is one that I think we all realize, about the equity issues and the difficult challenges,” he said. “Nobody wins in these situations.”

Friesner said that the procedural next steps after Pickbourn’s resignation would include the Selectboard voting to accept her resignation. He shared that similar situations in the past were then handled with public advertisement of the open seat and a joint review of candidates by the Selectboard and School Committee.

No timeframe was given for the filling of the vacated seat.

Girls Inc. host gala

HOLYOKE— Girls Inc. of the Valley’s annual major fundraiser is back at the Nasmith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1000 Hall of Fame Ave, on March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Spirit of Girls: Rewind // Fast Forward features co-lead sponsors PeoplesBank and the Women’s Foundation of Boston.

Guests and attendees will hear the impactful stories of Girls Inc. youth, families, alumni and more. The evening will include heavy appetizers, along with a cash bar.

Girls Inc. of the Valley is actively seeking sponsors and volunteers to support the event.

“The need for investments in programs that work towards gender equity and providing safe spaces for girls, and youth who would benefit from pro-girl environments, is greater than ever” said Suzanne Parker executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. “We will raise \$110,000 at Spirit of Girls to provide that safe space, especially during the summer months.”

Thank you to our sponsors: PeoplesBank; Women’s Foundation of Boston; Hazen Paper Company; bankESB; BonaVita Aesthetics; The Collins Companies; Monson Savings Bank; SourcePass; UMass Amherst; Parker’s Portables; Kuhn Riddle Architects; and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

If interested, or have questions regarding this event, please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

Spring yard waste collection schedule

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley DPW will begin curbside spring yard waste collection on April 1 through April 26. Paper bags or open containers only. The waste must be curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Each route will have two collections. Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four feet in length. Leaves, grass and brush only. Pno plastic bags. For any questions or more information please contact the DPW at 413-538-5030.

SHHS Band reunion planned

SOUTH HADLEY – If you were a member of the South Hadley Marching 100 during Roger Farnworth’s tenure from 1965-1980 you are invited to a three-day celebration of the band and its accomplishments.

Events include:

Aug. 16: Ccasual gathering, with place and time to be determined.

Aug. 17: SHHS Meet and Greet: Donuts, coffee and photo-op will be provided. Place and time to be determined. Main Event held at The Elks Lodge in Holyoke at 5 p.m.

Aug. 18: Breakfast at the Boathouse in South Hadley at 9:30 a.m.

Join the reunion for all the events or any of your choice to make new memories and celebrate the old. For tickets or more information visit: The South Hadley Tiger Marching 100 on Facebook or by emailing Karen Kawalec Quinn at jkequinn@gmail.com or Craig Parker at craig1414p@gmail.com.

VACANCIES from page 1

Wong shared an spreadsheet of the breakdown of expenses for the sewer department budget. They discussed how best to work the budget to get the best possible outcome for the town’s sewage.

The Selectboard also discussed the budget for trash and recycling, and reviewed recommendations about changes to waste collection and recycling programs.

On Saturday, April 13, the town will hold hearings for wastewater, waste collection, and recycling as a hearing and presentations open to the public.

The Selectboard continued a discussion on forming a Veteran’s District. Wong provided information on the specifics of forming a district, and what the cost would be.

They also congratulated Michael Slater, and thanked him not only for his service, but his dedication to the community and took a photo with him to commemorate the moment.

The Selectboard then dis-

cussed the status of the various American Rescue Plan Act funds they had received and moved to vote on how to spend the various funds and on what projects.

John Broderick, the Director of Public Works, came on to discuss the specifics and updates of a specific project and construction around manholes. The left-over ARPA fund money will be put towards this project.

The Selectboard then discussed jumpstarting Digitization and Digitalizing to reshape the technology the town is using. They discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with it, and ultimately voted approval of moving forward with the project.

The Selectboard then announced a Senior Tax Workoff Program. The board reviewed recommendations for program eligibility, guidelines, and application process.

The program and its specifics are meant to benefit people who make a limited amount of income and allow these seniors to be able to find relief.

For the annual town meeting, they went over what would be discussed and needed to be voted

on at the next meeting.

ValleyBike, a program the town had been using, has changed its costs and regulations, and the board discussed whether the town will continue to support being a part of the program or not.

The Selectboard moved to support the continuation of ValleyBike as a program in the town to move onto the annual meeting to bring it to the next meeting for further discussion.

The Selectboard moved on to discuss whether the town would continue the Citizen of the Year Awards, previously begun by the Lions Club. They will consider it further at a future meeting.

Old business

The fiscal year 2025 budget draft was briefly gone over before the March 20 hearing by the board. The Town Meeting Review Committee took a moment to review the information they provided.

Finally, the Selectboard went over the Town Administrator’s Report and discussed what they wanted to further discuss or consider.

Carl G. Johanson Scholarship Fund

Eligible applicants must be a resident of South Hadley, a graduate, or soon to be graduate, from South Hadley High School and enrolled or accepted in a college Engineering Program. This Scholarship Award is limited to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

Applications for the Scholarship Fund may be obtained at the High School or the South Hadley Electric Light Department. Completed applications must be returned **no later than Friday, April 12, 2024** to the South Hadley Electric Light Department, Attn: Johanson Scholarship, 85 Main Street, South Hadley, MA. Successful applicants will be notified.

HELP WANTED Water Systems Operator Person (Water Distribution)

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

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Opinion



News from my garden to yours

I received a text from a friend earlier today asking what is covering my strawberry plants.

I answered her with one word: water.

Yes indeed, a good portion of my garden is drowning at the moment, as are various parts of my yard. We have had too much rain in too short of a period and the ground is still frozen partway down.

It's happened before and will likely happen again, but every time it does, I wonder how these areas could possibly rebound and look good come spring. Usually, they do and with little help from me.

The water recedes and spring comes.

Keep in mind that the soil, be it in your garden or yard, will lose some of its fertility because of leaching, and it will be compacted from such excessive rainfall. Give your plants a side dressing of compost this spring; it will be sure to help restore fertility and improve the condition of the soil in general.

According to a soil test, my garden was notoriously low in nitrogen, so I incorporated blood meal into the soil at planting time with another dose a few weeks later. It didn't occur to me at the time, but flooding a couple of times early in the year could be the culprit of the low nitrogen reading.

Soil that is heavy with water literally pushes out the space that was meant for oxygen and becomes compacted. Without oxygen, plants' vascular systems won't function properly.

As I said before, a few days in the off season likely won't hurt much, but if this were to happen during the growing season, your plants may look wilted even though they are sitting in water.

Root rot, perhaps, or simply that the roots are unable to absorb the water around them.

Lawns should be aerated to remedy this problem, and garden soil should be loosened – once it's dry of course – to get some air into the soil. This can be done numerous ways, by use of various hand tools.

Although scratching around with a three tine cultivator will likely bring some weed seeds to the surface, it is one of my favorite things to do in the garden. I find it a great stress-buster, too.

Do remember to try not to walk on saturated soil or it will compound the problem. Even in the spring when you are working in your garden, place a board under your feet to distribute your weight evenly and prevent more compaction.

Have you noticed that your houseplants have begun to put on an abundance of new growth? Mine sure have! Support this with a dose of half strength liquid fertilizer.

I need to take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium plants that I overwintered. It will sure be great to make cemetery logs with our own geraniums this year.

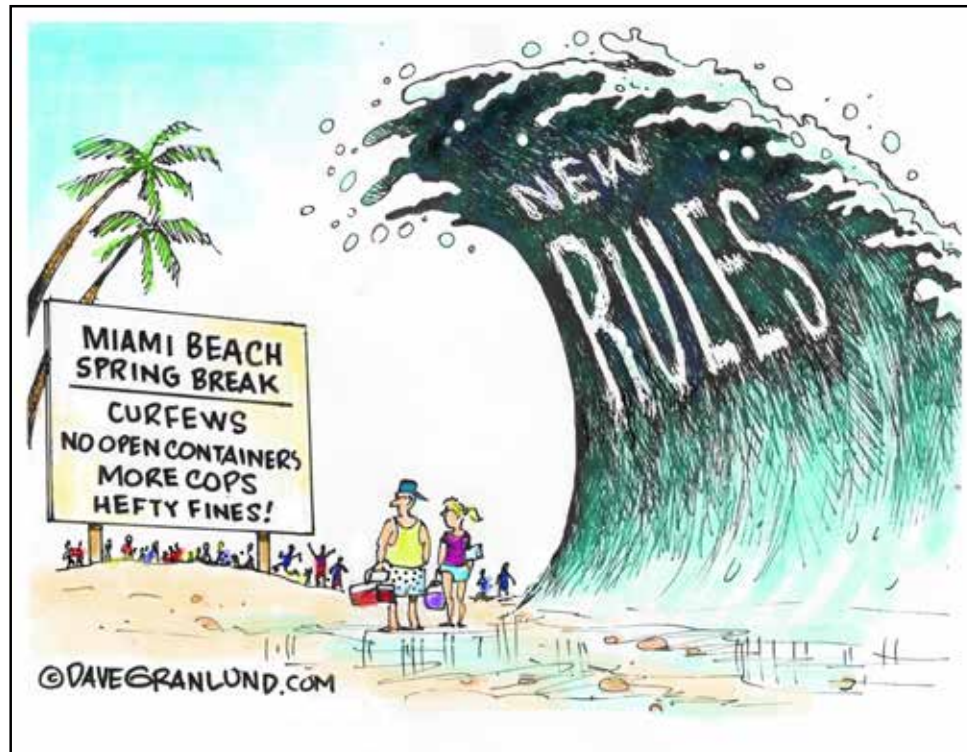
I will simply cut a terminal (meaning top) stem about 4-5 inches long just after a node (that's where the leaves join the stem). I'll carefully take off all but the top two or three leaves and insert the leafless section into a small pot (say around 2-3 inches in diameter) of good quality moist potting soil.

The two or three leaves you left will be above the soil line. If you have rooting hormone on hand, you can dip the stem into that first, but you don't have to; plants in active growth usually root fine even without it.

I will place my cuttings in indirect light and mist with a spray bottle a couple of times a day to keep them from wilting before they root. Check in about a month, and if you are lucky, roots will have formed.

Depending on the size pot you used, and

Please see **GARDEN**, page 6



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am troubled that my municipal electric utility conducts its fiberoptic business matters in secrecy. The elected South Hadley Electric Light Department commission has met in executive session and has refused to release minutes or remove redactions from documents related to its fiberoptic business that apparently grossed some \$1.7 million in calendar 2022 alone.

I began to probe the commission in early 2023 after a former commissioner complained that the board had adopted a policy that strictly limited release of information about its fiberoptic activities.

The commission has based its policy on a law that governs the state's 41 municipal light plants (MLP). It allows MLPs to keep records confidential "when necessary for protecting trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information."

The people of South Hadley deserve to know what their town-owned utility is doing. Laws must be enforced or changed to make that happen.

I first demanded minutes of a 2022 executive session at which commissioners debated a one-year contract for its general manager that authorized an 8.5 percent salary increase and \$25,000 one-time bonus. The

commission refused, citing state law.

I then filed an Open Meeting Law complaint with the state Attorney General office. It ordered the commission to release minutes of the session in which the board agreed to use fiberoptic revenues to pay the manager's bonus because it could not be legally paid through electric revenues.

In November, I sought through a public records request, the income of each of the accounts that comprise the \$1.8 million 'Other' line item in the Operating Revenues section of annual SHELD financial statements.

The commission subsequently released a heavily blacked-out copy of the "Other" account that in 2022 shows \$1.85 million in revenues. Of that, a few minor accounts represent \$116,000. The rest, \$1.7 million, was blacked out, presumably because it represents fiberoptic revenues.

The commission has not to this date released minutes as required by law of five 2022 executive sessions that were conducted in secret to compete with others, such as Westfield Gas and Electric, which holds 19 such contracts with Western Massachusetts towns.

Walter Hamilton
South Hadley



Immigrants drive U.S. economy

The American economy is thriving, and immigration should get some of the credit.

That's the message from experts who highlight the critical role that immigrants are playing in the workforce.

This may seem surprising when immigration is under attack and chaos at the border is a staple of political rhetoric. But immigrants are filling essential jobs – in childcare, health care, food service and agriculture but also in science, technology and entrepreneurship – at a time when employers are struggling to find workers.

About half the recent growth in the labor market came from foreign-born workers, according to an Economic Policy Institute analysis. A recent report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that growth in the labor force, largely from immigration, will add \$7 trillion to America's GDP in the next decade.

More people working means more people paying taxes, which reduces the federal

deficit.

Of course, this doesn't mean our immigration policies are working the way they should. They haven't been seriously updated since 1986.

We need an immigration system that advances our national interest and reflects our values, and we don't have that. Our current system prioritizes family unification, which is important; but it hasn't kept pace with changes in technology and the economy.

Obviously, many Americans are concerned about immigration. A recent Gallup survey found 28% of respondents named immigration as the top problem facing our nation, more than cited inflation or any other issue; and it's not just Republicans who worry. Liberal cities like New York, Chicago and Denver have been overwhelmed by migrants bused from Texas.

But some fears are overblown.

Research finds that immigrants don't take jobs from native-born Americans or drive down wages, at least in times of robust employment. Neither do they rely excessively on public assistance or commit more crimes.

The vast majority play by the rules and contribute to society. The Pew Research Center estimates that just 22% of foreign-born workers are undocumented.

America is a nation of immigrants, but immigration has often been controversial.

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 6

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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Prudential Committee outlines budget

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Fire District 1 Prudential Committee laid out their initial proposed budget for the fire department for fiscal year 2025 at their meeting on March 7.

The committee did not directly address the result of the town’s non-binding ballot question from the town’s elections earlier last week, in which a majority of voters supported merging the town’s two fire districts. Kurt Schenker sat in on the meeting for the first time as an elected member, while Chair Bruce Perron was unable to attend.

The committee outlined an estimated FY25 budget of \$5.39 million, a decrease of about \$25,000 from the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024, according to budget documents distributed at the meeting. Not listed on the budget was the amount of free cash available to the district, which the committee stated to be \$871,338.

Members of the public had a number of questions about the proposed budget for the Prudential Committee and District 1 Chief Tom Stark.

Pauline McClafin, recently elected District 1 Water Commissioner, had questions for Stark around estimated line items for overtime for the department, asking why figures were remaining the same for 2025 when it did not look certain that the listed amounts for fire and ambulance would be reached by the end of the 2024 fiscal year.

Stark responded by advising that the historically high call volumes being handled by



Turley Publications Photo by Nick Boonstra

Fire District 1 Prudential Committee discussed the fiscal year 2025 budget at its March 7 meeting.

the department meant that there was no certainty that the district would fall short of its expected overtime figures. He did also say that he would be asking the committee to move toward a five-man shift for the department, and away from the current four-man shift in place.

Schenker added that, from his experience, overtime tended to increase during the summer months, and that current overtime figures were not representative of what they could be by the end of the fiscal year.

McClafin also asked if any of the district’s free cash would be put toward offsetting an increase in taxes for District 1 residents. Stark said that he was being cautious with union negotiations coming up.

“I’m leaving those numbers where they are right now with the expectation that the union will be coming at the board with a raise,” Stark said.

McClafin said she supported a pay increase for the department, stating, “I get a 3% raise, because we want our firefighters to get that raise.” But she still advocated for using a portion of the free cash to assuage concerns about taxes in the district.

When discussion with the public turned back to a potential five-man shift, Stark and committee member John Wojciechowski laid out the difficulties the department anticipates with finding staff.

“The pool is not there at the moment, and it hasn’t been there for some time,” Stark told attendees with regard to hiring new crew.

Wojciechowski said, “The commitment to the job is not like it used to be. We’ve got challenges that we didn’t have in the past, and we’ve got to adapt to the way things are now.” He later added, “We’re living in today; we can’t look back.”

DEIB training available to town leadership

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The Human Rights Commission, in line with the Master Plan, has created a new training for members of town leadership.

This new training, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, will provide and address problems in our world we may encounter while in the workforce and how to go about counteracting them.

DEIB will serve to address and teach members of leadership how to respond to issues of systemic racism, implicit or unconscious bias, microaggressions, and cultural awareness and inclusion.

“My hope as the Chair of the Human Rights Commission is that these materials can be something that we can use to engage and educate broadly with the public,” Renne Sweeney said.

“We are hoping to do a training in the spring for town senior employees and managers, and that will be live. Then we will have a webinar for town employees and board members, and it will be recorded for them. The last part will be a skill-building session as a part of the town’s Master Plan Forum in the fall,” Sweeney said.

The Master Plan is a series of refined goals in order to allow South Hadley to become a more welcoming community, hiring staff and recruiting volunteers of a diverse background.

“[We want] to be a community that is welcoming to different identities,” Sweeney said.

The town received a Community Compact grant of \$15,000 in order to fund the different trainings under DEIB. “We were awarded this funding, and we are looking forward to putting it towards this goal. It’s an exciting program,” she said.

This fall, there will be a large, in-person forum for those taking the training to come together to share in what they learned and hear from a speaker.

“It will be a combination of board members and employees, and when that forum happens, it will be a great opportunity for people to meet with each other,” Sweeney said. “I think a lot of good conversation can happen.”

Sweeney also shared that she hopes all who attend the forum to be able to take what they learned and put it into practice. “I hope that they walk away with something that they can apply in their day-to-day work.”

This will be a fantastic opportunity for the members of leadership across the various boards and positions within the leadership of South Hadley.

“I would encourage everyone to check out the town’s website to see all the work the employees and officials are doing for the community. This training is just one of the many things we are doing, and we are working hard to improve it all the time,” Sweeney said.

CHIEF from page 1

and community needs for staffing and equipment and put together a solid budget that works for the department and the taxpayer.”

Stark will face the challenge of a firefighter and paramedic shortage, one that is not unique to South Hadley but is being faced by many departments across the country. According to Stark, there just are not as many trained candidates for the jobs as there used to be. With several expected retirements in the next few years, Stark will have to face this issue head-on. Not someone who likes to talk about himself, Stark noted that he’s much more of a “doer” and likes to “talk about other people.”

“We have a lot of hardworking men and women in the department who do a great job day in and day out,” praised Stark. He noted that the job can be particularly difficult because the department is providing fire and emergency medical services to people in a significant time of need.

Public Safety Consultants LLC, a firm hired by the prudential committee recommended three internal candidates. After the testing for all three, the prudential committee unanimously chose Stark as its new chief in February after he had the highest scores on the assessment. The announcement at the prudential committee meeting was met with loud applause from the dozens in attendance. Over 100 people also congratulated Stark when the announcement was made on social media.

Stark began his career as a call firefighter in 1990 and became a permanent firefighter 12 years later in June 2002. He became a paramedic in 2004 and was promoted to captain in July 2011. Stark had been serving as the interim fire chief since early January when Robert Authier retired from the chief position after 13 years on the job.

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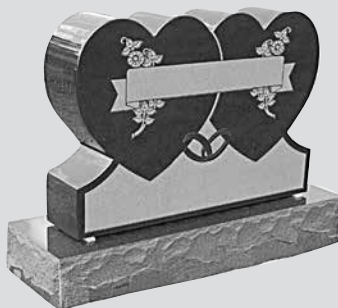
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EVENTS *and announcements*

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.

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!!

AAA STUDY:

Backing unsafely causes thousands of crashes

Crashes with children, cross traffic still a risk despite technology

WESTWOOD – Technology designed to help cars back up more safely fails to prevent a crash with children half of the time, finds new AAA research. And in scenarios involving cross traffic behind the car, the technology almost never fully prevents a collision.

Backing unsafely is a serious issue: from 2018-22, more than 36,000 crashes across Massachusetts listed “backing” as a vehicle’s action prior to a collision, according to the MassDOT IMPACT Crash Data Portal. Over 2,200 of those crashes resulted in an injury and 13 resulted in a fatality.

Reverse automatic emergency braking is a system designed to automatically activate a car’s brakes when it detects a potential collision behind the car. Reverse AEB has proven to be

effective in scenarios when a vehicle might back into another stationary vehicle and is now available in approximately 30% of new cars.

To better understand how the technology performs in more challenging scenarios, AAA tested a set of new vehicles equipped with reverse AEB systems designed to stop a vehicle before it backs up into an object or person or gets struck from the side by a vehicle. The results:

Child: When the test vehicle was backing out of a parking space into the path of a pedestrian target designed to be representative of a typical 7-year-old, the reverse AEB systems automatically applied the brakes in 75% of tests and prevented a collision in 50% of tests.

Cross traffic: When the test vehicle was backing out of a parking space into the path of an oncoming vehicle, the reverse AEB systems automatically applied the brakes in 65% of tests and prevented a collision in 2.5% of tests.

“Our tests show that reverse automatic emergency braking has clear benefits,” said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. “But it’s no substitute for an attentive driver.”

Given the results, AAA recommends the following tips for drivers to keep themselves and other road users safe when leaving a parking spot:

Stay engaged: Drivers should not rely solely on reverse AEB to prevent collisions, but use backup cameras and their own two eyes to enhance their awareness of their surroundings. Check behind and around your vehicle before you get in the car.

Back up slowly: Drivers should back up cautiously when their side vision is obstructed and allow the technology to “see” past the obstruction to detect cross traffic, giving the system more time to apply the brakes and prevent a collision.

Pull through: If possible, pull through a space in a parking lot so that you can exit the spot moving forward.

MUSICAL from page 1

year’s show has provided the students with an opportunity to stretch their drama muscles, but that has also come with challenges.

“This is the full show in which the story is all sung with no written dialogue,” explained Holmes. “We opted to use the provided performance accompaniment, rather than a live orchestra, but that has been a different challenge in rehearsal.”

The musical follows the Biblical story of Joseph, a favorite son with prophetic dreams, on a journey to Egypt after he is sold into slavery by his brothers. The musical has a range of styles from country to calypso to pop to rock ‘n’ roll.

“Leading the cast are 8th grader Wyatt Estes (Joseph), 7th grader Elena Carpetier (Narrator), 6th graders Aydin Kahraman (Pharaoh), Gracie Williams (Jacob), Calder Belanger (Baker) and 5th grader Derek Colon (Butler),” said Holmes. “Join-

ing them will be an ensemble cast that includes Jacob’s eleven brothers and their wives (including 7th graders Ella Goodhind as Reuben, Grace Proulx as Simeon and Autumn Deluca as Judah), Potiphar (8th grader Kadan Rydzak), and a kaleidoscope of fourteen children’s chorus members. Over sixty students will make appearances that include dancers and members of the Pharaoh’s court, prisoners, priests, and guards.” After a successful production of A Christmas Carol in December, the group began preparation for this musical. Rehearsing every Wednesday with the full cast and Tuesdays and Thursdays in smaller groups has given the young thespians plenty of time to immerse themselves in this world. However, the production requires many hands and volunteer hours to come to fruition. For the last several months, family, friends, high school students and MESMS alumni have spent their Saturday mornings building sets. Holmes and co-director Ted

“Our custodial, secretarial, medical, and kitchen staff have been extremely

helpful and understanding in scheduling and set building,” praised Holmes. “The administration and faculty have also been a huge supporter of our program, especially for students learning to balance academics and extracurriculars.”

The performers are very excited to see the musical up on stage after all their hard work and practice.

“I am most proud of the hard work and dedication the cast has put into the show,” said Ella Goodhind, a seventh grader who portrays Brother Reuben. “I’m looking forward to one of the most fun plays I have ever done. I am also looking forward to having fun with the entire cast and being able to watch the show come together.”

.....
SHOW DATES:
 March 21, 22 and 23 at 7p.m.
 March 23 and 24 at 2 p.m.
 at South Hadley High School

Fellow seventh grader Liv Brill-Hepburn, a dancer, agreed. “I am most proud of how

the props turned out and all the work that has been put into the show and I am looking forward to seeing everything we have been working for come together.”

For many of the students, their focus is on the thrill of opening night.

“I am most looking forward to the excitement that I get to experience with everyone on opening night waiting to go on stage,” said Lily O’Connor, a seventh grader playing a dancer and Eiluram, wife of Reuben. “It is one of the happiest feelings!”

Fifth grader Amelia Peterson, who plays Bunah, wife of Simeon agreed, saying she’s most looking forward to opening night.

For others, it’s all about seeing the audience’s reaction to the musical and watching them enjoy

the kids’ work.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the audience enjoying our amazing show,” said Bella Kirkpatrick, an eighth grader portraying an Ishmaelit and courtier. “All our hard work will show on that stage.”

“I am excited to be able to tell a story on stage with all of my amazing castmates. The show will be great,” said seventh grader Lillian Gelinan who portrays Brother Nephtali.

This will be the club’s eighteenth musical and twenty-second production after being established with a \$500 grant from the Michael E. Smith Endowment by Kathi Chlanda in 2005. The musical takes place at South Hadley High School with 7 p.m. shows on March 21, 22 and 23 and 2 p.m. shows on March 23 and 24. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students/seniors and are available until March 20 online at www.mesmsdrama.ludus.com. On show days, tickets may be bought at the door 60 minutes before show time (cash only).

GARDEN from page 4

the size of the roots, it may be a good time to put the plants into a bigger pot and place them in a sunnier window until it’s safe to plant them outside.

My daffodil plants are starting to pop up here and there in the yard. I had a little bit of balanced organic granular fertilizer left from last year, so I sprinkled it around the clusters.

Now and once the flowers have gone by are the two best times to fertilize narcissus. I am so excited to enjoy the varied colors and scents from this

huge Genus of plants.

To me, they are the epitome of a true spring flower. Soon enough, soon enough!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

HAMILTON from page 4

An anti-immigrant backlash 100 years ago produced legislation to bar most migrants not from Northern and Western Europe. It wasn’t until the 1960s that a point-based system replaced national-origin quotas.

Today, immigrants account for 13.6% of the U.S. population, a modern-day high and about the same percentage as a century ago. The share of foreign-born workers in the labor force is higher, largely because immigrants are likely to be of working age.

That’s important because the native-born population of working age isn’t growing.

The Baby Boom generation has reached retirement, straining programs like Medicare and Social Security. As Brookings Institution analyst William H. Frey writes, “immigration levels

are crucial in leading to national growth as opposed to decline, and countering what would otherwise be extreme aging.”

A well-designed immigration system could maximize the benefits of immigration while reducing border issues and other concerns. Unfortunately, getting agreement on immigration is extremely difficult.

We saw this recently when the Senate reached a bipartisan deal to pair border restrictions and funding with aid to Ukraine and Israel only to see the House reject the plan.

Almost 20 years ago, former Sen. Spencer Abraham and I chaired a task force to study America’s immigration policies. We recommended a simplified and streamlined system with consistent federal oversight, updated technology, improved border security, protection of human rights and a path to legal status

for unauthorized immigrants.

These ideas shouldn’t be controversial, and they are as worthwhile today as when they were written.

It may be too much to expect Congress to pass immigration reform in an election year, when politicians are eager to exploit the issue. But we can’t keep kicking solutions down the road.

Immigration is too important: to the economy and to our identity as a nation.

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.



American Specialty Designs turns moments into memories

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

GRANBY – As a girl in the Philippines, Emelie Lyszchyn could hardly have imagined where the course of life would have brought her.

Lyszchyn is the owner of American Specialty Designs on West State Street and is someone who, through her own hard work as well as that of her mother, was able to come to America and build a remarkable life for herself and her family.

American Specialty Designs is a small business that specializes in custom printing and laser engravings for just about everything from T-shirts to wood blocks to water bottles and beyond. Lyszchyn started the business in 2022, and opened the physical location at Five Corners in April of the following year.

Lyszchyn, who clarifies that her last name is pronounced like “physician” but with an “L,” grew up in a poor family in the Philippines, a situation that perhaps helped to bring out her entrepreneurial spirit; by age 10 she was already starting her days selling anything from food to fertilizer to neighbors to make some money. Her mother, meanwhile, supported the family from afar as a domestic worker in Kuwait.

At age 18, the opportunity arose for Lyszchyn to join her mother in Kuwait, an opportunity she took, staying with her mother and her stepfather for a number of years. Her stepfather was an engineer, a profession that came to attract Lyszchyn,



Emelie Lyszchyn, left, is shown with employee Marilyn Remillard.

Turley Publications Photos by Nick Boonstra

alongside her interests in business development and computer programming.

It was while in Kuwait that Lyszchyn first connected with her now-husband Paul, initially through an online game the two of them played. Eventually their relationship reached the point where she decided to take the leap and come to the USA.

Not for the first time in her life, Lyszchyn felt she was at a point where she had to “start again from the beginning,” she said. So, she started by getting a job at a hardware store and taking classes at Springfield Technical Community College, in multiple subjects including mechanical engineering and business administration.

Eventually, a big break came, in the form of a management position for a manufacturing company; Lyszchyn was then able to parlay this into sales-minded account management roles in the waste management industry, bringing her to her current full-time position that she holds in addition to running American Specialty Designs.

All the while, Lyszchyn continued her studies, earning certificates from STCC, and both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

The idea for American Specialty Designs initially came from something meant for Emelie’s husband: the family got an engraving laser to give him

something to work on after he started having trouble with his full-time job. However, it ended up not quite clicking for him – “So, I said, might as well,” Emelie shared.

She quickly fell in love with it, and started producing a number of products and designs. This was in early 2022, and soon Lyszchyn started selling what she made out of her home and through the web.

The response she got was overwhelmingly positive. “People started liking it,” she said, and customers soon started coming with their own requests for designs.

This new aspect of producing designs for others came to mean a lot to Lyszchyn.

“I’m creating something out of their imagination,” she said. “I’m bringing their imagination to life.” Now, “we are not creating ideas anymore, we are turning ordinary moments into extraordinary memories,” she said.

Things only grew from there, and Lyszchyn emphasized her gratitude to the community for all of the assistance in making her dream a reality, including opening a physical location for the business. “The community helped me, uplifted me, to create this small store,” she said.

Lyszchyn hopes to see her endeavors continue to grow, and to give back to the community that has helped her so much. Currently, Marilyn Remillard is the store’s only employee outside of the Lyszchyn family, but Emelie said she hopes to train additional personnel and help create jobs for the area.

“As we grow, the community grows with us,” she said.

Ultimately, in the same way that Lyszchyn’s mother provided for her, she hopes that her work will make an impact on her own child’s life. “I want to create a legacy for my son,” she said. “Just like what my mom did for me, just like what my grandmother did to my mom – each generation paves for the next.”

Information about American Specialty Designs can be found under their Facebook page of the same name, or on their website at <https://americanspecialtydesigns.com>. Their store at 77 West State St. in Granby is open noon-6:30pm Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays.



Home décor has a personal touch at American Specialty Designs.



Emelie Lyszchyn, owner of American Specialty Designs, stands with some of her custom engraved and printed products.



American Specialty Designs can personalize almost any item, from cutting boards to cups and signs.

SOUTH HADLEY **2024**

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FLOWERS *in Bloom*

Submitted by: Dawn Berard
Friends for over 20 years enjoy the Mount Holyoke Flower Show recently. Dawn Berard, Tom Griffin, Jo Griffin and Tessa Berard all of South Hadley.



Turley Publications photos by Kara Walsh-Vey

SOUTH HADLEY – The Botanic Garden at Mount Holyoke College is holding its annual Spring Flower Show through Sunday, March 17. The Spring Flower Show is held in the Talcott Greenhouse on campus and is free and open to the public.

This year's show is the fifty-second annual event. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the vibrant colors and fragrances of this floral

spectacle. Visitors will also be able to stroll through other parts of the Talcott Greenhouse complex including the surrounding three acres of gardens.

We encourage visitors to explore the entire Talcott Greenhouse as it has a rich and diverse collection of plants from around the world.

During the show, the Talcott Greenhouse will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.



Tessa and Dawn Berard of South Hadley enjoy the gorgeous flowers at the Mount Holyoke flower show.

SPORTS

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MISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

South Hadley girls advance in state tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Several people wished South Hadley girls' varsity basketball coach Paul Dubuc good luck prior to the start of his team's Division 4 round of 16 game against Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School.

Dubuc was congratulated by several more people following the third-seeded Lady Tigers, 63-42, victory over the 19th-seeded Lady Generals before a large crowd at Thomas B. Landers Court, last Monday night (March 4).

"We like playing in our gym, our crowds are fantastic, and we get great support here," Dubuc said. "We get to play another game here, which is great. The players all like each other, and

they all seem to play for each other,"

South Hadley (20-3), who defeated 30th-seeded St. Bernard's of Fitchburg, 62-28, at home in the round of 32 contest, were scheduled to host sixth-seeded Cohasset in the elite eight, last Thursday night.

The round of 16 victory was the Lady Tigers 17th consecutive win since they lost a non-league road game at Northampton, 44-37, on December 29. It was also their twelfth home win in a row. The only team to beat South Hadley on their homecourt during the regular season was Chicopee Comp, who squeaked out a 59-55 in the season opener.

The South Hadley players have certainly enjoyed playing



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Drew Alley sprints down the court after making a rebound.

home games in front of their family and friends this year.

"It's fun, because you go to school and you're like, 'Hey, come to the game tonight,'" said South Hadley junior CC Gurek. "Then everybody shows up and does their themes. It's fun to have your family and friends watching. It's always a lot easier to play here than it is playing somewhere else."

The Lady Tigers' only other setback was at Hoosac Valley, 48-42, in the middle of Decem-

ber. The Hurricanes are the top-seeded team in the Division 5 state tournament.

Gurek, who's a co-captain with senior Drew Alley, scored 11 of her game-high 16 during the first half.

Alley scored the Lady Tigers first four points of the first quarter, which were her only points of the contest.

With 3:40 remaining in the opening quarter, Gurek buried a 3-pointer from the right wing giving the home team an 8-2 lead.

A made free throw by freshman Taylor Bullough (2 points) with two seconds left on the scoreboard clock gave the Lady Tigers a 13-6 advantage heading into the second stanza.

Please see **ADVANCE**, page 11



Ava Asselin angles into the arc.



Cianna Gurek lunges for the shot attempt.



Kate Phillips fights her way around an opponent.



Cara Dean takes a three-point attempt.

Papermen represent region in new league

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Papermen, an amateur adult hockey team, was in action last Saturday afternoon. The Papermen are brand new adult team participating in the Union Hockey League, a new adult league in the New York and New England region. The new team got started in January and is playing a 32-game season with seven other teams that joined the league. Home games are played at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



Mark Laviolette, of Ludlow makes his way up the right side of the ice.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Zach Paisley heads up the left side of the ice.

St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday afternoon

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people through-

out the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City the past two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummies gave their performance, and children and others were able to participate in the Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47th

running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher,

Please see **ROAD RACE**, page 10



Michael Norberg, of Amherst, finishes first overall in the road race with a time of 30:50.

Sports

Papermen represent region in new league



Gaetano Delonge receives a pass.



Nick Cambria looks to center the puck.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Vinnie McAllister sends a pass away.



Nick McNally comes into the ice and immediately takes control of the puck.

Railers suffer loss to Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (25-25-4-2, 56pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (23-26-3-3, 52pts) on Saturday afternoon by the final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 2,224 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers head back home to play the Reading Royals for their second school-day game of the year on Wednesday, March 13th at 10:05am.



Trois-Rivieres notched the game's first two goals from Jakov Novak (1-0-1) and Justin Ducharme (1-0-1) to go up 2-0 entering the second. Nicolas Guay (1-0-1) extended the Lions lead to 3-0 with an early goal in the second. Trevor Cosgrove (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the game in the second on the power play as the Railers would go on

to lose 3-1 to Trois-Rivières to wrap up the weekend.

Jakov Novak (21st) continued his hot play against the Railers with his 13th point against the team this year. Novak found the puck loose in front on a chaotic play in front of Ceci and proceeded to pat it past him to Put the Lions ahead 1-0.

While short-handed, Cory Thomas airmailed a puck from his own corner into the neutral zone. Justin Ducharme (14th) skated past the Railers defense and scooped up the puck en route to scoring blocker side on a breakaway past Ceci to make it 2-0 Trois-Rivières going into the second.

Trois-Rivières picked up in the second where they left off in the first with a goal just 3:57 into the frame. Nicolas Guay (6th) entered the Railers zone on

a three-on-one rush with Tyler Hylland and John Parker-Jones. As the puck bounced around the attacking zone, Guay placed a perfect shot bar-down past Ceci for his second goal in two games to make it 3-0 Lions. Worcester went to the power play for the second time off a trip from Nicolas Lariviere. Trevor Cosgrove (7th) hammered a one-timer off a pass from Keeghan Howdeshell and made it 3-1 Railers on the man-advantage. The Lions continued to pressure in the second, but Cole Ceci was strong the rest of the period as Worcester was outshot 13-7 in the second.

Worcester woke up in the third, outshooting the Lions 18-2 in the frame. Worcester tested Strauss Mann heavily in the period, but the Greenwich, CT native was strong in net as he turned all 18 shots aside. He secured the third star of the game for the Lions, along with the win for Trois-Rivieres.

Western Mass. 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.

Thunderbirds suffer shutout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-26-3-2) threw everything they could at the net of the Providence Bruins (35-17-3-2) without success in a 5-0 defeat on Sunday at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

It was evident from the onset that the goaltenders were not going to allow anything easily, as both Colten Ellis of Springfield and Brandon Bussi of Providence came out with laser-like focus. Bussi was exceptional from the get-go, as he turned away a trio of point-blank chances in the opening 10 minutes off of Will Bitten, Joey Duszak, and Zach Dean.

Operating on the first power play of the afternoon, the T-Birds instead saw the scoreless deadlock broken when Jayson Megna intercepted a pass and beat everyone up ice to beat Ellis on a backhand breakaway, giving the P-Bruins a 1-0 lead at 11:23 of the first period.

Megna's tally, which began Providence's Teddy Bear Toss,

proved to be the only shot to beat Bussi or Ellis for the next period and a half. The T-Birds peppered the Providence net from all angles and in all situations, but Bussi continued to bamboozle his division foes.

With Springfield still pushing hard to equalize, Oskar Steen finally afforded Bussi and his defense some insurance when he elevated a wrist shot past Ellis 3:58 into the final period. Joey Abate and John Beecher would follow suit, setting each other up for odd-man rush goals at 13:45 and 15:37 respectively. With the game well in hand, the Bruins' top power play unit added one more for good measure as Georgii Merkulov potted the Bruins' 5th goal at 19:28.

The T-Birds get some well-deserved rest before a crucial two-game series in Charlotte next Saturday and Sunday against the Checkers inside Bojangles' Coliseum. Puck drop on Saturday is set for 4 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on tap for Sunday.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Race fans view the flag during the singing of the National Anthem.

ROAD RACE from page 9

Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000 participants in this year's event, which is part of a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday. It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 regis-

tered finishes.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14th at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.

The current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to rise on March 13.

The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.



For the second straight year, Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, was the top female finisher. She came in at 35:29.

7/8 South Hadley Orange Rec Basketball winners

NORTHAMPTON—The 7/8 South Hadley Orange Rec Basketball won their division in the Quabbin Valley Basketball championship over the past weekend in Northampton.



Turley Publications submitted photo
The team players are Trevor Sullivan, Chad Yacovone, Sam Sprague, Johnny Welcome, Devin Duquette, Wes Benware, Connor LaLiberte, Kevin Velazquez, Evan Blaser, and Connor Hannon
Not pictured AJ Hokonya.
The coaches for the team are David Sullivan, Dan Pawlowski and Bill Welcome.

Pitkat gets new ride as he returns to Stafford

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Woody Pitkat announced today that he will return to competition in the Open Modified events at Stafford Motor Speedway during the 2024 season. Pitkat will drive the No. 8, a Chassis Pro machine, owned by Mike and Makayla Holmes.

Pitkat will run all of the Open Modified events, including the \$20,000 to win NAPA Spring Sizzler to open the season, April 27-28. "Mike has been a friend over the years and driving for him in this new car is a great opportunity," Pitkat said. "The team will remain very similar to our team with Dunleavy Racing, with Cam McDermott as the crew chief and many of our crew members. We're looking forward to getting back to Stafford, a place I am lucky enough to call home. They have done a great job with their short-track racing program and we're excited to chase wins in these major events."

The team may also run additional events in New England if time allows. Pitkat announced last week he will return to Dunleavy Racing to compete for the full Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

schedule driving their No. 88. Mike Holmes & Son Excavating includes services like septic installation, septic repairs, complete house lots, additions, yard expansions, drainage work, gravel driveways, trucking and more. They also have a 24-hour emergency service available.

"We're beyond excited to finally be a car owner, especially with having a driver like Woody Pitkat behind the wheel," Mike Holmes said. "Woody has become a great friend over the years and I'm blessed to have Cam and his wife, Lauren, who have become family to my wife Makayla and I, along with our entire crew. I can't thank Todd Owen, the Chassis Pro team, and all of our sponsors and crew members enough. We're looking forward to Stafford and some other races we will have scheduled to chase checkered flags and have a fun year."

Pitkat is second on the all-time Stafford Motor Speedway wins list with 83 career victories, the most recent in 2023. He's also a two-time Stafford Late Model champion and a former SK Modified champion at the Connecticut half-mile.

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.

ADVANCE from page 9

Back-to-back 3-pointers by junior Caitlin Dean (10 points) capped off an 12-0 South Hadley run, which increased their lead to 21-6 less than two minutes into the second quarter.

The Lady Generals (13-10), who beat 14th-seeded Easthampton, 44-34, in the round of 32, didn't get any closer than eleven points the rest of the way, as the Lady Tigers continued to play well at both ends of the court.

"A lot of teams think they can run with us, but they better be able to run for four quarters, because that's what we'll do," Dubuc said. "We talk about it all the time. We want to be able to slow it down in the fourth quarter, but if we can't, we'll just keep going."

With less than two minutes left in the first half, freshman Cara Dean hit a jumper making the score, 31-13, which was the Lady Tigers largest lead during

the first 16 minutes.

Cara Dean made two more field goals, as the home team headed into their locker room with a commanding 35-18 half-time lead.

Freshman Grace Harres scored half of the Lady Generals first half points. She finished the game with 13 points.

South Hadley added nine more points to their lead during the third quarter, as they out-scored Hamilton-Wenham, 16-7.

Junior Ava Asselin, who made a free throw in the first quarter, scored five more points during the first two minutes of the second half. She drained a 3-pointer from the left corner and had a put-back hoop.

With 3:45 left in the third quarter, a lay-up by Caitlin Dean capped off a 12-0 run, which gave South Hadley a 47-18 lead.

The Lady Generals, who were trailing 51-25, entering the final eight minutes of the contest, managed to score the first



Turley Publications photo submitted

Tigers on the prowl for the state title.

ten points of the fourth quarter, which closed the gap to 51-35.

Gurek ended the Lady Generals comeback dreams by sinking a 3-pointer from the left side

with 4:35 left in regulation.

Rounding out the scoring column for the home team in the round of 16 victory were freshman Kate Phillips (7 points),

junior Maddie Soderbaum (6 points), and sophomore Kiki Ramos (2 points).

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▶ Granby

Nomination papers available for annual town election

GRANBY – Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk no later than March 28 to be placed on the May 20 ballot.

Candidates must collect signatures of 30 or more registered voters and return the nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office by Monday, April 1.

Office vacancies for town election on May 20 include: Select Board, one for three years; Board of Assessors, one for three years; Board of Health, one for three years; Moderator, one for three years; Town Collector, one for three years; Treasurer, one for three years; Housing Authority, one for five years; Housing Authority (unexpired term), one for four years; Planning Board, one for five years; School Committee, two for three years; Commissioner of Burial Grounds, one for three years; and Library Trustees, three for three years.

Thursday, March 28 is the last day to obtain town nomination papers and Monday, April 1 is the last day to file town

nomination papers with the Board of Registrars for certification.

Tuesday, April 16 is the last day the Board of Registrars can file town nomination papers with the Town Clerk and Thursday, April 18 is the last day to withdraw or object to town nomination papers.

Friday, March 29 is the last day to file with Town Administrator for a private article for the May 13, Annual Town Meeting. For a private warrant article to appear on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, a petitioner must acquire 10 signatures of registered voters in the town.

The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting and annual town election is May 3.

Town Hall public hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon. The Town Clerks office is located at 215 B West State St.

If you have any questions, please call Town Clerk Kathy Kelly-Regan at 413-467-7178.

Town Clerk lists important reminders

GRANBY – Town Clerk Kathy Kelly-Regan thanked all the residents who responded to the 2024 Annual Town Census.

Second notices will be mailed out to those who have not responded starting in February. If you have not mailed in your census please do so, and if you never received a census form call the town clerk's office.

A reminder to all registered voters, General Laws of Massachusetts mandate that failure to respond to this mailing shall result in the removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls.

Please take the time to answer this important mail, your cooperation is appreciated.

Dog licenses

Don't forget to license your dog, per bylaws of the Town of Granby Chapter XIV.

The cost is \$6 for spayed, neutered, seniors (over 10 years) and puppies; all others are \$15. To avoid a \$25 late charge fee dogs should be licensed by May 1.

If you wish you may get a license by mail. Please include a copy of the rabies vaccination or call the Town Clerk's office for verification, a self-addressed envelope with two stamps, a check made payable to the Town of Granby, and mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State St., Granby, MA 01033.

For those residents who licensed their dogs through the Annual Town Census this mailing is still being processed, if you have not received your tag, you should receive it no later than March 31.

Nomination papers

Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the town clerk no later than Thursday, March 28 to be placed on the Monday, May 20 ballot.

Please check the town website at www.granby-ma.gov for all the positions that will be on this year's Annual Town Election ballot.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kelly-Regan at the Town Clerk's office by calling 413-467-7178.

▶ Education

Tiered focused monitoring review of schools

During the week of April 1, 2024, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of South Hadley Public Schools. The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal

access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SE-PAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Michelle Hennessy-Kowalchek, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (413) 314-6709 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the district with a report with information about areas in which the district meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the district requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.

Labarre is named to the American Field Hockey Coaches Assoc.

American International College (AIC) congratulates Arianna Labarre of South Hadley MA for being named by the American Field Hockey Coaches Association as a member of the 2023 Division II National Academic Squad.

Labarre was among fourteen members of the AIC field hockey team to be awarded the honor. These undergraduate student-athletes were recognized for having a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale through the end of the fall 2023 semester.

The Horace Smith Scholarship deadline extended to March 31

WESTFIELD— Due to the low number of applications received, The Horace Smith Fund, a private foundation that offers scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, MA, has extended the application deadline date for the Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships until March 31. Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$316,000 to 31 individuals.

"We have received only 38 scholarship applications and five fellowship applications so far. It is surprising that more students haven't applied yet," stated Tere-

sa Regina, chair of the Scholarship Committee and Trustee. "This year, we would like to reach as many students as possible. Applications can be downloaded or completed online. They are also available at every area high school and college and by contacting our office."

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available for residents of Hampden County. Applicants may either be graduating seniors or currently attending college. Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed in two semi-annual installments of \$1,500

and renewable each year until graduation. Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their academic scores, extra-curricular activities, recommendations from school counselors and teachers, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance.

The Walter S. Barr Fellowship awards are made annually to those wishing to pursue a full-time graduate degree. In general, applicants must be permanent residents of Hampden County, Massachusetts. The award of \$15,000 is distributed in two

semi-annual installments of \$3,750 for a maximum of two years. Awards will be based on all available information, including school records, recommendations, and examination scores. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. "We hope more students take advantage of this local resource," said Regina.

For more information, visit the website www.HoraceSmithFund.org or call (413) 739-4222.

SALARY from page 1

Voyik explained early in the meeting that a number of predetermined increases would be driving the need to focus on financial responsibility in the coming budget. Among these increases were contracted increases for both regular and special education transportation, as well as the shifting of \$700,000 of teacher salaries from school choice funds to the local budget.

"We really cannot any longer rely on school choice to fund staff," McLaughlin said. "It is just a poor way to budget, and we need to be able to pay our

own bills regardless."

McLaughlin made clear that his and Voyik's decisions to decline salary increases were made voluntarily and in good faith. "We're trying to demonstrate that every penny counts, and also that we are trying to be part of the solution," he said.

However, he also called attention to the heavy workload that the members of the district's administrative staff have taken on, cautioning the board that future candidates for superintendent may not be eager to assume the current breadth of duties of the role at the salary being offered by the town.

The proposal to cut four teachers was one McLaughlin did not make lightly, but was one that he and Voyik felt would have the best net benefit to the district. Importantly, McLaughlin clarified that this reduction in teaching staff would not significantly harm the student-teacher ratios across the district, which he and Voyik said were already superior to those expected by the Commonwealth.

"We have made this decision based upon enrollment projections," McLaughlin said. "We cannot defensibly continue to support positions that get us to ratios that are really not defensible."

There was also a proposal for the addition of one teacher of the deaf in the district, which the superintendents explained would result in a net savings to the town when considering the financial offset such a teacher would enable in bringing out-of-district students back to town and reducing the need for expensive contractors.

In addition to the proposed teacher cuts, a reduction of 23.2 full-time equivalents of paraeducators was also suggested. McLaughlin said that this would have an overall effect in the budget of reducing 32.2 FTEs, given

that previously unfilled positions would also be removed from the budget.

Committee Chairperson Eric Friesner expressed his understanding for these suggestions, but made a point to remember that conversations such as these ultimately involved individuals and their jobs, and that they were not taken lightly.

The School Committee will hold a hybrid public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center to discuss the budget in detail ahead of the committee's recommendations to Town Meeting.



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CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Please submit resume and cover letter to **selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: **squeroil@verizon.net**. Call **413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Public Notices

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=TE5TWS3UHZm1VBSWVNnZna18yUT09> 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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21A0049AD
In the matter of:
Mia Laine Dorathy
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
Thomas Daniel Dorathy
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Priscilla Knight of Springfield, MA
Enrique Jimenez of Springfield, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Mia Laine Jimenez
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSL. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed

below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 04/05/2024.**

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

Date: March 1, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/15, 03/22, 03/29/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS24P0109EA
Estate of:
Stanley W. Hill
Date of Death: 01/07/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sarah Hill of Granby, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sarah Hill of Granby, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/03/2024.**

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance

and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 22, 2024
Mark S. Ames
Temporary Register
03/15/2024

Public Hearing on School Department FY25 Budget

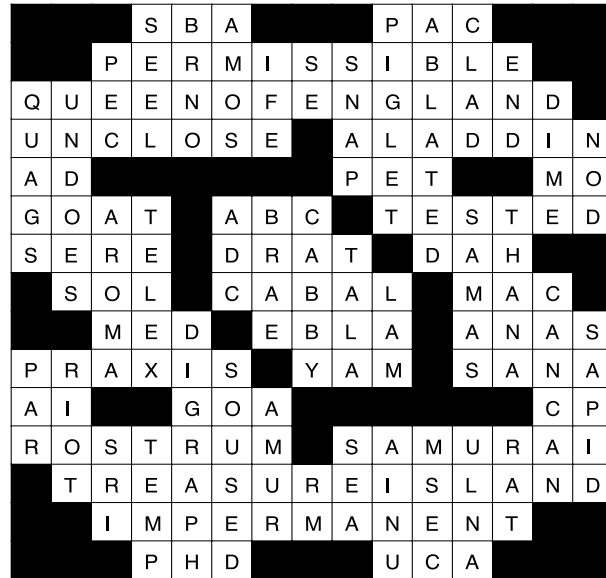
In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 38N, the South Hadley School Committee will hold a hybrid Public Hearing regarding the School Department FY25 Budget:

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:00pm

Join in person at the South Hadley Council on Aging, 45 Dayton St

Join via zoom Meeting ID 865 8253 4671 Passcode 162977

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public viewing beginning on March 15, 2024, at the Office of the Superintendent. Public comment is invited at the hearing or in writing to the School Department, 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075. Notice also on www.mass-publicnotices.org 03/15/2024



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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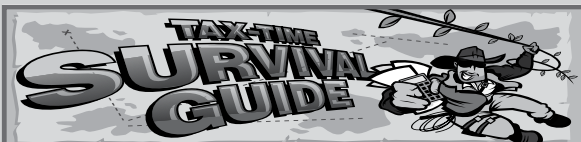
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It pays to be a lazy gardener

Delay your spring cleanup! A little procrastination helps the birds and bees. It's true. Waiting a while before starting to clean up protects the cover that pollinators and other bird food (aka insects) need. While you may begin to see some bees emerge as flowering trees and shrubs burst into bloom, they still need cover during chilly nights and heavy spring showers, even when the days seem warm. Not every creature emerges early. The chrysalises that will turn into butterflies still cling to last season's dried standing plant material (you left it there in the Fall, didn't you?). While many bee species may be out and about by early April, other species such as sweat bees are still hiding out, waiting for the warmer days that arrive in May. Meanwhile, last year's leaf litter will still provide protection for both plants and creatures against late-season frosts. What's the best time to start? According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, if grass is growing enough to justify regular mowing, it's probably a safe bet that most pollinators have emerged. Cool-season lawns begin growing when soil (not air) temperatures reach 50 degrees. Even so, the University of Vermont suggests delaying spring mowing so that flowers like dandelions can provide early season food resources to pollinators. Dandelions! I'm not kidding - dandelions and other food sources are important to pollinators that start to appear in late winter or early Spring. No Mow May is a movement to allow grass and wildflowers in lawns to grow unmown until after May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators when floral blooms are less common. If you do mow before then, consider mowing less often. To show neighbors that you care, you could mow a narrow strip next to the sidewalk. As with raking, early spring mowing can also destroy any butterfly



chrysalises still clinging to last year's grass, and damage overwintering shelter for late-appearing pollinators, according to the Xerces Society. Mow no more than every two weeks. Once Spring is past, mowing every two weeks rather than weekly encourages bee habitat in lawns by allowing flowers to bloom, which in turn helps provide pollinators with more nutritious forage. Our very own UMass Amherst has published research showing that reducing the frequency of mowing your lawn helps support bee habitat. Although many ecologists have dismissed turf grass as a sterile environment, it has actually been shown that our lawns are capable of supporting rich and diverse plant and insect communities. But that also assumes going easy on the lawn treatments. Why not? You can save money as well as time, by giving your lawn a little breathing room. So, sit back, put your feet up, and relax. Your gardening chores can wait and the critters will thank you for it.

Robert Salthouse is a Master Gardener and a member of Growing Wild South Hadley, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission.

Dance class 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 improvisation-

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.

NOTICE

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



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The Ruffians

Saturday, March 16th
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Guest Appearance around 1pm by
The Mummers

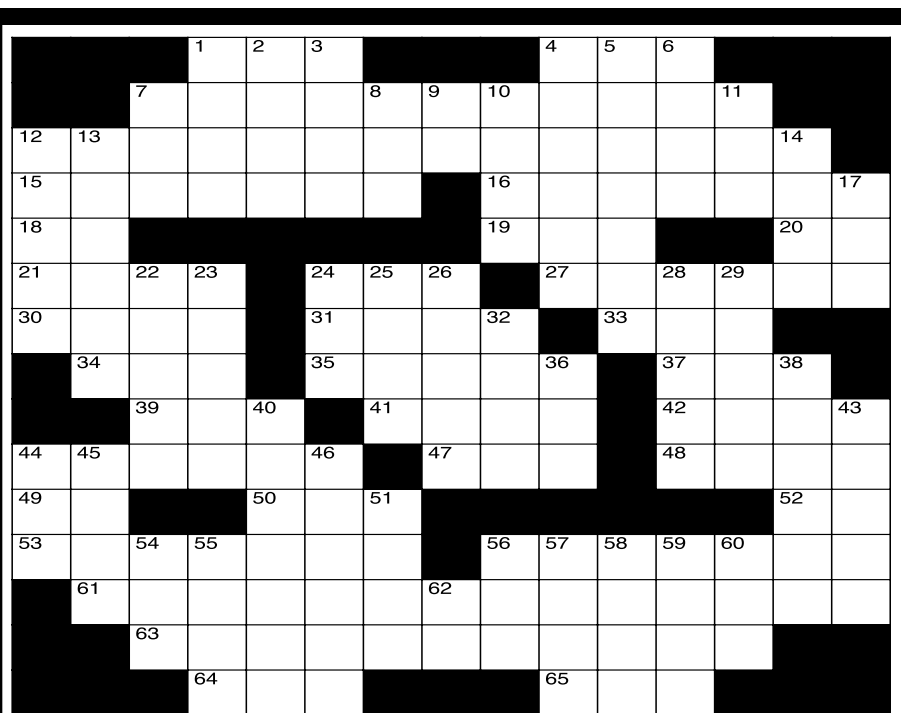
Sunday, March 17th
Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 12-3pm

The Healy's & Barney McElhone 5pm-?

Overflow parking available on Sunday, March 17th! Park at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke and our FREE Shuttle will bring you to the pub & back again. Available 11am-7pm.

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