

TOWN Reminder

FREE
March 29, 2024
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Serving the town of South Hadley

www.townreminder.turley.com

Local runners prepare for marathon

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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The 128th edition of the Boston Marathon is fast approaching, and a number of local runners across a range of experience levels are getting ready to run the iconic race, representing charitable causes, athletic clubs and their own personal triumphs across the grueling 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Copley Square.

The race is set to be held on Patriots Day, April 15, with a record-breaking 33,000 athletes from around the world applying to run. According to Runner's World Magazine, 22,019 qualifying runners, alongside an additional roughly 8,000 participants running for charities or receiving

Please see **MARATHON**, page 6



Submitted Photos
Gabrielle Cook of South Hadley, shown with her husband Dave and son Oliver, is preparing to run her first Boston Marathon a year after becoming a mother.



Thomas Shea of South Hadley is also training to run the Boston Marathon for the first time, at the age of 62.

Budget season continues

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The budget process continues for the town, with a series of public hearings and presentations designed to help town residents better understand where the money goes and to ask questions and voice concerns about the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025.

The Selectboard held a public hearing on March 20 to share the proposed budget with the town again and to allow residents to ask questions and voice their concerns. The public hearing for the selectboard came after the one for the school committee, which ended up lasting over three hours, so the board continued the hearing to its March 26 meeting to make sure every-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 8

Planning Board freezes on special permit

Lone holdout prevents board from approving application withdrawal

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Planning Board found itself unable to arrive at a decision on a procedural matter regarding a special permit application at their meeting on March 25, a situation described by one member as “without precedent” during the meeting.

Joanna Brown voted against a motion that would have allowed town resident Mary Callahan to withdraw a special permit application she had submitted, leaving the board short of the supermajority required to accept Callahan's withdrawal request.

Callahan had initially approached the board in the hopes of receiving approval for a short-term rental at her house, similar to a recent application considered by the board for an Airbnb in town.

According to background materials developed by Planning Director Anne Capra, Callahan's short-term rental application as

submitted would have required two sets of approval from the board: site plan review, as well as the more in-depth special permit process.

This extra level of consideration was deemed necessary because Callahan had applied for a non-owner-occupied short term rental. Background materials specify that “the property is the primary residence for the applicant,” who “is seeking to rent the home every 4-6 when she travels.”

Monday's meeting had been scheduled to include a public hearing on the application, a required step in the special permit process. However, before the public hearing could commence, Capra received notice from the applicant.

“The applicant, Mary Callahan, has submitted a written request via email to me, which I shared with the board, requesting to withdraw her special permit application for a non-owner-occupied short term rental,” Capra told the members of the board.

She explained that the board would need to vote on whether or not to accept this withdrawal request and, crucially, whether or not to do so with prejudice. Accepting the withdrawal request with prejudice would prevent Callahan from submitting a

Please see **SPECIAL PERMIT**, page 5



Submitted Photo

Friends of the South Hadley Seniors hold up the check for \$20,913 to benefit the seniors of South Hadley shown are (left to right) Kim Prough, Lisa Wong, Janet Stawasz, Kathy Gallivan, Dottie Kelly, Rita Starzyk, Carol Constant and Chuck Romboletti.

Friends of the South Hadley Seniors' community outreach grows

SOUTH HADLEY – Last year, the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors supported nearly \$21,000 of senior related outreach in town. Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1981, the Friends have included in their mission, “to work with the community to benefit South Hadley senior residents”. The Friends take this to heart through their support of the Senior Center, various community

organizations and the Friends' own programming. “While the majority of our funding goes to the Senior Center, we're growing our community outreach by helping to support additional groups which benefit seniors such as the Age & Dementia Friendly Initiative, TRIAD and the new Village to Village program. There is a lot of need and we welcome opportunities to help fund initiatives that ben-

efit our senior community,” commented Kim Prough, President of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

A large portion of their outreach goes to supporting classes, entertainment and other needs at the Senior Center. The Friends also host their own outreach which includes a variety of free events such as the annu-

Please see **OUTREACH**, page 3

Republican committee welcomes Senate hopeful

By Nick Boonstra
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Aaron Packard, a U.S. Army veteran and Worcester native, spoke at the March 20 meeting of the Monson Republican Town Committee to win support for his bid to challenge Senator Elizabeth Warren in this November's general election.

Packard, a self-described constitutional conservative, shared personal stories of persistence and dedication in his remarks.

Before Packard got up to speak, Monson resident Peter Wiggins addressed the meeting to declare his candidacy for the Monson School Committee. Wiggins, a native of the Bronx, New York who moved to Monson after a lengthy military career, said his experience with serving others throughout his life motivated him to give back to the town's schools, which his grandchildren attend as students.

"Having such a small town, I want to be a part of what makes this work," he said.

Wiggins suggested the development of Monson's now-vacant State Hospital buildings as a potential means for expanding services and encouraging local students to stay within the town's school system as opposed to leaving the town for vocational programs.

Monson Republican Committee Chair Peter Warren introduced Packard as a candidate who had the potential to effect change both locally and across the nation.

"I know why I'm here, and I think I know why you are all here; we have a common interest," Warren said. "Things need to change: on the Monson level, on the state level big time, and on the federal level."

Before diving into his own



Aaron Packard addressed a meeting of the Monson Republican Town Committee to share his reasons for running to oppose Sen. Elizabeth Warren this coming November.

remarks, Packard applauded Wiggins for his initiative in getting involved with local politics.

"I'm proud of you," he said. "That's where grassroots starts: School Committee, towns, everything, Select Board, you name it."

Packard began by making clear his intentions to oppose and defeat incumbent Elizabeth Warren in this coming November's election.

Packard said that his interest in running for the Senate was in part due to a desire to have a say on federal judicial appointments, expressing his sentiment that the judiciary was engaging too much in opining on the law and too little in upholding it. He also advocated for the revitalization of civics and history education in the United States.

Packard also said the impetus to run for Senate sprang from his initial oath as a member of the U.S. Army to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United

States of America.

He shared a story from his time at Basic Training, in which he directed the members of his platoon to get their evening meal despite not receiving authorization from his superior officer to do so. Later, he said, the officer berated him, but nevertheless lauded his assumption of responsibility and leadership instinct.

"You know, you made the wrong decision, but you made the decision, and that's what counts," he recalled being told.

He went on to say that he felt that the leaders of today failed to demonstrate the same level of accountability that he had done in Basic Training.

"Whether they're local, or all the way up to federal, they just do whatever they want to do, thinking, because they have a title, that gives them entitlement," he said.

"I'm a working man, just like the rest of you are," he added, going on to detail his cur-



Peter Wiggins also announced his intention to run for the town's School Committee during the meeting.

rent situation of working two small-business jobs, one in a restaurant kitchen and the other for a silk-screening company. "I work with my hands," he said.

Packard said it was the feeling that no one else was doing their civic duty that motivated him to engage in his own.

"That's one of your American citizenship responsibilities, is to be involved in civic duty," he said. "That's part of why this country has made it as long as it has, from people being involved."

Packard said he started volunteering in 2021 for signature-gathering efforts for a number of proposed ballot initiatives. After this, he mounted a bit to represent the state's 3rd Worcester District, largely consisting of his home city of Fitchburg, on Beacon Hill, ultimately losing to Democrat Michael Kushmerek.

He said that the defeat was hard to take at first, but that he refused to let it keep him down

for long.

"The only promise that I ever made to anybody is that I don't quit," he said. "When in a fight, I won't give up."

One of the members of the audience shared during the speech that addressing illegal immigration was a priority to them, an issue that Packard said concerned him as well. Packard also shared that he grew up in a family with a parent who had immigrated from England, and spoke about his family receiving federal assistance for a period during his childhood, which he decried as "socialism under the Carter Administration."

In summarizing his campaign, Packard said, "I know that my tools, my personal traits, my skillsets, my mindset, my loyalty to God, country and family will help more than just this state. That's why I'm going after U.S. Senator Warren."

Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>USDA INSP. CENTER CUT PORK LOIN \$2.09 lb</p> <p>EASTER HAMS</p> <p>USDA INSP. HATFIELD OLD TIME HARDWOOD SMOKED SKINLESS & SHANKLESS WHOLE HAM \$2.44 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BONELESS KAYEM BUDDABALL WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3.69 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BONELESS HONEY HAM 3 LB AVERAGE \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTION BUTT or SHANK 1 LB..... 99c lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM..... \$1.29 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER \$4.99 lb</p> | <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE \$8.29 lb</p> <p>WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5.55 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM CHEESE, PEPPER, BACON, OLIVES \$4.49 lb</p> | <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS \$1.99 lb</p> <p>Lenten Specials</p> <p>USDA INSP. KINGFISH STEAKS w/ HEAD OR TAIL..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA HADDOCK FILLETS \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WILD CAUGHT SALMON FILLETS 1 LB BAG..... \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CLEANED CONCH MEAT 5 LB BOX..... \$49.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 1 LB BAG..... \$7.99 ea</p> |
|---|---|---|

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HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2024-2025

Hadley Public Schools – serving grades PK-12 is currently accepting School Choice Applications.

Applications can be found on our website at www.hadleyschools.org or call (413) 586-0822.

The cut-off date for applications is April 17th.

Hadley Public Schools provides a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, integrity, and a love of learning.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists First Thursday hikes

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, is hosting First Thursday Habitat Hikes each month.

All ages are welcome at these programs; however, dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir.

Quabbin is an area of immense diversity of habitat, from shady vernal pools to sunny mountaintops. Staff will be hosting hikes one Thursday each month (weather permitting) to spotlight some of these beautiful landscapes.

Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir or email Quabbin.Visitor.Center@mass.gov

Wetlands Walk

A 1.5-mile easy Wetlands Walk will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/Rv-C5y8AMtmWToTTq5>).

This Habitat Hike will visit two different types of wetlands. It will begin at the parking area for Goodnough Dike in Quabbin Park and walk the Dike Road down to the wetlands’ location and back, covering approximately 1.5 miles round trip.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for wet/muddy conditions (wear appropriate footwear).

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fe46ba08256404fa1bd-49660f68c624>.

Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands

A 1.5-mile east Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/wPedFYxiN5Qp8sVv9>)

Meet at Gate 37 off Route 122 in the North of Quabbin Reservation. Parking is limited.

This Habitat Hike will be a short walk down a forest road to a stunning wetland habitat. It is a little over 1-mile round trip.

Those who are feeling adventurous may opt to hike further, up the side of Soapstone Mountain to a spectacular view of the Quabbin, though be advised this portion is difficult and will not be a part of the official hike. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c3936c4d26c8443694b6b3fc-0beb97d4>.

Tower Trail Habitat Hike

Join a 3-mile moderate Tower Trail Habitat Hike on Thursday, June 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/9K3L4xf44nbVK4bG7>)

This hike will meet at the parking area inside the Middle Entrance off Route 9. It is a moderately difficult hike, approximately 3-miles round-trip up Quabbin Hill through woodland and mountain habitat and back.

Due to safety issues, hikers will not be able to go up to the tower itself, as it is currently closed for renovations. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c2dd1551fbb7467bbd-da704a469c7929>.

OUTREACH from page 1

al ice cream sundae social with music at McCray’s Farm (Sarah the Fiddler will be performing at this year’s ice cream social on July 15), the Stamps for Seniors program, daffodils for Meals on Wheels clients, a holiday concert, and more. All of these programs are free for seniors thanks to the support they receive from their membership program and fundraisers such as their hanging flower basket sale (coming up on May 10 at the Senior Center) and Handbag Bingo (scheduled for November 9). Membership to the Friends is only \$10 per year. “We are grateful for all who donate and join us to help support our mission. We have been able to expand our outreach to so many as a result of the tremendous support we receive.” said Janet Stawasz, Vice President of the Friends.

The Friends are run by a volunteer

board of directors and rely on additional volunteers to help facilitate their outreach and fundraising efforts. “Joining as a member and volunteering for the Friends has changed my life. It’s a wonderful group that is so devoted to helping the Seniors,” commented Friends’ member and volunteer Ola Herbert. The Friends welcome new members and volunteers. In addition to membership, they receive support from families of South Hadley seniors who live out of town who want to support the good work of the Friends by becoming a member or making a donation. Friends membership is not limited to seniors. It is open to all who are sympathetic to their mission. Donations and membership information is available through their website at southhadleyseniors.org and can also be made by mailing a check to the Friends at P.O. Box 55, South Hadley. Any questions can be directed to southhadleyseniors@gmail.com.

Small Grants Available to South Hadley Falls Businesses

Grants up to \$10,000 now available!

Applications due: April 30th at 3 p.m.

The Town of South Hadley is offering grants to commercial businesses, nonprofits, and commercial property owners in South Hadley Falls for eligible storefront façade enhancements or other eligible business improvements.

Grant application and more information online here:
<https://www.southhadley.org/1299/South-Hadley-Falls-Business-Improvement->

South Hadley Public Library

2 Canal Street, South Hadley • www.shadleylib.org • 413-538-5045

April Adult Programs

Hospice Navigating the Journey of Grief and Loss

Wed., April 3 at 6 • Community Room

Presented by the Visiting Nurses Association/ Cooley Dickinson. Grief and loss are natural and normal processes, and no response is the same as each person grieves in their own way. There is no timeframe for how one grieves as it shifts and changes, never fully going away. Learn about the stages of grief and loss, from preceptory to post-grief, and the resources available to family and caregivers after the loss of a loved one. There will be time for Q&A afterward.

Virtual Program: Are We Alone in the Universe?

Sat., April 6 at 11

Sign Up Here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4hmb8sy>. The question, Are We Alone, has been going on millenniums- but today, a better question might be- “Contact- Now what?”. Scott Flaig will present the arguments for and against “life on other worlds” and if contact is made, it likely will not be by us, but by them. Science/ laws, Philosophy/ Reason and Theology/Faith has been the tri-lens through which my research model served as the process for this lecture. Of course, if contact is made by them, our understanding of science and technology make take a giant leap forward but will our faith be affected as well by what some scientists and theologians call Astro-theology? Presented by Scott Flaig author of “Cosmology: Faith and Science Reveal Universal Truth” and “Pillars of Creation”.

Local History Talk! Rescuing Richardson’s Station: Holyoke’s 1885 Train Depot

Tues., April 16 at 6:30 • Community Room

Presented by Will Melton. In just four years, David White has brought the Holyoke Railway station, created by architect Henry Hobson Richardson, back from the brink of ruin. All has been accomplished without grants, investors, or much municipal help. Meanwhile he’s repurposed the old Railway Express building on the depot as a takeout restaurant and Choo Choo’s Ice Cream shop opening this Spring.

Virtual Program: Black Heritage Tour with the National Park Service

Wed., April 17 at 6

Sign Up Here: <https://tinyurl.com/4c4btbhv>. The Black Heritage Trail showcases residences and community buildings associated with a Black Community that thrived on, and near, the north slope of Beacon Hill before, during, and after the American Civil War. Throughout that time, this community struggled and organized for equal rights to access to equal education. Community members championed the movement to abolish slavery and even housed freedom seekers on their journey along the Underground Railroad. Let by park ranger Shawn Quigley.

Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty presented by the Kestrel Land Trust

Wed., April 24 at 6 • Community Room

This new biographical film tells the story of the legendary Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, who served in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and became a towering - yet humble - figure in the 20th century American conservation movement. He was an early campaigner for both environmental protection and social justice, encouraging JFK, LBJ and Ladybird Johnson to become conservation leaders themselves. Kestrel Land Trust conserves and cares for forests, farms, and riverways in the Connecticut River Valley of Western Massachusetts, while nurturing an enduring love of the land.

Book Clubs

Between the Covers Romance Book Club (April 9 at 3)

2nd Tuesday at 3 pm

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

Hello Sunshine Book Club (April 3 at 6:30)

First Wednesdays of the Month.

A book discussion group focusing on selections from Reese Witherspoon’s Hello Sunshine book club.

Silent Book Club (April 9 and 24 at 4)

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

Ongoing Programs

Gatehouse Writers Group (Online Writing Group)

Every Friday Online via Zoom from 10 - Noon

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

Library Tech Assistance with Desi

(April 18 at 4) Third Thursday of the Month.

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

Mahjong At the Library

(April 5 and 26 at 1) First and Third Fridays from 1 - 4.

For experienced players

Open Art/ Craft Corner

(April 17 at 11) First Wednesdays of the Month.

Bring your new, old, or current projects in whatever medium you are working. We provide the space. You provide the materials and enjoy the company and inspiration of fellow creators.

Spanish Conversation Corner

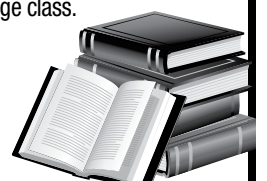
(April 20 at 10:30) Third Saturday of the Month.

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

Tuesday Night Knitters

(Every Tuesday at 6)

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



Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Life Together

A few weeks ago, Sesame Street's Elmo posted: "Elmo here, just checking in. How's everybody doing?"

Hundreds of responses flooded the posting. People poured out their lives to the puppet. Cheaper than therapy, the fear and pain of many were shared online.

People are hurting. People are alone. Mental health professionals now tell us that the leading cause of mental illness is loneliness.

So many of us seek healing for our broken lives. Whether due to loss and our grief, addiction, or our disconnect from others to eliminate the stimulation of our nerves, or our inability to enter into and sustain intimate relationships, we seek connection and support.

Mental health is about relationships. When we are in relationship to others who care about us, they give us good energy and hope. We seek peace in our troubled times. We seek truth in our delusional politics.

One possible interpretation of TRUTH is: "Stop Forgetting".

Stop forgetting who loves you. Stop forgetting to whom you belong. Stop forgetting there is hope. A hope we need to do it all again tomorrow.

An acronym for HOPE, is, Help Other People Endure. When in pain and suffering we need to be grounded in hope.

Whatever your faith, or lack of faith, wise words come to us from St. Paul in Romans 5: "Suffering produces Endurance, Endurance produces Character, and Character produces Hope, a hope that does not disappoint."

To be fully present with another person, to sit with them, walk with them, care for them, is the healing source for those who are alone and feel hopeless. Our presence embodies hope.

We need not say anything. Helping another person endure their suffering and move towards hope is a sacred event. In the end we may get to gratitude and discover that in our being present, not only may the other person endure and find peace, we too share the transformation from suffering to endurance to character to hope.

Who will you sit with? Who will, is, sitting with you?

May you trust you are not alone and there is a way forward.

Elmo hears you. Elmo cares. And we are called to hear each other and care for each other.

Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.



Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage

Dear Rusty:

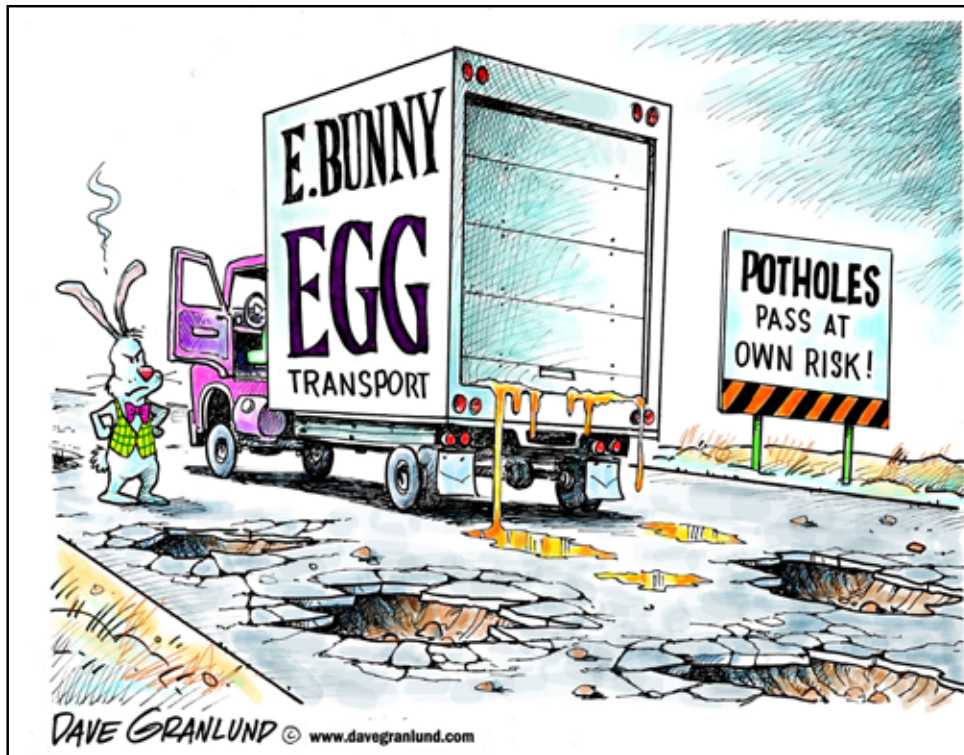
I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.

I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military Tri-Care, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?).

I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Please see **SSI**, page 5



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reflecting on transparency within community

Dear Editor,

As we celebrate Sunshine Week, a time dedicated to promoting transparency and accountability in government, it is crucial to reflect on the state of transparency within our community, specifically the Board Members of District 1. Recent events in South Hadley at Water District 1 highlight the urgent need for greater openness and accessibility in local governance.

During a recent meeting of the South Hadley Water District 1 Board, a significant decision was made that directly impacts District 1 finances and well-being. The Board members approved a yearly budget of \$2.9 million dollars and sanctioned a 3% raise, all within a mere 35 minutes and with minimal discussion. This hasty decision-making process raises concerns about the lack of thorough deliberation and public input on matters of significant importance.

Furthermore, the timing of these meetings adds another layer of opacity. Scheduled at 5:30 PM when most residents are just returning home from work, these meetings effectively limit public participation and engagement. This scheduling choice undermines the principles of transparency and inclusivity, as it excludes many community

members from actively participating in the decision-making process.

Fortunately, technology offers a viable solution to enhance transparency and accessibility in local government. With the availability of streaming and recording capabilities, there is no excuse for meetings to be conducted behind closed doors. By leveraging existing technology, the South Hadley Water District 1 Board can ensure that meetings are accessible to all residents, regardless of their schedule or commitments.

Transparency is not a mere buzzword; it is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. As residents of South Hadley, we deserve to have full visibility into the decisions that impact our lives and our community's future. It is imperative that the South Hadley Water District 1 Board takes immediate steps to improve transparency and foster greater public engagement in its proceedings.

In the spirit of Sunshine Week, let us reaffirm our commitment to transparency and hold our local government accountable to the highest standards of openness and integrity.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Forcier
South Hadley resident

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (*Primula* spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come – a memory of you! Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

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.

TOWN Reminder TEAM

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SPECIAL PERMIT from page 1

similar special permit application for two years.

Capra detailed the extraordinary historical rarity with which Planning Board decisions are made with prejudice, both in South Hadley and across the Commonwealth. She said former Planning Director Richard Harris had been unable to recall a time when such a step was taken, citing a previous vote regarding Chicopee Concrete as an example of a potentially troublesome special permit withdrawal being accepted without prejudice being found by the board.

"It's a very extreme act," Capra said. She also said that her initial consultations with Town Counsel on the procedural aspects of a vote on accepting withdrawal had been inconclusive, but that her understanding was that a supermajority vote would be needed from the board to approve the withdrawal either with or without prejudice, and that, since Vice Chair Nate Therien was absent for the

meeting, this would require a unanimous vote on the matter from the four board members present.

Capra also made clear that Callahan was seeking to withdraw a separate license application with the town's Building Commissioner that would have also been necessary for the operation of a non-owner-occupied short term rental, suggesting that Callahan was not intent on moving forward with the process regardless of the board's ultimate vote.

At least two Planning Board members seemed prepared to accept Callahan's withdrawal request without prejudice when Brown raised her concerns around doing so.

"We've already had correspondences sent to us as Planning Board members from abutters who object to this prior applicant seeking the special permit," Brown explained. "I have read those correspondences, and there seem to be very logical reasons why this idea of a non-owner-occupied short term rental seems completely inappropriate for this neighborhood."

She said that this vote on accepting Callahan's withdrawal request gave the board an opportunity to prevent her from returning to the board with a similar application in the coming years.

Chair Diane Mulvaney responded by saying that it seemed that Brown was attempting to engage with questions about the application's suitability that would be meant for a public hearing itself, rather than considering the applicant's withdrawal request that would make the public hearing unnecessary.

Brown said, "My reading of this is that we can make a decision that will allow the applicant to come forward with the same basic application for special permit, or to close that door for two years."

Ultimately, Brown voted against approving the withdrawal request without prejudice, and the motion to do so failed 3-1, short of a supermajority of the five-member board. Brown subsequently moved to accept the withdrawal request with prejudice, which was not seconded, and the motion failed to carry.

Some uncertainty was initially raised around the next steps in the matter, but the final decision made was to delay Callahan's public hearing until the board's April 9 meeting to give Capra the opportunity to consult further with Town Counsel.

It's really unfortunate because we pay time...we're paying Town Counsel hundreds of dollars an hour to determine this, but that seems to be where we're at," Capra said.

Later she added, "I just want to reiterate my point that it's really unfortunate that we have to engage Town Counsel now in this decision and continue this. It just seems very unnecessary for a project, the applicant has already stated she doesn't intend to proceed in this manner."

Brad Hutchison echoed the same sentiment. "It is definitely without precedent, and I think it's a little shameful, frankly."

"As do I," Mulvaney said. "I think we could have done a better job to allow things to proceed forward."

SSI from page 4

Dear Uncertain Veteran:

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision.

If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you sig-

nificantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter.

I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to www.TriCare4U.com.

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payer. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately.

Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN from page 4

outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that originally started out as a potted plant.

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps. One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (*Primula japonica*) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year

and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

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.




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Region

Legislators join WestMass ElderCare in #SaveLunch movement

HOLYOKE – Local officials and state legislators will join WestMass ElderCare as part of #SaveLunch – a nationwide campaign led by Meals on Wheels America designed to rally communities around our older adult neighbors and protect the essential services that enable so many to remain healthy and independent at home.

Across the country this month, Meals on Wheels programs have enlisted elected officials, community influencers and other prominent figures to deliver meals, speak out for seniors and raise awareness for the power of Meals on Wheels.

“In the last few years, we have experienced an exponential increase in the demand for our home delivered meals service,” said Roseann Martoccia, Executive Director of WestMass ElderCare in

a press release. “We have been in awe of the outpouring of support so far, but there is still much we can do to ensure everyone in need of our vital lifeline can benefit from being well-nourished and more connected to our community through this challenging time and beyond.”

National #SaveLunch efforts in March will commemorate the historic day in March of 1972 when the Older Americans Act was amended to include a nutrition program for Americans 60 years and older.

More than 50 years later, 12 million older Americans are still threatened by or experience hunger, and one in three seniors feels lonely. However, dwindling federal support over the past several years and cuts to the state budget mean

severe funding shortages for this crucial program.

That is why Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining forces to raise awareness and support to ensure we can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence and improve health for decades to come.

“We commend all of our 2024 Community Champions for stepping up to ensure that Meals on Wheels is there for all of our senior neighbors in need,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. “In the face of soaring demand and costs that surpass our current resources, we need to come together as communities to bridge the gaps. We can’t do it alone – it takes all of us to save lunch for our seniors.”

Partnering with WestMass ElderCare will be Chicopee Mayor, John Vieau, Sen. Adam Gomez, Rep. Dan Carey, Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange, Rep. Shirley Arriaga, Rep. Patricia Duffy and Legislative Aide Juan Anderson-Burgos.

Participants will take a tour of WMEC’s “Nutrition Central” and then follow a WMEC Meals on Wheels Driver to deliver meals to their older adult constituents in Holyoke, Chicopee, Ludlow, South Hadley, Granby, and Ware.

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the older adults in Western Mass this March, contact Lynn Wolf, WestMass ElderCare Marketing and Development Manager, at lwolf@wmedercare.org or 413-538-9020 extension 329.

MARATHON from page 1

invitational entries, will descend on the Hub from all around the world this year to participate in one of the most prestigious long-distance events on Earth.

BJ Williams - Guiding the way

Among the local runners participating is BJ Williams of Belchertown, who has already run the Boston Marathon three times and has been involved with Team Hoyt, the renowned organization that supports people with disabilities, for over 15 years.

Williams will be participating in a unique role as a guide runner for Morrie Ripley, a Canadian runner who suffered paralysis after a serious car crash at the age of 25.

“His story’s pretty interesting,” Williams said of Ripley. “He was paralyzed at 25, told he might never walk again, could never run in the Boston Marathon. Ten years later he did his first marathon, and now he’s upwards over 30 marathons.”

Williams received a message from Ripley, who he knows through Team Hoyt, asking if he would serve as his guide runner for this year’s marathon only days before being interviewed for this article on March 11.

“I jumped on it immediately,” Williams said. “Being that it’s his race, it’s not my race, so being able to be there to help him and be his support is incredible.” Williams also shared that, after his last Boston Marathon in 2017, he had decided that he would not run the race again unless he was running in a support capacity with someone else.

Williams’ own path to being a guide runner this year is itself an inspiring one. Similarly to Ripley, a car accident changed Williams’ life when he was 21, cutting short what had looked at the time to be a burgeoning hockey career.

But seeing the perseverance of Dick and Rick Hoyt inspired Williams to take up running less than a year after his injury. Despite not considering himself a

talented runner, Williams has since completed over 20 marathons and eight Ironman triathlons, fueled by a desire to support causes like Team Hoyt and demonstrate to others that they too can overcome adversity.

“I don’t do it for myself, I don’t do it to go out and win, I don’t do it to get personal bests,” Williams said of his running endeavors. “All the big events that I take part in are either fundraisers, they’re for a cause, they’re for a charity.”

Gabrielle Cook - A family legacy

For Gabrielle Cook of South Hadley, this year’s Boston Marathon marks both a personal milestone and a family legacy. Cook is the youngest of 12 children in a family of runners, with a number of her siblings having completed the Boston Marathon previously; at the same time, she has only just begun her own family, welcoming her son Oliver into the world within the past year.

“It’s kind of like a pivotal moment for me to also be running the Boston Marathon, so it’s very exciting,” Cook said.

This year’s Boston Marathon will be Cook’s third marathon overall. She originally qualified for the 2023 race but deferred her entry until 2024 after becoming pregnant.

“Last year was the first year they were letting people who are pregnant defer just for that reason alone,” Cook said. “I was able to defer it either for this year or next year, and I was just like, let’s just do it.”

When it comes to running, Cook admits “it’s definitely a love-hate relationship” with the sport at times. Despite not feeling a strong love for it at first, she came to find over time that she preferred longer distances over the five kilometer races she would run as a high schooler.

“It’s been kind of an interesting journey, getting back into shape for it,” Cook said of her preparations since having her

son. She’s even found ways to get him involved in the process, saying, “I’ve done a lot of my training runs with the stroller, pushing my son.”

Ultimately, one of the things Cook is looking forward to most is simply being a part of the grand event. “I’ve never even been to the Boston Marathon,” Cook said. “I’m very excited just to experience the crowd and things like that.”

Thomas Shea - Chasing a qualifier

This year’s Boston Marathon will also be the first for South Hadley’s Thomas Shea. Now 62, Shea began running relatively late in life at age 55, after his kids graduated from high school.

“Both of my kids ran track in high school, and my youngest daughter was graduating, so I figured it’d be a good chance to run with them one time,” he said. “My son had been doing the St. Patrick’s Day race [in Holyoke] for a few years at that point, and I wanted to give it a shot.”

From that point on, Shea came to love running, and got involved with the local running groups Run Your Health and Empire One Running Club. He said these groups had been important to him, not only in terms of the friendships he had formed, but also in opening the door to run in the marathon this year.

“They’re the ones that actually got me the bib for the Boston Marathon” Shea said of Empire One, explaining that they were able to secure an invitational entry for him. “My hope is to run a qualifying time in Boston, and qualify for Boston.”

Shea, who has completed one previous marathon, has been diligently training since December on an 18-week plan that has had him running up to 44 miles per week at peak levels before tapering down as the marathon nears. He is no stranger to Western Massachusetts road races, frequently participating in events like Thursday night races at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke and the SnowStorm Classics at Forest Park in Springfield.

“I was thinking Boston was going to

be OK for me to do,” said the quietly confident Shea.

Lindsay Smith - Community connection

For South Hadley resident Lindsay Smith, the community aspect of running has been always been the primary spark behind a running career stretching back over a decade.

Smith, who was born and raised in Rhode Island before coming to Boston for college, first caught the running bug in 2012 when his wife challenged him to join her on a half marathon shortly after graduating.

“I remember feeling extremely uncomfortable physically in that race,” Smith recalled. “I’m not sure what her own impetus was for running the half marathon was, but she was definitely an inspiration.”

Despite the physical challenge of running, Smith stuck with it, drawn in by the social aspects of being part of run clubs and participating in the general culture of being a runner. Now, Smith has completed multiple Boston Marathons, and qualified with a time that will see him running with one of the first waves of the day in this year’s race.

“There was a huge community running scene in downtown Boston,” Smith reminisced, adding that he has found a similar sense of community in Western Massachusetts. “The ‘recreational runner’ I call it, which to me is not at all an insult...that, I have found, lives in most places in the world.”

He said that connection was the thing that kept him involved when he first started, and that he has made sure he has stayed connected with groups as he has moved from place to place.

“For me the most stable and consistent relationship I’ve had with running has been through your typical run club,” he said, naming City Sports and Marathon Sports as two such clubs he has been involved with.

“I can’t really call myself a true recreational runner anymore,” Smith said, “but that was how my running was born.”

Now, Smith wants to be able to lift up the community that has lifted him up so much. “Hopefully I’ve given a little back,” he said.



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.

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Pioneer Valley organizations set to receive addition \$1.7M

BOSTON – Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) announced their successful efforts to secure an additional \$1,744,000 in federal funding to Pioneer Valley organizations to create career pathways in healthcare, support minority-owned small businesses, and expand access to mental health care.

The funding announcement comes in addition to more than \$10 million in federal funding for energy and water resources, housing and urban development, science, and rural developments in the Pioneer Valley announced by the delegation earlier this month.

“Community and civic leaders in the Pioneer Valley are dedicated to making the state a healthier, cleaner, safer, and more just place to live. I am proud, with my congressional delegation partners, to bring important investments directly to local communities and initiatives to further their goals,” said Markey in a press release. “These investments in clean drinking water, expanded access to early childcare, recreational, educational, and workforce development opportunities, municipal infrastructure, small business support, expanded access to mental health services, and technology to hold polluters accountable and ensure clean air for our children to breathe, will make a meaningful difference in the lives of residents.”

“I’m glad to have worked with the Massachusetts Delegation to secure over \$12 million in federal funding for community projects in the Pioneer Valley,” said Warren. “From bringing in clean drinking water and technology to ensure clean air for our children and families, to creating community spaces for our municipal members and for childcare centers, this funding will make a real difference in our communities.”

Additional projects receiving federal funding include:

- \$1,000,000 for Holyoke Health Center to develop a workforce training facility and grow its integrated health care teams.
- \$550,000 for the Latino Economic Development Corporation to support its work of providing minority-owned businesses with leveraged financial and business support for Latino and minority-owned businesses in Massachusetts.
- \$194,000 for the Franklin County and North Quabbin Children’s Advocacy Center to expand Mental Health Services for Children and Families Impacted by Sexual Abuse in the North Quabbin Region.
- These projects come in addition to five earlier awards in the Pioneer Valley, including:
 - \$4,642,000 for the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to design a new drinking water treatment plant to serve 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley, including vulnerable and environmental justice populations in Springfield.
 - \$4,000,000 for the Town of Deerfield to preserve, rehabilitate, and repurpose a 135-year-old former school building to serve as the town’s municipal offices.
 - \$1,000,000 for the Springfield Jewish Community Center to provide funding for facility renovation and the expansion of early childhood and K-8 childcare spaces.
 - \$427,000 for the Community YMCA of Greenfield to capital improvements at Camp Apex.
 - \$370,000 for the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts to develop digital resources, including a mobile app and website, to expand public access to real-time air quality data collected by the Healthy Air Network.



Easter Egg Hunt & Hat Parade March 30

SOUTH HADLEY – The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Parade at Buttery Brook Park will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024. The event features an egg hunt with over 2,000 eggs and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

There is also a hat parade where children show off their finest Easter hats. Winning hats will be awarded prize ribbons. The hat parade starts the event at 10 a.m. with the egg hunt immediately following.

Second Baptist Church holds good Friday service

SOUTH HADLEY – Good Friday service at Second Baptist Church on Friday, March 29, 2024 at 7 p.m.

We will have time for prayer, scripture reading, music and a presentation of the skit “I Am The Thief.” The church is handicap accessible.

Second Baptist Church is located at 589 Granby Rd., South Hadley. If you have any questions please call 413-536-0626.

The mission of Second Baptist Church is Worship God; Love People; Grow Followers of Christ.

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.

Run 4 hope to be held in April 13

GRANBY — The MacDuffie School, 66 School St., will be hosting Run 4 Hope on Saturday, April 13.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the run starts at 10 a.m. It is \$20 to participate. All money goes to Food for the Hungry. For more information, please contact Bre Benoit at bbenoit@macduffie.org. Please scan QR for more information



YWCA Golf Tournament supports youth programs

SPRINGFIELD – YWCA Board Chair Kim Casineau has announced the hosting of the YWCA Golf Tournament to be held at the Springfield Country Club in West Springfield on Monday, May 6 with registration now open online at ywworks.org.

Proceeds of the charity golf tournament will go towards support of the Children Who Witness Violence program that offers therapy for children who have witnessed or experienced abuse and violence. The Healthy and Empowering Relationship Education program of the YWCA, that supports Springfield middle and high schoolers to learn about healthy relationships and friendships, will also benefit from proceeds raised at the tournament.

According to Casineau, organizer of the event, “the leadership work the YWCA is doing in addressing domestic and sexual violence is critically important. These two youth-oriented programs

are providing much needed support and resources in our community. I encourage all who are interested in supporting our event to contact me at kcasineau@thecoatinghouse.com or register on the website. We need golfers, cash donations and donations for our raffle. My goal is to raise awareness to all the great work the YW does for our community in a fun way. Please join us on May 6 in support of these very worthy programs.”

The cost per golfer to participate in the tournament is \$155, and includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, and a quarter zip jacket. There will be a raffle and cash bar at the country club.

Individuals or organizations interested in registering or sponsoring the event can go online to ywworks.org.

Headquartered in Springfield, the YWCA also provides services and offers programming to children and women in crisis in Northampton, Westfield, Belchertown and Holyoke.

Cemetery meeting in April

SOUTH HADLEY—The Proprietors of the South Hadley Falls Cemetery will be conducting its annual meeting on April 2, at 6 p.m., in the small conference room at the South Hadley Public Library. The public is invited to the meeting as their input is always welcomed. The meeting will elect Officers and Trustees, review reports and discuss the future of the cemetery.

Vendors wanted for craft/vendor fair

BELCHERTOWN – Crafters and vendors are sought for the American Cancer Society, Quaboag Relay for Life’s 3rd Annual Spring Craft/Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Common, Routes 9 and 202.

All proceeds from the fair will benefit the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life. For crafter/vendor selling information, please contact Vicki McAndrew by email at sv_jewelry@charter.net.



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Education

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 Teresa 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.

Senior thesis show in April

SOUTH HADLEY— Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School, lets seniors get their own senior thesis show. This year, senior Nikolas Segura has created his own one man show titled “Nik Nik Boom!”. Segura has worked for months putting together his own produced arrangements of

songs to perform, accompanied by piano and singing, and has created an original script talking about his life and his journey through the arts. Come see the show for free on Thursday, April 4, at 6 p.m., at Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Main Stage Theatre.

Ad club scholarship now available

SOUTH HADLEY—The Advertising club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce applications are now available for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving western Massachusetts high school graduate pursuing higher education in the communication arts in 2024. Guidelines and application form can be found at www.adclubwm.org/scholarships or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at cecchi@davidcecchi.com or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

Western Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

The Advertising Club promotes a tradition of excellence, and with this annual scholarship, looks forward to making an important contribution to future generations of communications professionals.

Class of 1974 plans 50th reunion

CHICOPEE— It’s the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road.. The reunion party will begin at 5 p.m. with cocktails and dinner.

Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach

out to as many as possible. If individuals have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marcil Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. The committee will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

BUDGET from page 1

one who wanted to speak had the opportunity. Town Administrator Lisa Wong provided an overview of the budget for next year, calling it a “contract between the town and its citizens.”

She reiterated that the proposed budget came about from a focus on three things: review, reorganization, refinement. This trio is designed to essentially get the most bang for the town’s buck, by reviewing all aspects of jobs and financial decisions, then reorganizing and refining different municipal jobs and departments to make them both efficient and adequate for the needs of the town and its residents.

Some of the notable staffing changes that Wong highlighted included a move to a senior services coordinator instead of a director and assistant director at the Council on Aging, the addition of crisis intervention staff at the police department, a reduction in clerical staff because of moving records and offices to a digital format and an eventual shift from a planning department to a planning and community development department.

Wong explained that she would like to see an increase in the enforcement of bylaws to help bring in revenue, enhance bylaws and take a more proactive approach, eliminating the backlog.

The FY25 budget stands at \$56.8 million, up 3.4% from last year. While costs are rising across the board, Wong noted that the eight to 10% increase in benefits was “one of the budget busters.”

In addition, she discussed that the community development department would support creating more quality housing and redevelopment while the new human services department, which will include the recreation, veterans and other departments, will do a needs assessment to ensure efficient program delivery.

Up next in the budget process will be budget open houses at the Council on Aging at 5 p.m. on April 2 and 16, a presentation to the appropriations committee on April 14 and a hearing with that committee on April 24, and a public hearing on proposed changes to the trash and sewer fees on April 13. The town will vote on the budget at the town meeting, scheduled for May 8.

SOUTH HADLEY & GRANBY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ~ 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
LOCATION: South Hadley Department of Public Works
10 Industrial Drive

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Pre-registration begins April 1, 2024

Call the office at 538-5030 ext. 6500 or email kquesnel@southhadleyma.gov



WHAT TO BRING

Any substance labeled:
Caustic, Toxic, Corrosive,
Flammable, Warning, Danger, Caution



FROM YOUR YARD

- Pesticides
- Insect Sprays
- Fungicides
- Flea Powder
- Herbicides
- Root Killers
- Rodent Killers
- Muriatic Acid
- No-Pest Strips
- Pool Chemicals
- Lighter Fluid

FROM YOUR GARAGE

- Engine Degreaser
- Gas Treatments
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Solvents
- Brake Fluid
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Creosote Sealer
- Asphalt Sealer
- Refrigerants
- Transmission Fluid
- Radiator Flusher

FROM YOUR WORKSHOP

- Roofing Tar
- Solvents
- Varnish
- Sealants
- Wood Strippers
- Rust Inhibitors
- Paint Thinners
- Degreasers
- Wood Preservatives
- Wood Strippers
- Stains
- Lead & Oil-Based Paints (No Latex Paint)
- Photo Chemicals

FROM YOUR HOME

- Oven Cleaners
- Furniture Polish
- Upholstery Cleaner
- Metal Polish
- Mothballs
- Spot Remover
- Drain Cleaners
- Toilet Cleaners
- Chemostry Kits
- Arts & Crafts Supplies



WHAT NOT TO BRING

Fluorescent Bulbs, Engine Oil, Radiator Fluid, Latex Paint, empty containers from hazardous products, asbestos, gas cylinders, radioactive material, explosives (including ammunition & fireworks)



South Hadley Council on Aging upcoming events

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
45 Dayton Street, South Hadley 413-538-5030, www.southhadley.org/324/Council-on-Aging

Community Table:
Mon-Fri Served by 12:15 p.m.

Breakfast-To-Go:
Mon- Fri Pick-up at Noon.
Breakfast Meals are intended to be warmed for the following day. Reserve meals by noon the day before. A suggested confidential donation of \$2.50 for guests 60+. Those under 60 are charged \$6.50 per Federal Regulations. The title III-C Meal Site program is provided by WMEC through funding from EOEA. For nutrition questions call WMEC 413-538-9020. x313

APRIL 2024

Tuesday April 2 at 4 p.m.
Dinner & Movie: An American in Paris
Purchase your dinner in the cafe and join us for the movie. Free refreshments & Fun trivia!
An American in Paris (1951) Winner of 6 Oscars! Directed by Vincent Minelli, music by George Gershwin Starring Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron, and Oscar Levant. Three friends struggle to find work in Paris. Things become more complicated when two of them fall in love with the same woman.

Wednesday, April 3, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.
April Supper Club
Great American Diner Month
To Sign Up: maggiev06021@gmail.com; Chef Demo: Good Gravy!
Free and open to all! Get into the thick of things with Chef Maggie as she discusses slurrries, rouxs and other ways to get the right consistency in your dishes. Demonstration includes samples.

Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m.
Luncheon Outing to the Tigers' Den
Tickets \$12.00 pp. Limit of 24 must be reserved at the welcome desk. Join our own Chef Maggie for a wonderful lunch at the SHHS and support our wonderful culinary students.. Luncheon menu choices will be available when you purchase your tickets

Friday, April 19 at 8:30 a.m.
Gentlemen's Breakfast (Free!)
Hosts - Steven Laplante and Jameson Glanville
ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate

April Culinary Lessons
For those who have completed kitchen safety orientation Meatloaf (3-ways) Limit 30 cooks. Supply fee \$10;

Prep & Culinary Lesson:
Mon., April 22 2 p.m.
Final Firing & Meal:
Tuesday, April 23 2:00 p.m.

Traditional meatloaf, South African Boboti, and Cajun Shepherds pie.

Tuesday, April 30 at 5:00 p.m.
All are welcome. Refreshments provided. An intergenerational runway extravaganza of Sustainable Fashion pieces crafted by South Hadley Senior Center makers, PVPA sustainable fashion 7th-8th grade students, and designers, Petula Bloomfield and Aimee Charlesworth. Runway show at 5:00 p.m.

Live music by the fabulous Michael Wilbur, saxophonist. Sign up to present your fashion or participate as a model for the show. In addition there will be items for sale at the event!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Please register at 413-538-5030 option 3

New! Ukelele Group Sessions
Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Beginning April 2nd; Intermediate level group playing in a Round Robin setting.

New! Chair "Line"
Dance with Jennifer Jones
Thursdays at 3:15
Beginning on April 4th
Join Line dance instructor Jennifer for a fun, energetic exercise workout, choreographed to music for all levels and all abilities!

Senior Living Options Fair
Tuesday, April 9 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Come meet and ask questions of local Assisted Living and Independent Living programs. All participants will be eligible for a raffle.

Tech Help series with Sandy Cahillane:
Cutting the Cable: Pros and Cons
Part 1 April 4 and Part 2 April 11 at 1 p.m.
Join Technology Instructor Sandy Cahillane for this two part event: Part 1 will focus on deciding to remove your television cable subscription by exploring pros and cons of doing so. In Part 2, learn how to access your favorite channels and streaming apps, such as Netflix, once you no longer subscribe to a cable television service.

Socials with MacDuffie Students
Wed., April 10 and April 17 at 2 p.m.
The MacDuffie students return for a rematch cornhole competition and join our dance club! Stop by and say hello!

Veterans Memorabilia Poster Workshops
April 10 & 17 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
In May the South Hadley Senior Center will be displaying Posters and Memorabilia of Veterans of all Military Branches depicting their time in service.

To participate please contact Gene Maag, genemaag@yahoo.com or Kathy Florence at the Senior Center.

Celebrate National Library Week with Staff from The South Hadley Public Library
Thursday, April 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Library staff will have information about upcoming library programs, home delivery service, recommended reading lists, library card registration, and more!

Holistic Health Series:
Astrology 101 with Ben Kibby
Tuesday, April 16 at 5 p.m.

Learn about the four major components that go into a reading (signs, planets, houses, and aspects), and begin using your chart as a map to an authentic and fulfilling life. Ben will provide you with the tools to interpret the various parts of your birth chart, which provides a symbolic mirror of the contents, purpose, and destiny of your soul.

National Healthcare Decision Day
Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Karen Buscemi, PMH-NP will be here to talk with folks about advanced care planning. National Healthcare Decision Day is a day for patients or healthcare receivers to make known to health professionals the kind of adequate care they wish to receive, and have those wishes respected and met.

Monthly Social Dance Club with Richie Mitnick!
Wednesday, April 17 2 -4 p.m.
Cost \$4.00

Richie plays all the songs you want to hear, and dance to! Two hours of great music to get you moving and feeling great!

Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party
Thursday April 18 at 2 p.m. FREE!
Join us as we celebrate our Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month with refreshments and entertainment by

Frank Sinatra tribute.
Sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors
Coffee & Conversation
Friday, April 19 at 11 a.m.
Join us as Assistant Town Administrator, Chuck Romboletti, discusses the Senior Tax Work Off Program.

Spring Fling Bingo
Tuesday April 23 at 1 p.m.
Join us for a free Bingo with special Spring themed prizes and gift cards! Sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

TRIAD'S Sand for Seniors Container Pick up
Pick Ups will begin on April 30 at 10 a.m.

Sand will be picked up by the SHFD 1 & 2 through out the day. Please call Sandy at the Senior Center if your sand was not picked up.

2024 Summer Senior Farm Share Application Deadline is June 1st

The South Hadley Senior Center is offering farm shares through Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA). The cost is a one-time payment of \$10.00 for the opportunity to have fresh vegetables over a 10-week period. Once again, we are excited to partner with Dave's Natural Garden in Granby!

Applications will be collected during the months of April and May. Weekly delivery to the Senior Center from the farm will begin in mid July. Applications are available at the Senior Center or by emailing Ann at aandras@southhadley-ma.gov. On June 1, thirty (30) names will be randomly drawn and those applicants will be notified. You must be 60 years or older to qualify. In addition, you must be able to answer yes to one of the four criteria:

- I receive SNAP benefits (Food Stamps), Medicaid, SSI, AFDC, or Veterans Aid benefits.
- I participate in the Food Bank's Brown Bag Program.
- I live alone and my income is below \$29,160; or
- The total income of my household is below \$39,440 (only one share per household please).

TRAVEL CLUB
Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
& Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Susan: 413-536-2106
Huguette: 413-530-6162.

April 17, 2024: American Country Classics with Dee Riley & her Band / Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA. / Self- Drive Package Includes: Luncheon and Entertainment. Cost \$90. Call Huguette

May 14, 2024: (SOLD OUT / WAIT LIST). Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT - Neil Diamond - SWEET CAROLINE. Join us for a fun afternoon with great music and friends. Cost \$130 - Call Susan

June 13, 2024: Newport Playhouse and Cabaret, Newport, RI. "Cemetery Club". A comedy where three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Enjoy this unique Dinner Theater experience. Cost \$145. Call Huguette



Donovan's Irish Pub
Western Massachusetts #1 Irish Pub!

Live Music, Great Food & A Pint To Raise Your Spirits!

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Friday, March 29 Paul Pender</p>  | <p>Friday, April 5 The Healys</p>  |
| <p>Saturday, March 30 Frank Serafino</p>  | <p>Saturday, April 6 Dennis O'Gorman</p>  |

80 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke
413-543-0791 • donovanspub.com
 Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm; Fri. & Sat. 11am - Midnight; Sun. 11am - 8pm
CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY





Open House
Saturday, April 6
9:30-12:30

www.macduffie.org to register



sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

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South Hadley boys complete season



Hunter Keller gets the one-hand pass under coverage.



Bryce Lamoureux looks to enter the arc.



Connor Mclasaac goes for a layup.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Earlier this month, the South Hadley 7-8 Boys Suburban Basketball team finished off their regular season. The Tigers defeated Quaboag in their final regular season game.



Javier Rosado reaches out for a get a layu



Dylan Lavelle has a layup uncontested.



Braeden Gallagher sends a spike down during practice.



Daniel Santiago practices his hits.



Nicolas Grandmont keeps the ball in play during practice.

Boys volleyball prepares for season

GRANBY – Last Thursday, Granby boys volleyball continued its preparation for the regular season. The Rams have an early opener this season as they will travel to nearby Holyoke High School this Thursday, March 28 to face the Knights. Their home opener is on Tuesday, April 2 against Chicopee at 5:15 p.m.

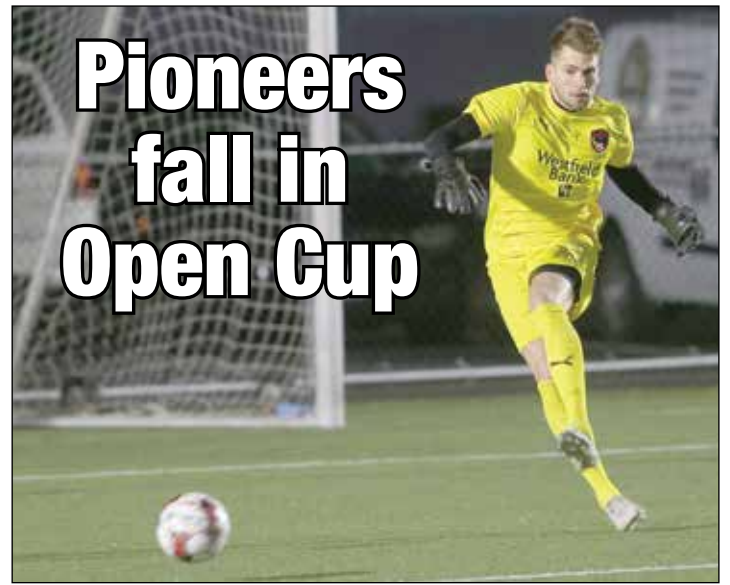
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Ralph El Aouji sizes up a bump.



Durant Garden tips one over the net.



Pioneers fall in Open Cup

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Gianluca Cersosimo sends a free kick away.

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Western Mass. Pioneers opened their season with a matchup in the US Open Cup. The Pioneers faced Union Omaha and unfortunately were shut out by a 4-0 decision. With the loss, the Pioneers Open

Cup chances have ended after just one game. The Pioneers will now gear their preparations toward the May 18 season opener. The Pioneers will also have an exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC.



Santiago Blasco Gomez dribbles up the field.



Joaquin Lauria Calvo settles the ball before making a pass.

T-Birds rebound to defeat Crunch

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-29-3-2) got a hat trick from one of their key stars en route to a 6-4 triumph over the Syracuse Crunch (35-20-4-2) on Saturday night before the 11th consecutive sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

It was the home team that drew first blood on the scoreboard. Right winger Will Bitten intercepted a Syracuse pass in Springfield's defensive zone and went in alone on a breakaway. Bitten made a nifty forehand to backhand move before tucking the puck past Syracuse netminder Hugo Alnefelt, notching his 14th goal of the season and giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 3:37 of the first.

Unfortunately, the Springfield lead slipped away in the waning seconds of Syracuse's first power play. After taking off on a rush up-ice into the T-Birds zone, Felix Robert filtered a pass into the blue paint that glanced off a defender before slipping in past Vadim Zherenko at 16:22.

The T-Birds, though, responded in kind and regained their one-goal lead with less than a minute to play in the opening period. After a brief give-and-go between Hugh McGing and Hunter Skinner at the offensive blue line, Skinner made a terrific pass through traffic to the left-wing side. Ryan Suzuki received the pass and wasted no time whistling a release past Alnefelt on the glove side of the net for his 10th tally on the year. That

marker gave the T-Birds a 2-1 lead going into the first intermission, and Zherenko made that stand up with a sensational diving stop on Walteri Merela with barely a second remaining on the clock on a crease scramble at the end of the frame.

It only took 30 seconds for the Thunderbirds to add to their lead in the second. Mikhail Abramov found his linemate Jakub Vrana streaking down the left wing on a stretch pass. Vrana took the feed and ripped a perfect shot past the glove of the Syracuse netminder to give Springfield a 3-1 lead.

Still, Syracuse would not go away as they narrowed the Springfield lead back to one less than three minutes later. After a Syracuse shot took a crazy carom off the plexiglass behind Zherenko, the puck found the stick of Crunch defenseman Devante Stephens, who quickly spun a turnaround shot through Zherenko to make it 3-2 at 2:44.

Tempers flared shortly thereafter as Sam Bitten and Tyson Feist dropped the gloves at the 14:11 mark of the period. As he had done all season, Bitten's fight fired up the sold-out crowd in the Thunderdome, and it, in turn, led to offensive fireworks a few minutes later. After Quinn Schmiemann was called for a hooking infraction, Will Bitten got his second of the night, taking advantage of a crazy carom off the corner glass that skittered right to him in front of Alnefelt. While the Crunch goalie got a piece, the puck squeezed home,

and the two-goal lead was restored, 4-2, at 9:59 of the middle frame.

Vrana and Bitten's line was not done, either. As the game went to 4-on-4 in the closing minutes, Vrana and Abramov capitalized on a 2-on-1, as Abramov slipped a left-wing shot over Alnefelt's glove, giving Springfield a 5-2 lead at 17:46, a lead that carried into the intermission.

Syracuse did not go quietly into the night, and Ilya Usau's goal at 4:46 made it a 5-3 game. Zherenko kept the Crunch at bay until Alnefelt went to the bench for an extra skater with under six minutes to play. Just moments after the ensuing faceoff, Cole Koepke redirected a pass in the slot from Alex Barre-Boulet, and the Springfield lead was down to 5-4 with just 5:05 to go.

Things got dicey for Springfield with just over a minute to play when a Barre-Boulet shot squeezed through Zherenko's legs and rolled precariously across the goal line. Jack Finley seemed to have a wide-open net, but he could not get the puck across the line, and the T-Birds survived the threat.

Bitten capped off his sweet night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final.

Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

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 March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis.



Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

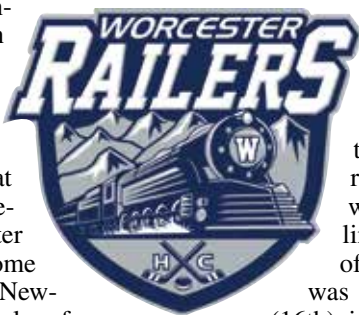
Worcester Railers pick up much-needed win

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-3, 62pts) beat the Reading Royals (26-31-5-2, 59pts) on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 6-3 in front of a crowd of 3,310 at Santander Arena. Worcester heads back home to take on the Newfoundland Growlers for the first time from the DCU Center this season on Wednesday, March 27th at 7:05 p.m.

Reading's Joe Nardi (1-1-2) scored his second goal of the weekend to open the scoring with 6:43 left in the first. Worcester fired back with three unanswered in the second from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Keegan Howdeshell (1-0-1) and Anthony Callin (1-1-2) to put Worcester ahead 3-1 going into the third. Andrei Bakanov (1-1-2) scored along with two empty net goals from Trevor Cosgrove (2-1-3), while Reading got goals from Jake Smith (1-0-1) and Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) en route to a 6-3 Railers victory.

Reading controlled the flow of play in the first, testing Tikkanen with nine shots on goal. Joe Nardi (16th) found a rebound along the near goal line and hammered it back towards Tikkanen, beating him

near side to give Reading the late 1-0 advantage in the first. Worcester was outshot 9-6 in the first period.



The second period played out similarly for the Railers to their third period on Friday, which was headlined by a flurry of goals. First it was Ashton Calder

(16th) in the slot off a nice feed from Ryan Scarfo to beat Maier and tie the game 1-1 2:04 into the period. The assist was Scarfo's first point as a Railer. Just 3:21 later, Keegan Howdeshell placed a perfect wrist shot over the blocker hand of Maier to put Worcester ahead 2-1. Mason Klee picked up his first professional point on the goal, notching the secondary assist. Worcester's Anthony Callin piled on with a goal 3:26 later. Zach White hit him with a pass on the tape while he sped into the offensive zone and sent a wrist shot top shelf past Maier and give Worcester a 3-1 lead going into the third.

The Railers tagged on one more early in the third with a shot from Andrei Bakanov (11th). He picked up the loose puck in the slot and wristed it

Please see **RAILERS**, page 12

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming,

track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

"We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their 'Time to Shine,'" said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director

of the Bay State Games. "This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games."

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Obituary

DEATH NOTICE

Renee Cheryl Still
Died March 21, 2024
Services April 6, 2024
Beers & Story
Funeral Home

Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Renee Cheryl Still, 79

GRANBY—Renee Cheryl Still, 79, passed away March 21, 2024, at home surrounded by her family. She was born on Sept. 12, 1944, in Mountain Top, PA to the late Harry and Charlotte (Arbogast) Stine. Renee earned her undergraduate degree from East Stroudsburg University, where she met her husband, Wayne. She went on to earn her master's degree from Westfield State University.



Renee retired from the Granby School System after a 35-year teaching career. In retirement, Renee remained an active member of the community, became an avid traveler, and an accomplished quilter. Besides her parents, Renee was preceded in death by her brothers, Barry and Dwight Stine. She will be greatly missed by her loving husband of 58 years, Wayne Still and their children, Jeffery Still of MA, Courtney Still of MA, Brett Still and his wife Pamela Loring of RI. She also leaves her brothers, Bruce and Dale Stine, and her sister, Diane (Stine) Hall.

Visitation will be held on April 6, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home with a celebration of Renee's life to begin at 4:00pm. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Renee's memory can be made to a charity of your choice. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.



Pathfinder students organize recycle drive for old technology

Stop by Pathfinder Tech next week for a chance to properly dispose of old computer parts and technology

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder Technical Vocational School is inviting people to bring technology to recycle on campus on April 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The recycling drive takes place in the back parking lot of the school, off of Panek Street. According to Sarah Malanson, Department Head of Programming and Web Development, this will be the third time the school holds the drive.

"We usually set up in the back parking lot in front of our white barn," Malanson said. "People drive in and we steer them into the area where we want them to go. The students assist people in removing items from their car, and it gets put into bins. The vendor we work with will be on site and they'll have large bins to put old tech in."

The vendor for this event is UpCycle, an R2 certified recycling company that is dedicated to finding environmentally friendly ways to dispose of used technology, including a strict no-landfill policy. Malanson said that people can bring in computers, laptops, mice, keyboards, any kind of cell phone or landline, speakers, printers, cords, flatscreen and LED screen monitors, and any other kind of networking equipment.

"The only thing we can't accept are old tube monitors and TVs," Malanson said.

"Computers have toxic components inside of them," Malanson said. "If you work with a sustainable or a partner that

recycles these things in a sustainable way, they have a certification called R2 certified recycler."

Malanson said that though most towns have transfer stations to dispose of these kinds of materials, they often charge a fee. The recycle drive that the students at Pathfinder do, by comparison, is free of charge.

"This recycling drive, led by students from Pathfinder Tech, exemplifies the power of education in action," said Superintendent Eric Duda. "Through hands-on projects like these, our students not only apply classroom knowledge but also develop essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and empathy, while providing a valuable service to our local community."

Malanson said that the students work on this project "from the very beginning to the end," developing all the marketing material, including a marketing campaign on social media, working with the school's IT department to secure the vendor, and learning project management skills such as establishing timelines, deadlines, and working together to make things come together.

"The fact that this recycle drive is spearheaded by students from Pathfinder Tech speaks volumes about the dedication and initiative of our young leaders," Duda said. "Their commitment to serving the community while gaining hands-on experience is commendable and sets a shining example for their peers."

"By organizing and executing this recycle drive, students from Pathfinder Tech are not just participants but active contributors to the betterment of our community," Duda said. "Their enthusiasm and hard work underscore their role as valuable members of society, making a tangible difference in the lives of those around them."

The recycle drive will be in the parking lot of Pathfinder Tech on April 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, with a rain date of April 9.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Database management system
- Medical procedures
- Clapton, musician
- Defender
- Exert oneself
- Indicates position
- Quay
- Atrocities
- A way to address an adult man
- Ends
- Unable
- Taxi
- Gratuities
- A famous train station
- Japanese persimmon
- Sours
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- Baseball official
- Confused situation

- Unworldly
- Yemen capital
- Type of soil
- Beloved beverage
- Lying down
- Angeles
- Fail to amuse
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- Commercial
- Taste property
- Lordship's jurisdictions
- It cools your home
- Dismounted
- Charge in a court of law
- One less than one
- Spoke
- Famed garden

- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Observed
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- Belonging to me
- Shoelace tube
- Takes to civil court
- Early multimedia
- Produces anew
- Horse races
- Of I
- Equally
- Changes color
- A place to stay
- Town in Galilee
- Mathematical figure
- Klingon character
- They __
- Atomic #58
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- Loosen grip
- Unpleasant smell
- Innermost membranes enveloping the

- brain
- Esteemed college "league"
- Partner to Pa
- Small American rail
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- Sodium
- Military figure (abbr.)
- Lighted
- Paid to get out of jail
- All of something
- Ohio city
- More abject
- A radio band
- Scientific development (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Scored perfectly
- A punch to end a fight
- The Golden State (abbr.)
- The Beehive State (abbr.)

Baystate Health to hold free events

SPRINGFIELD— Baystate Health's Loyalty Programs will offer two free events in April beginning with "When Your Kiddo Says, 'My Tummy Hurts' Series: Irritable Bowel Syndrome in Children" on April 9 from 6-7 p.m. All events are open to the general public.

Some children with tummy hurts have symptoms that alternate between diarrhea and constipation. Dr. Timothy Menz, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, Baystate Gastroenterology & Nutrition, will offer a discussion about irritable bowel syndrome including how overall diet affects IBS, as well as diagnosis and treatment options. This will be a virtual lecture.

The second lecture, "The Balancing Act," on April 10 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., will be held in person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., second entrance to the building, in Holyoke.

Participants can join neuro-physical therapists and occupational therapists from Baystate Rehabilitation Care, including Jaimes Andrades, NP, Baystate

Trauma Services, and Diana Chung-Edwards MSN, RN, Injury Prevention Nurse Coordinator, Trauma, for an interactive event on fall prevention. Each attendee will receive: discussion about individual risk factors with a physical therapist; instructions for specific exercises to improve balance; information about environmental safety and equipment with an occupational therapist that may help prevent falls; a fall-prevention checklist and prevention strategies; and information about the types of fall injuries. Wearing comfortable clothing is recommended. Space is limited.

Registration is required for each session at BaystateHealth.org/events. For additional information, call Sue Fontaine from Loyalty Programs & Consumer Events, at 413-794-5200 or email sue.fontaine@baystatehealth.org.

If individuals are interested in attending other events, join Baystate Health's free Loyalty Programs, Senior Class and Baystate Health Every Woman for updates on events and articles.

RAILERS from page 11

past Maier to open Worcester's lead to 4-1. Reading bounced back 1:06 later as Jake Smith outwaited Henrik Tikkanen and wrapped it into the open net to make it a 4-2 game for most of the third. With the net empty, Trevor Cosgrove found the puck in open ice thanks to Andrei Bakan-

ov chipping at it and sailed it into the empty net to make it 5-2 Worcester. Reading came back thirty seconds later with a goal from Tag Bertuzzi past the left arm of Henrik Tikkanen and cut it back down to a two-goal game. Cosgrove once again scored an empty netter, this time from 180 feet as Worcester skated away with a 6-3 win over Reading on Sunday afternoon.

Around the Region ◀

How to buy furniture online

Paula Fleming
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

The online home furniture industry revenue has grown to \$15.4 billion in the past five years. This increase likely reflects the home improvements many homeowners are making, parents shopping for desks for home school learning, and employees who have permanently switched to a work-from-home situation.

Convenience aside, making large purchases online should always be approached with care. The following tips will help you select quality furniture at a reasonable price and avoid a few common online shopping pitfalls.

Tips for purchasing furniture online

Only shop with reputable retailers. Research a retailer's page before deciding to do business with them. Reputable sellers provide information about their company and always have valid contact information. Look for company reviews online; for example, on BBB.org, shoppers can find out if an online retailer is BBB Accredited, read consumer complaints and reviews.

Understand the store's return and refund policy. Return shipping for heavy items, such as furniture, can get costly. Some retailers may have unique restric-

tions for delivery and returns because of the coronavirus pandemic. Before placing an order, read carefully or call the retailer directly to find out upfront if a retailer has a return policy, if refunds are available, how refunds are issued, what the return process is, who pays for return shipping, and whether or not a restocking fee is charged. This information will often help decide whether or not you will complete the order.

Get to know the delivery options. Typically, furniture retailers offer three kinds of shipping, and each one may have a different cost.

Front door delivery: the packaged product will be shipped to your front door and no further.

Inside delivery: the delivery person will take the packaged furniture into your home, sometimes into the room of your choice.

White glove delivery: the delivery person will take the packaged box to the room of your choice, unbox it and assemble it if necessary. They will also clean up any mess from the packaging and take it with them.

Ask before placing the order if these delivery options are available, as some retailers have changed to curbside or simply front door delivery service to avoid contact delivery.

Measure your space - will it fit through

the door? Be extra conscientious when measuring the space where the new furniture will go. A small mistake when taking measurements can mean the difference between the new sofa fitting comfortably in the living room or not fitting through the doorway and down the hall! Make sure to measure doorways, ceiling heights, and any hallway space (including banisters) the furniture must get through to reach its final destination.

Choose the color carefully. As they appear on a computer screen, furniture colors can be significantly different from how they look in real life. Look at furniture images on different devices to get a better feel for the color. Consumer reviews can be helpful, too, as many people will comment if the furniture is darker or lighter than it appears online.

Read several reviews. When finding the ideal piece or furniture, read as many consumer reviews as possible, keeping a critical eye out for comments about the quality of the furniture and the experience with the retailer. Use these for reference before making a final purchasing decision.

Ask questions right up until making a purchasing decision. Reputable furniture companies will happily answer any questions about a specific product until the button to purchase it is clicked. When in doubt, contact the company directly. For

example, maybe it's essential to know whether the feet of a couch unscrew so it will fit through a tight doorway. Many companies are also willing to send fabric swatches for a reasonable fee - a good idea if there is a specific color or texture preference to match in the room.

Do a price comparison. Some pieces of furniture are available from multiple retailers, so always compare prices before getting the best deal. Don't forget to factor in shipping fees and taxes when comparing prices.

For store financing, rent-to-own, and layaway plans, carefully read the fine print. Since furniture can get expensive, many retailers offer store financing, layaway plans, and rent-to-own options. If you are considering one option, carefully read the financing plan. How much interest is charged? How long does the payment plan last? How many payments over how many months or years will it last? Is there an fee to pay the balance in full? Get the answers to all of these questions before signing a finance agreement.

Inspect furniture upon delivery. Before signing any delivery paperwork, inspect the furniture. If it is damaged or missing pieces, you don't have to accept it. When a delivery is refused because of damage, you will no longer be responsible for payment.

Choosing a mortgage lender

Paula Fleming
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

The housing market is constantly changing. Whether it's competitive or slow, if you want to buy a home, you need to be prepared.

As a prospective buyer, you can make your offers on homes more competitive by getting pre-approved for financing from a mortgage lender before even bidding on a house. This lets the seller know you're a serious buyer and provides reassurance that the sale will close without issues.

Fortunately, shopping around, comparing prices, and negotiating deals can save you thousands of dollars on a mortgage. To get the best deal, compare all the costs, and understand how mortgages work.

If you are buying a home, refinancing your home, or taking out a home equity loan, follow these tips to help make your search for a mortgage lender a success.

How to shop for a mortgage lender

Know how much you can spend upfront. Before you ask for information from a lender, it's a good idea to know how much you can spend on a loan and the maximum monthly payment you can afford. This information will be crucial to your home search and negotiations, so re-

view your budget beforehand. Get familiar with interest rates, too. Depending on the economy and if mortgage loan interest rates are high or low, this may impact how much you can spend on a home.

Get to know your loan options. Loan options include loan terms, interest rates, and the loan type. The loan term refers to the length of the loan, which may be 15 or 30 years. Shorter loans usually have higher monthly payments with lower interest rates. Interest rate types may be fixed or adjustable. Fixed-rate loans are lower risk but carry higher interest rates. Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) have lower interest rates, but the rates can change over time. Loan types may be conventional or part of a government program. A trustworthy mortgage lender can help you understand your options and choose the best loan for you.

Understand the difference between a broker and a lender. According to ConsumerFinance.gov, a lender is a bank or other financial institution that loans money directly to you. A broker acts as a middleman, comparing loan options on your behalf. The Federal Trade Commission adds, "It might not always be clear if you're dealing with a lender or a broker, so if you're not sure, ask." You'll want to know who you're working with since brokers usually pay a service fee separate from the lender's fees. There are brokers

and lenders, so evaluate those differences and see what works best for you.

Get information from multiple lenders and brokers before making a decision. The FTC advises getting as much information from each lender as possible. Keep your options open since different lenders may offer different rates. Ask about interest rates, loan types, annual percentage rates, points, down payments, mortgage insurance, and all other fees. This will help you get a clear view of the actual cost of the mortgage.

Understand whether you should pay points. Your mortgage lender will likely give you the option of paying for discount points. Mortgage points are fees you pay a lender to reduce the interest rate on a mortgage. Typically, one discount point equals 1% of the mortgage amount and will reduce your interest rate by .25%. Depending on how long you plan to keep your home and your mortgage, this extra cost may or may not make sense. This calculator will help you figure that out.

Working with a broker? Make sure they find you the best deal. If you prefer to hire a broker to shop for loans for you, know that while brokers can access several lenders, they aren't obligated to find the best deal for you unless they sign a contract to act as your agent. Always ask questions and be sure you're comfortable with the loan you choose.

Be prepared to negotiate the best deal. Loan officers and brokers can keep some or all of the overages (the difference between the lowest available price and any higher price you agree to) of a loan as extra compensation. This means you can negotiate a price lower than what they initially offered. The best way to negotiate is to have the broker or lender give you a written list of all the costs and fees of the loan. Then, ask if they will reduce or waive completely one or more of the fees. You can also show them a competitor's offer to see if they will give you a better deal.

Watch out for scams. Shopping around for a mortgage lender will help you get a general idea of how much a loan costs, which will help you spot and avoid any offers that seem too good to be true. Be wary of unsolicited calls and emails offering you great rates on a mortgage or «no-cost» loans. Never give in to high-pressure sales tactics. ConsumerFinance.gov warns about phishing scams where con artists attempt to divert your closing costs and down payment by suggesting you wire the money into a fraudulent account right before your loan closes. Never wire money until you verify the closing instructions in person with your trusted loan representatives.

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TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department **(413) 566-8842**, or email **highway@hampdenma.gov** for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

HELP WANTED

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Administrator. Responsibilities include professional, administrative, supervisory, and technical work. See job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cover letter to **Selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Open until filled.

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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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Public Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Site Plan Review filed by Karyna Rondeau to establish a Home Occupation II for a cottage kitchen at 20 Meadow Lane Assessor's Map 52 Parcel 127, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw 255-22 (Home Occupations); Article XII (site plan review); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be conducted virtually on Zoom. Persons may join as follows:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898455211?pwd=dkZwMDJweUZRdCtHR3kyTU5xbVl5QT09>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 931 3860 **Webinar ID:** 848 9845 5211 **Passcode:** 164095

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' - 'Site Plan Review' under section 'Meadow Lane (20) - Home Cottage Kitchen'

or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review>. 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 03/22, 03/29/2024

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 SSI. 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

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.

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

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

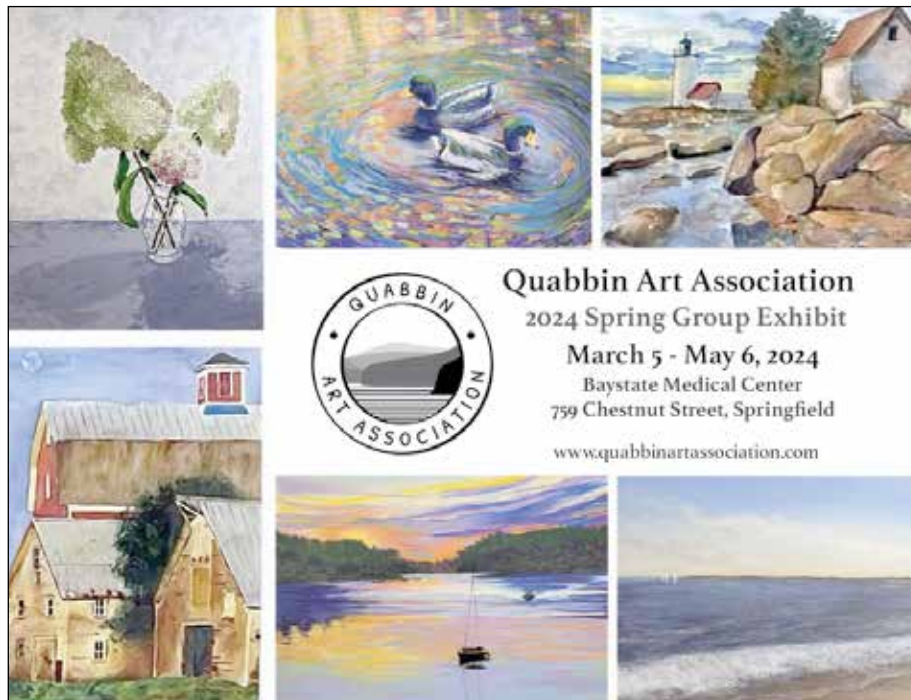
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

QAA's 2024 Spring Group Exhibit open through May 6

SPRINGFIELD – The Quabbin Art Association of Belchertown opened their 2024 Spring Group Exhibit at the Baystate Medical Center – Daly Building, 759 Chestnut St.

The show features the works of more than a dozen members including watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, and photography. The exhibit is available for viewing during regular business hours.

Many pieces are for sale directly from the artists.



Quabbin Art Association
2024 Spring Group Exhibit
March 5 - May 6, 2024
Baystate Medical Center
759 Chestnut Street, Springfield
www.quabbinartassociation.com

Submitted Photo

The Quabbin Art Association will display the 2024 Spring Group Exhibit at Baystate Medical Center – Daly Building, 759 Chestnut St., Springfield through May 6.

Quilt show on April 7

MONSON— Individuals who believe they have an antique quilt can come to the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road, when it opens for the season on Sunday, April 7, and learn more about it.

Pamela Weeks, researcher, author, and curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, will be presenting her program "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell". Quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as tales of service and tradition. Weeks weaves world history, women's history, and wonderful stories into her presentation.

Attendees are invited to bring one quilt for identification and/or story sharing. Weeks will have copies of her books for sale.

This program starts at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge though donations are welcome. The museum is open for viewing of new displays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. And the Friends of Keep Homestead Museum meeting will take place after the Open House.

Upcoming CFCE Preschool Programs at the Granby library



GRANBY – CFCE Preschool Playgroups are held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St.

Drop in and join this free playgroup, where you and your child (birth to 5 years old) can enjoy playtime, an activity and story circle time with Marti.

There is no Playgroup when Granby schools are closed, including school vacation weeks. Saturday Playgroup is held once per month.

On April 12 at 11 a.m. join the drop-in Family Friday program during The Week of the Young Child. Meet friendly Granby Firefighters and create your own family fire safety plan with their help.

Climb on the firetruck too (if the truck is available).

A Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness Event with the CFCE will be held on April 24 from 2:30-4 p.m. There will be information tables and activities (2:30 p.m.) that will help prepare your children for preschool and kindergarten. Followed by lively songs with Liam Hurley (3-3:45 p.m.) No registration required.

Playgroups are made possible with funding from a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant from the MA Department of Early Education and Care, administered by the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Button show April 13

THREE RIVERS— Massachusetts State Button Society spring meeting will be hosted by the Monson Button Club on Saturday, April 13, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There will be no button sales during the break from noon to 1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and auction will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting club; bring your own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

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Saturday, April 6th

11:00 AM

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