

TOWN Reminder

FREE
May 10, 2024
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

New member appointed at joint meeting

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

and Business Operations for the School Committee and Town Administrator Lisa Wong.

SOUTH HADLEY – The Selectboard and School Committee met together in a joint meeting over Zoom last week to discuss

The April 30 meeting included Chair Eric Friesner from the School Committee along with Vice-Chair Danielle Cooke, and members Daniel View and Jack Witkowski. Interim Superintendent Mark McLaughlin was also present.

From the Selectboard, Chair Andrea Miles, Clerk Nicole Casolari, and member Jeff Cyr. Also in attendance were Jennifer Voyik, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Please see **MEMBER**, page 3

New student representative welcomed

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The School Committee listened to the concerns of community members, and welcomed a new student representative to the

board.

The May 2 meeting was led by Chair Eric Friesner, and he was joined by members Dan View, Jackson Mato and Jack Witowski. Interim Superintendent Mark McLaughlin and Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Voyik were also in attendance.

Student Representative Tobias Smith was present, as well as the new Representative Peyton Leclair.

New student representative

Smith introduced to the board Leclair, who will be taking over as student representative.

"I can't be more happy with the decision that was made," Smith said.

On May 10 before prom, there will be a drunk driving awareness activity. The Best Buddies

Games on April 26 had over a hundred students playing.

Seniors have announced their decisions for after graduation, whether it's to go into higher education, the work force, the military, or someplace else.

Principal Liz Woods wrote a special letter thanking Tobias for his work as a representative, as well as a certificate thanking him for his service.

Public comments

Rebecca Mello, Danielle Barone and Robert Williams, all parents of young children, came to share their concerns about addressing bullying, communication with parents and policies to support students.

SHEA Report

Amy Foley came on to provide a request from South Hadley Education Association to request a change to the budget in order to open up a position for a grant writer.

Please see **STUDENT**, page 3



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► South Hadley

COA says goodbye to long time personnel

By Samuel Gelinas
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – COA employees Ann Andras and Lisa Napiorkowski anticipate the last days of their careers this week. To recognize their work, a small reception will take place with cake to commemorate their careers on Wednesday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the South Hadley Council on Aging (COA).

Napiorkowski has worked as Assistant Director of the senior center since 2008. She calls the day she was accepted for the position as a, “lucky day,” and that she sees now as the perfect time to go. “I have a lot of good memories of a lot of good things” she shared, listing her work as assistant director among those relivable memories.

Before coming to the COA in 2008, Napiorkowski worked in Town Hall right out of college. “I started at Town Hall as clerk in 1988 in the Planning Department under the first Town Planner they hired. I got to mold that position,” she reminisced about her first job.

After eleven years with this position, she received a position as administrative secretary for the selectboard in 1999. She would be there for nine years until her time at the Senior Center commenced in 2008.

Andras also has a long history with the center, working her first position there beginning in 1999 as activity coordinator, and would later be promoted to assistant director. From the years of 2008 through 2013 she took a hiatus to work as Director of the Granby Senior Center.

She would then return to



Ann Andras (left) alongside Lisa Napiorkowski (right) in their favorite nook of the senior center, which is the fireplace.

South Hadley to accept her dream position, the one she is now retiring from. That is, the job of Social Services Coordinator.

“That’s what I wanted all along...this was my niche, this was my passion you could call it,” she shared as she communicated her enthusiasm for the position.

Social work has been the field of her affection. At forty she returned to school. “I majored in social work in school...at the Elms. I did accounting and tax prep for my husband’s business for many years...It worked out good,” she stated, summarizing her journey to retirement day.

Lisa and Anne, after being asked about their retirement plans, began listing and interjecting their ambitions, as if they were assembling new lyrics for Julie Andrews’s classic song, “Favorite things”

“I’m gonna have an extra cup of coffee in the morning.” “Cocktails in the evening.” “Lunch with friends.” “Putting off chores.” “The pleasure of doing what you want to without squeezing it in,” they declared, already fantasizing the potential of the coming years of their lives.

Neither Napiorkowski nor Andras is afraid of retirement, but have plans, goals, and ambitions to use their time well.

Andras shared that she had never been the person to count down the days to retirement, but that after years of people telling her, ‘you’ll know when the time comes.’

She admits that for her, that time is now.

“You have to really want it,” she said in reference to retirement. “You gotta prepare the best you can for it. For most people it’s a huge adjustment being fixed income.”

“Don’t convince yourself you’re too old to do things... Stay busy; do the things you like; don’t do the things you don’t have to do–You don’t have to! There’s no one making you wake up at five in the morning, or saying, ‘it’s eight o’clock.’”

She continued by saying that even the chores sound more fun in the context of retiring, and warns against the use of TV as a tool to pass the time.

“The thought of some mundane chore seems nice. I’m not a television person either. A lot of people who retire, all they do is watch TV...Get out there. Do something. Get your fitness up. Spend time in nature. It’s the best medicine in the world, I feel.”

“You’re only bored if you allow yourself to go that way”

Napiorkowski looks forward to having the time to organize her house, with the intention to downsize sometime in the future. Preferably downsize by the beach, she says.

“I have a lot of organizing at my house that I haven’t been able to do, and I really want to focus on it.” She joked about the allure of a beachside estate: “That’s a dream. Ya never know.”

Both also look forward to the opportunity of giving more time and fuller attention to family and friends.

“Life is too short,” said Napiorkowski, as Andras gave her reflections on important things to consider before retiring. Among these things is timing while taking health into consideration as a valuable asset.

“How do you want to leave something? When your health is already failing? When you’ve already worked too long?” asked

Andras rhetorically. Both expressed thanks that they are able to make this decision before their health is failing, and before they were actually able to enjoy this time of their lives.

“I’ve had many people say: You’re going to love retirement; others say you’re going to regret it. They say I’ll enjoy it for a month then look for something to do.” said Andras. In response to these she replies: “I can always find something to do.”

“I have never been bored in my life. I’ve got some goals in mind. I’ve got some volunteer things I want to do, and one of them is with the food pantry here in town,” she shared.

Some other activities she plans on getting her hands into, include, “some traveling. Get back into some fitness. Some walking and bike riding. You know, those kinds of fun things you put on the back burner when you only have the weekends.”

Both talked about the amazing character which has been displayed by colleagues in the COA, both past and present. Napiorkowski referred to Andras as a mentor of hers, and she praised the amazing work environment the center has been able to maintain.

Both praised the willingness and dedication of their coworkers to serve the senior community. To exemplify this point, Andras cited an event last week where the whole staff played a game of volleyball with members.

“It’s a staff that is willing to say let’s put our stuff down and go out there for an hour,” shared Andras.

Both also thanked the continued support of the Town of South Hadley, especially Lisa Wong and Chuck Romboletti, and said that the support of the Town makes it easier for them to perform their jobs.

Both made it clear that they are not disappearing, and assured members that if they are needed, both Napiorkowski and Andras will be available. “We’re around for [members] if they need us... they know they can reach out to us if they need us. We are accessible,” she stated.


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South Hadley man killed in car crash

SOUTH HADLEY— A man was killed Sunday morning when his car went off the roadway on Route 91 southbound in Hatfield, crashing down an embankment. Police were notified by a passing trucker who spotted the car at the woods line off the highway sometime around 11:30 a.m. The victim in the crash has been identified as Daniel Ducharme, 31, of South Hadley.

The crash remains under investigation by State Police Detective Unit attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the State Police Crime Scene Services Section, the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

New music director named

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley Chorale is pleased to announce the appointment of Anita Anderson Cooper as its Music Director/Conductor. She was the Chorale's interim conductor for the 2023 - 2024 season.



Anita Anderson Cooper

Anderson Cooper works as a professional musician, conductor, composer, and teacher. She is a frequent soloist and guest conductor both locally and throughout the East Coast. Anderson Cooper is a member of the faculty of the Paul Baird Middle School in Ludlow where she conducts 3 choirs, teaches courses in General Music, Drama, Piano, and Ukulele/Guitar. Cooper directs, produc-

es, and accompanies the annual Talent Show and leads the Singer/Songwriting Club. She also directs the Smith College Handbell Choir.

Anderson Cooper received degrees from Westminster College, Boston University, and Delta State University. She has taught classes at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City and at Smith College. Anderson Cooper has premiered many new vocal compositions including Willis Bridgegam's Robert Frost cycle and seven Emily Dickinson settings performed for the re-dedication of the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst.

Anderson Cooper many choral ensembles have won

MICCA Gold Medals and her Amherst

Chorale and Hurricane Singers won the WGBY television series Together in Song for four years straight. WGBY produced an Emmy nominated special We Sang to the Top about her work with the ensemble.

Anderson Cooper lives in Amherst, with photographer, David Hillerby, her son, Patrik, and their dog, Joey.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of 60 singers from 17 communities. Rehearsals for its 40th season will begin in October and will continue through to the major concert in March, 2025. The program will be announced soon. For more information, about the South Hadley Chorale, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

English Spring tea to be held May 11

The First Congregational Church of South Hadley will hold an English Spring Tea on May 11, located at 1 Church St., on the common. Lunch will be provided for adults and children, plants and homemade gifts available to purchase. The Tea is a fundraiser and benefit for Alianza, providing support for mothers and children in crisis. Adult tickets at \$20 and children \$10 under the age of 10. Call the church office for tickets, 413.532.2263, Tuesday through Thursdays, 10 to 3 p.m.



STUDENT from page 1

"We firmly believe that the money a grant writer could generate would help alleviate some of the shortfalls in the budget due to the decreased funding from the state," Foley explained.

Morale at Mosier was addressed by Foley, and she appealed to the committee for teachers to be given better training and support in order to handle concerns within the school.

Superintendent's report

McLaughlin took some time

to address some of the things that were said in the SHEA update and during the public comments to answer any questions the individuals had.

Welcoming new members

Jack Witowski and Jackson Mato introduced themselves to the committee as new members, and talked about how excited they were to begin working together.

Curriculum and programming updates

McLaughlin gave a report on the program and curriculum

updates, which included structure and formatting of report cards, new talks and curriculums to support social and emotional learning, and even more.

"I would also say that as relates to the SEL Curriculum that has been brought up, we have a social and emotional mental health committee led by Courtney Mackey," McLaughlin said.

District policies

Voyik led the board in discussing the various changes to policies, and how to vote on them.

Firehouse Museum open every fourth Sunday

SOUTH HADLEY -- The Firehouse Museum is open to the public on the fourth Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

There is no charge to visit this museum and it is appropriate for all ages. Knowledgeable docents are always ready to answer questions.

The museum is not handicapped accessible.

The exhibits, on two floors, cover a broad range of South Hadley's history, including the historic navigable canal, which is the oldest in the country, industries and agriculture, military history and everyday life.

The South Hadley Historical Society always welcomes donations of any memorabilia related to South Hadley history.

MEMBER from page 1

School Committee appointment

The Selectboard and School Committee worked together to interview and hear from a candidate for joining the School Committee.

Dr. Jackson Matos, a former School Committee member on a social justice platform, came to the board with an application to join the School Committee once more.

"I love when the schools are producing something, whether sports or arts, and how the community comes to support that," Matos said.

"I know that representation matters, and as a person of color and member of the queer community, I wanted to bring that

representation, and my expertise, to the school committee."

Both the Selectboard and School Committee voted to accept and approve of Matos' application, and welcomed them as a new member.

MESB Committee appointment

The Selectboard and School Committee then held a time to interview many different applicants for positions on the upcoming committee for the Mosier Elementary School Building.

The first applicant, Ryan Moore, came forward with construction and architecture experience, and grew up in South Hadley and has 3 and 7-year-old boys in the school district, and shared his desire to see his children in the new school.

"We love the community," Rudi Hall, the next applicant said. "Education is extremely important to us, and the infrastructure is also important to use. We really want to be a part of that change."

Art Procter, who has a child in the Mosier school expressed his desire to join the committee in order to help fix and change the state of the gym, making it so that those who attend their children's sporting events have room to sit.

Brian Kennedy, a licensed mechanical engineer, has two kids in the school system. "I recognize a need for a change, and I see these committees do as well."

Diane Mulvaney came forward with an interest in joining the committee and shared her

work in the town as chair on the Planning Board, and shared her desire to see the spaces used to the fullest.

Teresa Winter, a parent, came forward with a desire to ensure that spaces and technology are included, so that students and teachers can thrive to the fullest. She also expressed a desire for safety for the students and teachers.

Erica Faginski, another parent, came forward to share her desire to join the committee.

Elizabeth Wood, the current principal at South Hadley High School for the past five years said, "I think this is a really great opportunity to align the schools together."

Brook Beaulieu, who works in the portable section of Mosier School, saying, "Honestly, I

would say function over fashion."

The boards moved to then consider and vote for all those who applied, and they filled two staff members, two parent members, and three candidates for the construction and architecture experience members.

The boards moved to approve of and appoint both Brook Beaulieu and Elizabeth Wood for the staff positions, and for parent positions, appointed Teresa Winter and Brian Kennedy.

The boards then moved and appointed Diane Mulvaney, Ryan Moore, and Rudi Hall for seats as construction and architecture experience seats.

These positions begin at the end of April 30, 2024, and will end at the completion of the project.

SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:45 p.m.

TO BE HELD AT

PVPA - PIONEER VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS
15 MULLIGAN DR., SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075

The meeting will be held inside the auditorium at the PVPA

SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

TO BE HELD AT

PVPA - PIONEER VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS
15 MULLIGAN DR., SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075

The meeting will be held inside the auditorium at the PVPA

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Pointers for happy plants

I read somewhere that the new frost free date for our area is May 8.

In discussing this finding with a fellow gardener, she said, "I still wait until Memorial Day. It just seems way too early to put peppers or tomatoes into the garden." I wait too.

It is more than just the frost free date, it's also about how sufficiently the soil has warmed up. With temps hovering in the mid 40's today, I can't imagine our tropical loving plants would be very happy dealing with that.

Besides choosing an appropriate planting date, there are a few other pointers at this stage of the game will help to get your garden off to a good start.

Whether you purchase plants at a local garden center or grow your own on windowsills or under lights, it is important that they be hardened off before being set into the ground.

Some nurseries take care of this for you by removing them from the greenhouse and placing them on benches outdoors where they get accustomed to wind, rain, fluctuating temperatures, and hot sun. If the plants you purchased came from inside the greenhouse hardening them off at home is relatively easy.

Introduce seedlings to the outdoors gradually, by placing them in a protected location, safe from whipping winds and scalding sun, for a small amount of time each day. Water frequently but withhold any fertilizer.

Over the course of a week to 10 days the amount of time spent outdoors should increase until plants have spent a full day outside. Once they have, they can be considered "tough enough" to be planted in the ground.

Transplanting is best done on a cloudy, drizzly day. Early evening is another option should nice days persist.

Under these circumstances roots will be allowed some recovery time before having sustain the plant in the sun and wind. Seedlings should be watered well prior to transplanting.

On occasion I have even kept a bucket of water with me in the garden in which I submerge six packs of plants for a few seconds to moisten them thoroughly before planting in dry soil.

The planting hole should be dug slightly larger than the container in which the plant was growing. Depending on the type of plant, compost and fertilizers can be added to the hole and mixed with the surrounding soil to insure adequate fertility.

Plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in their containers, no deeper. One exception to this rule is tomatoes, whose stems sprout roots!

For less leggy tomatoes, plant them deeply, even in trenches with only a few sets of leaves above ground.

Examine the root ball of seedlings carefully. If the roots are tightly woven together, they may need to be "butterflied," or gently pulled apart to encourage future rooting in new soil.

After planting, firm soil around roots, and water well. If water drains away from the seedling make a basin of soil a few inches from the plant's stem to keep water where it is needed.

If sunny days and warm temperatures are expected soon after transplanting it is a good idea to shade plants for a few days with overturned pots, tree branches, or other devices. Again, less transplant shock means less time spent on recovery, and more time spent on making fruits and flowers!

Continue to water well and deeply for the first week or two. Deep watering will encourage deep rooting, and deep roots will best withstand summer droughts.

Taking good care of your plants in the early stages will certainly insure a summer of productivity.

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.

Opinion



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Widower's retirement stymied by Social Security's WEP and GPO rules

Dear Rusty:

My wife passed away four years ago. I want to retire so called SSA and was told I can collect my own SS at 62, reduced by Windfall Elimination Provision.

My wife's SS was greater than mine, but they said I do not qualify for hers at age 60 because of the Government Pension Offset. This seems odd that I get zero for her, however I can collect mine at the two thirds reduction at 62. Is this true? This zero dollar amount places my retirement on hold for now. I was counting on her SS.

Signed: Discouraged Widower

Dear Discouraged:

The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are two of the most confusing and unpopular of Social Security's myriad rules. From the way you describe your conversation with the Social Security Administration, it doesn't appear to have concluded with you fully understanding how these provisions work, so allow me to elaborate.

WEP and GPO affect anyone who has a retirement pension from a federal, state or local government agency which did not participate in Social Security, meaning neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security based on the employee's earnings. Obviously, you have such a pension, which means that WEP will reduce any Social Security retirement benefit you have earned from other employment where SS payroll taxes were withheld and the GPO will affect any survivor benefit you are entitled to.

WEP affects only the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere; WEP does not affect any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to from your wife. Rather, it is the GPO, which affects your survivor benefit, again because of your state retirement, called a "non-covered pension" - one earned without contributing to Social Security.

The GPO will reduce any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to by 2/3rds of the amount of your "non-covered" state pension. Depending on the size of your state pension, that reduction may entirely eliminate your surviving spouse benefit from your wife.

Under normal SS rules, a surviving spouse does not become eligible for survivor benefits until they reach age 60 (age 50 if disabled).

Normally, a surviving spouse benefit claimed at age 60 is reduced by 28.5% and it is the GPO that will affect your survivor benefit whenever you claim it. However, even without GPO, your age 60 survivor benefit amount would be only 71.5% of the amount your wife was receiving or entitled to receive at her death.

If you are already collecting your non-covered state pension when you claim your SS survivor benefit from your wife, then that reduced age 60 survivor benefit would be offset by 2/3rds of the amount of your state pension. And that, according to what Social Security told you, is what eliminated your age 60 eligibility for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife.

If you don't claim it at 60 your survivor benefit will continue to grow until you reach your Full Retirement Age of 67, but if 2/3rds of your state pension is more than 100% of your SS survivor benefit, you still won't get any surviving spouse benefit from your wife's record.

A further consequence of your non-covered state pension is that the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere will be reduced by WEP. WEP will reduce, but cannot eliminate, your Social Security retirement benefit.

The WEP formula is complex but, generally, your WEP-based Social Security retirement benefit will likely be roughly half of what you would get if you did not have a state "non-covered pension." You could claim your WEP-reduced SS retirement benefit as early as age 62 or, if financially feasible, delay longer to get a somewhat higher, but still reduced amount.

Just For Your Information, your state employer had an obligation to fully inform you of the consequences of not contributing to Social Security while earning your state pension. It appears as though they may not have fulfilled that obligation.

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.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

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Senior volunteers needed

SOUTH HADLEY — The Age Friendly South Hadley Committee and the South Hadley Public Schools are seeking senior volunteers for an inter-generational project to bring seniors and students together for activities this spring. The volunteers will be invited to visit the schools for conversations and participate in activities.

Plains and Mosier Elementary Schools: Volunteers would visit during mid-day recesses to have discussions or play table games with students.

Michael E Smith Middle School: Volunteers would visit classrooms in the morning during the 25 minute community time and participate in meaningful conversations with students.

South Hadley High School: Volunteers would visit on Career Day to share career or work experiences.

Training will be provided and scheduling arranged. A CORI background check will be required. For more information and to apply, please reach out to: Carol Constant, Age and Dementia Friendly South Hadley cconstant@gmail.com or Courtney Mackey, District Mental Health Coordinator, SH Public Schools, cmmackey@shschools.com.



Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

SOUTH HADLEY—Ray Guillemette Jr brought his King (Ray of Elvis) and Kountry (Country music) to Buttery Brook South Hadley on Friday. This was his second time celebrating Cinco de Mayo at the park. Guests enjoyed chips & salsa and margaritas for purchase. This coincided with their Dinko de Mayo pickleball tournament.

Submitted Photo

Ray Guillemette Jr (King & Kountry) sings to Tessa Berard of South Hadley at the Cinco de Mayo event at Buttery Brook in South Hadley Friday night.

Grand prize winner announced

HADLEY—Hadley Police Lt. Jesse Green is the Grand Prize winner of the GAF Lifetime Roofing System in the AQ Cares Roof Giveaway, hosted by Adam Quenneville Roofing & Siding for first responders. The roof will be installed on May 25.

Two other winners include Westfield Police Officer Ryan Wilson, who won a Roof Maxx prize; and Advein Kiaresh, a public safety officer at Bay Path University and a First Responder at STCC, who won a Roof Shampoo.

This was the third year in a row that Adam Quenneville, owner and president of Adam Quenneville Roofing & Siding, has held this contest to show his appreciation for first responders. There were some 300 entries.

Colorful Crafternoon with MacDuffie students

GRANBY – Join MacDuffie’s Key Club students at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St. on Friday, May 17 at 3 p.m.

Make some colorful crafts; a suncatcher and a bottlecap flower with student volunteers. This is a drop-in program for children ages 5 and up.

Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information and to pre-register for programs. All library programs are free of charge and open to the public.

Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate 2024

The next chapter of the Gaylord Memorial Library

SOUTH HADLEY – Join the Gaylord Memorial Trustees

on Saturday June 8, 2024 from 5 -7:30 p.m. to celebrate the first 120 years of the library and learn about the next chapter.

Enjoy small treats, great conversation, music, and more under the tent at 47 College St., South Hadley, MA.

Tickets: \$ 35 a person. Sponsorships available.

Proceeds from the event will be put toward an elevator for the building.

For more information contact: Marie Rohan: 413-533-7261

NOTICE

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Bridal GUIDE

Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024:

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Applications now open

SOUTH HADLEY— Due to a vacancy on the South Hadley Municipal Light Board, the elected body has one vacancy that needs filling.

The Town of South Hadley is proceeding to address this vacancy immediately. This process is consistent and within MGL Chapter 41, Subsections 10, 11 and other applicable policies or regulations.

All parties interested in applying for the position are asked to submit a letter of interest to Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher via email at kmaher@south-hadley.ma.gov or through the mail to: Selectboard Office, 116 Main St., South Hadley, MA, 01075. Applicants may submit a resume, but it is not required.

Letters of interest and any additional documents must be received by 4:30 p.m. on May 19. Once received by Selectboard administration, a complete packet for each candi-

date's submission will be made publicly available.

The chairs of the Municipal Light Board and Selectboard will decide on a suitable date to have a joint meeting of remaining Municipal Light Board members and members of the Selectboard to conduct interviews. Board members will make an appointment at the public meeting scheduled for the interviews or a subsequent public joint meeting.

Applicants will not be required to be interviewed if they choose not to be, but still may be considered. The joint committee, by way of nomination and subsequent vote to appoint, will fill the vacancy on the South Hadley Municipal Light Board for a term from the date of appointment to the next annual town election. There will be a position on the annual town election ballot to fill the remaining term of this specific Municipal Light Board vacant position.

Vendors wanted for Relay for Life craft/vendor fair in June

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.

Seeking local host families

SOUTH HADLEY— ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, in cooperation with the community high school, is looking for local families to host high school exchange students aged 15 to 18 from diverse countries such as Australia, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Japan, and more.

ASSE Exchange Students, are carefully selected based on their academic achievements and personalities. Host families have the opportunity to choose a student from diverse backgrounds, countries, and interests. These students arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance coverage.

Whether a young family, retired, a single parent, or empty nesters, hosting a foreign exchange student presents an extraordinary chance to expand a family's cultural horizons without ever leaving the comfort of the home.

To become an ASSE Host Family and to find out how to become involved with ASSE in the local community, please contact the ASSE Eastern Regional Office at 1-800-677-2773 or visit www.host.asse.com to initiate your host family application. The students are excited to learn about their American host families, so why wait? Start the journey of welcoming a new son or daughter today.

SHHS band reunion set for Aug.

SOUTH HADLEY – Anyone who was a member of the South Hadley Marching 100 during Roger Farnworth's tenure from 1965 to 1980 is invited to a three-day celebration of the band and its accomplishments

On Aug.16 there will be a casual gathering, with a place and time to be determined. On Aug.17, there will be a meet and greet event, with the place and time to be determined. There will be donuts, coffee and a photo opportunity.

On Aug. 17, the main event will be held at 5 p.m., at The Elks Lodge in Holyoke.

On Aug. 18, at 9:30 a.m., there will be a Breakfast at the Boathouse event.

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

Jazz concert to support Music & Arts South Hadley, Center Church

SOUTH HADLEY – Music at the Center and Jazz Productions present a concert event on Saturday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Center Church, 1 Church St.

A five-member band of New Your City-based jazz artists will present an evening of the music of late composer Johnny Anz. The concert is produced by the composer's son and South Hadley resident, John Anz.

The band features leader Benny Benack III on trumpet and vocals, Miki Yamanaka on piano, Alex Claffy on bass, Joe Peri on drums, and special guest vocalist Anaïs Reno.

Advance ticket sales are \$25 and VIP packages are \$95 for this performance. Tickets are available on Eventbrite through June 13. General admission will also be available at the doors the night of the event for \$30.

Any net proceeds from the performance will be donated to Music & Arts South Hadley and the Center Church outreach team.

Critical and generous in-kind support has been provided by Music & Arts South Hadley, PIP Marketing, Signs & Print of East Longmeadow, the Residence Inn in Chicopee, SHCTV 15 and the Yarde Tavern in South Hadley.

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Special events at Gaylord Memorial Library

SOUTH HADLEY— The Gaylord Memorial Library, 47 College St., will be hosting some special events in May.

It's time for delicate seedlings to face the warm world. On Friday, May 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Gaylord Memorial Library there will be a talk about transplanting and how

to prepare indoor seedlings for outdoor life. The workshop will be with Brain Schrauf. Please bring extra seedlings and swap with the other gardeners for more variety.

Come learn to take better smart phone pictures with Peter Glass on Thursday, May 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Gaylord Memorial

Library. This class is for those interested in producing High-Quality images with their smartphone cameras. That means learning and understanding the camera controls as well as when and how to use them. To register at gaylordlibrary.org.

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Program highlights for the month of May 2024

Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Celebration. Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm. The EVENT IS FREE! Join us as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the month of May with refreshments and entertainment by "Dear Ella". Sponsored by donations to our Activity Account and the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

May Supper Club: Food is the Language of Love. Monday, May 20th 2-4 p.m. prep and lesson. Tuesday, May 21st 2-4 p.m. – Final Fire. Make your own foods to light up your love life. The menu includes assorted appetizers, stuffed croissants and French macarons for dessert. Open to those who have completed the Kitchen Safety Orientation. Register with Chef Magge at: maggiev06021@gmail.com

South Hadley Public Library at the COA. Thursday, May 23rd 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Staff from the SHPL will have information about the latest library news, programs, and services.

Memorial Day Breakfast – Thursday, May 23rd 8:30 a.m. – PLEASE REGISTER. The event will include a delicious breakfast prepared by the SHHS Culinary Dept, speakers and Military remembrances. This event is open to all Veterans and one guest. Sponsored by the Veterans Services and the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors

Water Spider's Wisdom: Cherokee Women's Textile Diplomacy. Tuesday, May 28th 5:00 p.m. Patricia Dawson, Assistant Professor of History at Mt. Holyoke College, will explore the history of Cherokee textiles and celebrate Cherokee women's innovation, power, and creativity. Thank you to the Travel Club for sponsor this program.



Submitted photos by Kara Walsh-Vey

Make way for GOSLINGS

These geese and their newly hatched goslings were recently photographed at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke.



CAMPUS Notes

Resident inducted into honor society

EASTON—Paige Marjanski, a member of Stonehill College's Class of 2025 from South Hadley, was recently inducted into Lambda Epsilon Sigma, the institution's academic honor society. The organization recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who have demonstrated an excitement for both learning and sharing their knowledge.



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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Karli Carmody hustles down the line.



Catcher Ara Powers makes a great catch on a foul ball.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 9.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jordyn Placzek fires a pitch home.



Ryley McMahon picks up a bunt and throws to first.

Softball gets win in extra innings

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Tuesday afternoon, Isabella Schaefer not only pitched nine shut-out innings, but she also got the game-winning hit as South Hadley

defeated Easthampton 1-0 in nine innings. Her hit scored her battery mate, Ara Powers in the bottom of the ninth. The Tigers are now 11-3 on the season.

Rams win three straight

GRANBY – The road was kind of Granby softball last week as the Rams took three straight, beating Palmer, Southwick, and Ware in consecutive games, all away from Granby High School. The Rams scored a combined 76 runs in this three games, a 21-7 win over Palmer, a 30-10 triumph over Southwick, and a 25-13 win over Ware. The Rams are 7-5 on the season and face Hopkins Academy on May 9 at 4 p.m.

Late runs lift Tigers to win

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley, Southwick, and Ware baseball teams finished the 2023 regular season in a three-way tie for first place in the Suburban Central league standings.

Just when it looked like South Hadley would fall two games behind first place Ware in this year's league standings, the Tigers managed to keep their league title hopes alive. They scored three runs in the bottom

of the sixth inning leading to an exciting 6-5 come-from-behind victory over the Monson Mustangs at Thomas B. Landers Baseball Diamond, last Tuesday afternoon.

"We're coming off a very big win against Southwick the other night and we were a little bit flat in today's game," said longtime South Hadley head coach Matt Foley. "I'm very proud of the way the kids kept plugging away against an up-and-coming Monson team. We only beat them, 1-0, the first time that we faced them."

South Hadley (8-2, 6-1) won their eighth consecutive game since a 5-2 home loss to Wahconah Regional and a 1-0 loss at Ware in the first two games of the regular season.

"This is a big league win because Ware hasn't lost a league game yet," Foley added. "We're really looking forward to playing them again in a couple of weeks."

The Tigers are scheduled to host the Ware Indians on May 15.

The Mustangs, who were hoping to spoil the Tigers league title dreams, had a 4-6 overall record and a 2-3 league mark fol-

lowing the one run road loss.

Despite losing another close game to South Hadley, Monson varsity coach Curtis Orlik was pleased with his team's overall performance in the road game.

"It stinks losing another close game to South Hadley, but I thought we played very well today," he said. "This was one of the better games that we've played so far this season. We hit the ball well against a very good pitching staff. If we would've been able to hang on, this would've been a huge win for us."

Monson did close out last week's action with a pair of victories against Granby (8-7) and SCIS (10-0), which put them to the .500 mark for the first time this spring.

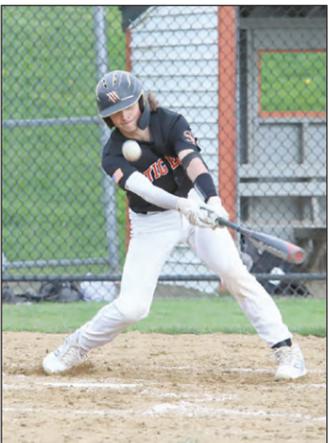
The Mustangs were trailing the Tigers, 3-2, entering the top of the sixth inning.

With one-out in the frame, sophomore shortstop Jake Beaupre and sophomore center-fielder Ben Pignone drew back-to-back walks against South Hadley senior relief pitcher Burke Belsky, who's a lefty.

Then sophomore catcher



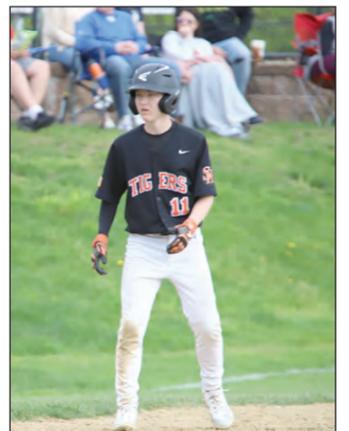
Justin Moskal pitches for the Tigers.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Matt Drobiak fouls off a pitch.



Griffin Soderbaum picks up a bounding ground ball.



Ryan Netkovick leads off third base.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 9

Rams win three straight



Kaitlyn Curran fields a throw to second and attempts to tag a runner out.



Cassie Flaherty fields a ground ball.



Meredith Bartosz looks to make a tag.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

T-Birds front office members wins award

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds earned their second-ever Howdy Award recognition on Monday night during the 27th annual event inside the MassMutual Center. T-Birds Manager of Brand Development and Merchandise, Drew Supenor, earned the Howdy in the "Attractions" category, one of 10 local hospitality workers spotlighted on Monday.

The Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau presents the Howdy Awards annually to recognize the outstanding service hospitality industry employees provide. Supenor's award victory marks the second time the Thunderbirds organization has taken home a Howdy. Team mascot "Boomer" captured the same honor in 2018.

"We want to thank the GSCVB for recognizing Drew and Lauren Blanchard from our

staff as finalists for their category," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "As someone who has been with our franchise since our first day in 2016, Drew has embodied what it means to be a service champion to his customers. On top of that award-winning trait, he has been instrumental in creating some of the best merchandise lines of any team in the American Hockey League, and we could not be prouder to have him represent our organization for this much-deserved honor."

During the T-Birds' immensely successful 2023-24 season, the box office records also translated into the brand and merchandise space. Supenor's team was instrumental in generating a 10% increase in online and in-arena sales compared to the prior season. The store's full rebrand on specialty nights led to big crowds looking to stock up

on T-Birds gear, including the single-game record for merchandise sales on the club's annual Ice-O-Topes Night this past February.

Since their inception in 2016, the Thunderbirds' merchandise sales have grown in each of the team's first seven seasons of play. Total merchandise sales for the Springfield AHL franchise have grown 6x from the final year of the Falcons organization in 2015-16 to today.

"Merchandise plays a vital role in representing your brand in the area and is not just a means of generating revenue," explained Costa. "When you visit downtown Springfield on game nights, you can see T-Birds gear everywhere. People of all ages wear it proudly, which speaks volumes about Drew and his team's ability to bring in products that people genuinely want to wear and show off."

Benjamin's Star Speedway mastery continues with Spring 100 checkers

EPPING, N.H. - Travis Benjamin won two of last year's Granite State Pro Stock Series stops at Star Speedway. With only one visit to the popular bullring on the schedule in 2024, the reigning GSPSS champion made it count.

The Belfast, Maine, veteran withstood challenges from Ryan Green and Casey Call to win Saturday night's Spring 100, opening his title defense the same way he started off last year's title chase.

"I've got a wicked good car here," Benjamin told series announcer Marco Thomas in Star's winner's circle. "I can't thank my crew enough."

Benjamin and Green flexed their muscle early, winning their respective heats to lead the field to the first green flag of the new season. Green, sporting new colors and with former GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in his pit stall, worked the outside line to take the early lead, with Benjamin haunting in second.

In a mad scramble for the lead after a lap-34 restart, Benjamin got the better of Call and Green, retaking the top spot as the field slowed for a competitor's tire trouble. Call settled into second on a long green-flag run, with Green threaten-

ing for second.

Jamie Wright's spin on lap 82 erased Benjamin's advantage, with Green and Call poised to make it exciting in the final laps. But Benjamin cleared himself of Green, driving away from the pack to post his fourth career GSPSS win and his third Star win in the last four series races held at "The Place to Race."

Call, last July's GSPSS winner at Star, settled for second, with Green matching his best career GSPSS finish in third. Dan Winter was fourth in his first series start since 2017, while Speedway 95 winner and Wiscasset Speedway veteran Josh St. Clair managed a fifth-place run despite spinning twice early.

Title hopeful Evan Beaulieu was 11th at the finish, leaving the Durham, Maine, driver at a deficit, as Benjamin sits atop the points standings with eight races to go.

The next race on the GSPSS calendar is at Claremont Motorsports Park, as the series returns to its long-time home venue after a year's absence. On Sunday, May 26, Key Auto Group presents the GSPSS 100 with a \$5,000 share going to the race winner of the Memorial Day showdown.

TIGERS from page 8

Shane Szado grounded a single down the left field line scoring Beaupre with the game tying run. Szado advanced to second base on the throw to the plate. After the next batter struck out, sophomore leftfielder Austin Meacham poked a two-run single into center giving the visiting team the lead for the first time at 5-3.

The Mustangs didn't hold onto the lead for very long, as the Tigers scored three runs against senior righthander Sebastian Nava, who went the distance for Monson, in the bottom of the sixth.

The Tigers rally began with a single to left by senior DH John Viola, who advanced to second on an error before stealing third. Viola scored when senior first baseman Jack Maziarz hit a sacrifice fly to left field. Then Belsky and sophomore shortstop Griffin Soderbaum drew back-to-back walks. Nava retired the next batter on a pop-up, which brought sophomore leftfielder Logan Carpenter to the plate. Carpenter, who's the Tigers leadoff hitter, became the hero of the game for the home team by belting a two-run double to center field.

"We were trailing by a couple of runs going into that inning and I really needed to get a base hit in that at-bat," Carpenter said. "After I hit the ball, I knew the



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Gavin Carpenter sends a long throw back to the infield.

two baserunners were going to score. This is the first time I've had a game winning hit in a varsity game."

The second hitter in the Tigers line-up is Logan's twin brother, Gavin, who started the game in rightfield.

While Logan is a second-year varsity player, Gavin is a first-year varsity player. The twins have also been teammates on the same hockey team.

"It's cool playing on the same baseball team with my twin brother," Logan said. "We also play on a hockey team together."

Viola, who's one of the Tigers aces, along with classmate Matt Drobiak took over on the mound at the start of the seventh inning. Viola retired the first Mustangs batter on a pop-up which he caught before striking out the next two batters ending the ballgame.

"Johnny and Matt are both

very good pitchers," Foley said. "We needed Johnny pitch in today's game because he hadn't pitched since last week. He hasn't been a closer very often, but he did very well in that role today."

The Tigers, who had only four base hits, took a 1-0 lead in the second when Maziarz tripled to right field before scoring on a throwing error.

Viola had an RBI single in the following inning.

Monson, who also only had four hits, tied the score against sophomore righty Justin Moskal, who was the Tigers stater, in the top of the fourth.

The Mustangs first run scored on an RBI single by Ben Pignone and a sacrifice fly by senior Colin Beaupre brought home the tying run.

South Hadley retook the lead in the fifth, which led to the very exciting sixth inning.

Quabbin League wants to fill remaining roster spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun its season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway.

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 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 used as

well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

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 can also prorate registration at this point. Simply contact a league board member. Contact information is located at the registration link.

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
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The Russell Public Library in Russell, MA is seeking a PART TIME (8 HOURS) LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT. Required, strong interest in working with the public, good organizational skills and solid computer skills. Bachelor's Degree with 1 year of library/administrative/ public service experience or an Associates Degree, with 2 years of library/administrative/ public service experience. For more info see library page on **Town of Russell website.** Please send a cover letter and resume to **Russell Public Library Trustees P.O. Box 275 Russell, MA 01071** or email to **rpldirector@townofrussell.us** to be received by May 21, 2024.

HELP WANTED

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INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person 8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. **230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belchertown**

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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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.



Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call **1-413-283-8393**

Public Notices

Town of Granby Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that the Granby Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 5:35 P.M. (not Monday May 20.)** at 10-B West State Street (Senior Center Building) on the application Laurie Ann Bernier for Something Special Catering Service and Cafe, seeking 1. a Wine and Malt Beverages (Restaurant on Premises) License and 2. to consider Laurie Ann Bernier as manager for premises describes as follows: 32-seat café inside with one floor at 960 square feet and 22 seats for outside patio at 800 square ft, located at 181 West State Street, Granby MA.

Anyone interested, and wishing to be heard, should appear at the time and place designated.

Glen N. Sexton
Crystal L. Dufresne
Richard A. Beaulieu
Licensing Commissioners
05/10/2024

Activities & Nutrition Coordinator for Granby COA

Highly motivated individual who can be responsible for planning, coordinating, and providing activities, entertainment, and informational programs for elders and their families at the Senior Center in the Town of Granby.

Ability to interact in a positive and effective manner with people at all levels of society, particularly the elderly.

The employee may be required to work beyond normal business hours to attend department sponsored activities or events.

Applicants must have computer literacy skills, also

excellent organizational skills, verbal and written communication skills. Applicants must be able to effectively multitask. Job descriptions and applications are available at the Town of Granby Selectboard Office 10-B West State St Granby MA 01033 or by calling 413-467-7177. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary depends on qualifications and experience. Please submit cover letter and resume to: Town of Granby Council on Aging C/O Board of Selectmen 10-B West State St., MA 01033.

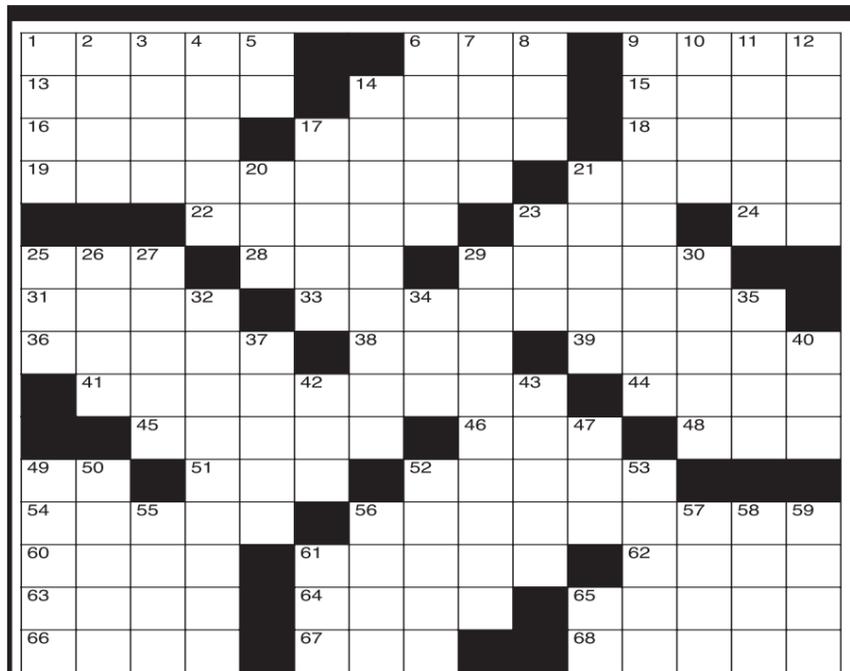
05/03, 05/10/2024

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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- 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



CLUES ACROSS

1. It wakes you up
6. A place to sleep
9. Czech village
13. Appetizer
14. African country
15. Dark brown or black
16. Parent-teacher groups
17. Saturates
18. ESPN personality Kimes
19. Songs to a lover
21. Cavalry-sword
22. Begat
23. Patriotic women
24. Famed Princess
25. One who does not conform
28. Neither
29. Nigerian monetary unit
31. Body parts
33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song
36. Depicts with pencil

38. Make into leather without tannin
39. Plants grow from them
41. Alias
44. Fingers do it
45. More dried-up
46. Clod
48. Senior officer
49. A way to listen to music
51. The bill in a restaurant
52. Historic center of Artois region
54. Cyprinid fishes
56. Poisonous perennial plant
60. Scottish Loch
61. Heads
62. Extra seed-covering
63. Wings
64. Britpop band
65. Forearm bones
66. Small immature herring
67. Female sibling

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipers
2. Not on time
3. Resembling a wing or wings
4. Tears down
5. Professional designation
6. Noise a sheep made
7. Type of lodge
8. Speak poorly of
9. Ties the knot again
10. Apron
11. Studied intensively
12. City in Finland
14. One who monitors
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Trent Reznor's band
21. Takes to the sea
23. Split pulses
25. Valentine's Day color
26. Wyatt
27. Type of rail

29. One from the Big Apple
30. Asteroids
32. Made more sugary
34. Change in skin pigment
35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
37. Koran chapters
40. A place to relax
42. Young woman ready for society life
43. Female horses
47. Half of Milli Vanilli
49. Icelandic poems
50. Indiana town
52. Golden peas
53. Closes tightly
55. It's mined in mountains
56. Cliff (Hawaii)
57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
58. Monetary unit
59. Primordial matter
61. TV station
65. Rise

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Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications. Credit Cards be sure to include: Newspaper you would like the ad to appear, Your Name, Address, Phone Number, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV.

2 x 3 Advertisement

Congratulations **CARLY SMITH**

We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College.



Love Mom, Dad, John and Chloe



Northern Parula, a common spring migratory bird in our area. (no photo credit needed, part of creative commons)

Spring migration bird walk at the River to Range Trail

Step outside. The forests and fields are full of birds, some are here to nest and others just stopping by during their migrations further north. South Hadley has many great conservation areas to witness the wonder of spring migration.

Please join the South Hadley Conservation Commission, which is hosting a spring migration bird walk at the River to Range Trail lead by Bill DeLuca, a Conservation Commission member and Senior Migration Ecologist with the National Audubon Society. The walk will begin in the trailhead parking lot off Ferry Street on

Saturday, May 18 at 9 a.m. Come dressed for the weather as we take about an hour or two to walk the relatively flat and smooth 1-mile-long loop trail. We will have free coffee and donuts in the parking lot prior to our walk. No prior birding experience is needed, and we will have some binoculars to share.

On May 16 at 7 p.m., we will also host a zoom info session to discuss what you might expect on your walk and talk a bit about the general ecology of the location. Please register to receive the Zoom link to log into the meeting: <https://bit.ly/SpringBirdTalk>.

Historical Association holds opening day

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its Opening Day activities at the Stone House Museum on Saturday, May 11.

There will be free tours of the museum, the famous “Old Bag” sale, a plant sale featuring locally grown perennials and some local crafters.

The association is asking for help from the community to make this fundraiser successful. Many have already contributed old bags for the sale.

Every year, the plant sale receives many donations of perennials dug from gardens

in the community and generously donated to the plant sale. Please check your gardens for new plants that can be potted now and have time to recover and look their best in time for the sale.

They are looking for flowering plants, shade plants, vegetable plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruit bearing plants and house plants. Plants can be brought to the Stone House during the week before the sale and left near the schoolhouse.

Please email sallyshattuck54@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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