Grant funding sought for improvements

Serving the town of South Hadley

Buttery Brook Park to get upgrades

CATION I www.turley.com

By Tina Lesniak Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The Friends of Buttery Brook Park and the South Hadley Recreation Department have big plans for improvements to the park to make it more accessible and to provide recreation department, but well more recreational activities.

To make those dreams come true, both groups are currently working with a grant writer to submit a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant application to the state to fund most of those goals.

The process is lengthy, and very competitive, according to Andy Rogers, director of the

worth it in the end. The town has hired a grant writer to give the application its best chance at being approved.

The PARC grant is a reimbursement grant, and South Hadley gets reimbursed at 70% up to \$500,000," explained Rogers. "The grant is due in July, and we will find out the results in November. You then have the design

phase from January to June, and construction can begin July 1, 2024, and must be done by June 30, 2025.

Some of the main goals for the grant's funding include making the park more accessible to those who are differently abled, including an accessible walking path across the entirety of the

Please see **PARK**, page 2

Assessors discuss review of exemptions

By Matty Anderson Staff Writer manderson@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY- At their recent meeting, the Board of Assessors voted for Kevin Taugher to be the Chairmen of the Board.

On May 15, the Board also voted to keep Thomas Reidy in his position as the Clerk.

The next agenda item was to discuss bills payable, which were all authorized, after their encumbrances the Board was slated to turn back \$603 for the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Exemptions

Associate Assessor Missy Couture Rimbold provided a Personal Exemption Analy-

There are many, many exemptions that are out, that we have not either updated in a lot of years or voted to accept in the municipality,"

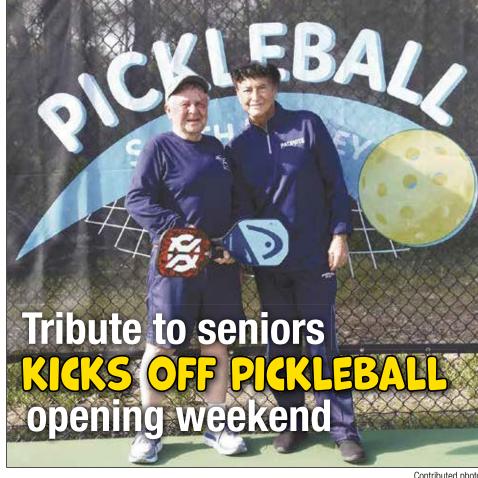
Couture Rimbold said the town should review all of the current exemption offerings and adjust them accordingly to provide the

She explained that the work off programs for seniors and veterans are actually abatements, rather than exemptions.

To combat general issues regarding exemptions, Couture Rimbold generated a spreadsheet that will act as a tool to simplify the process of exemptions.

Couture Rimbold said, "If we can help people and get reimbursed then why wouldn't we do that, if we're not the ones to bring this forward then who will."

Please see **GRANT**, page 6



A 'Super Senior' tournament followed by a performance from A-Ray of Elvis kicked off the pickleball season at the South Hadley courts.

SOUTH HADLEY — The town's official opening weekend for the pickleball courts, aka "Dinko de Mayo" in pickleball vernacular, kicked off with a Super Senior Pickleball Tournament.

Participants had to be age 65 or over to compete.

"The tournament was full with a waiting list and many seniors came out to cheer them on," said Kim Prough, who coordinates the South Hadley Pickleball program.

"This is a testament to the sport, its popularity and the importance pickleball is playing in helping to keep our seniors active and socially connected."

The tournament was followed that evening by a performance from Ray Guillemette as A-Ray of Elvis, who sang to a crowd of over 200 at Buttery Brook Park South Hadley Pickleball hosted two more tournaments last Saturday and a family play on Sunday.

Keep up to date with South Hadley Pickleball on Facebook and via the Team-Reach app (South Hadley Picklers, code

Community welcomes the return of Farmers' Market

By Tina Lesniak Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Farmers' Market South Hadley is ready for a triumphant debut on May 24 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Buttery Brook Park.

Over two dozen weekly and rotating vendors will sell their local fruits, vegetables, and foods, as well as crafts, soaps, and other goods on a weekly basis until Oct. 11.

'We have a core of full-time vendors, mainly our vegetable farms, bread, cheese, meats, and most other vendors are here on a rotating schedule. We also allow up to three craft vendors per market," explained Jen Kressler, director for the market. "Craft vendors have to be local, and their products are all handmade, and/or include locally sourced materials. A list of each week's

vendors will be posted on [social media], and also sent out in our weekly newsletter with more information."

Among the lengthy list of vendors are Beens Beans, Cherished Cookie Creations, Crooked Stick Pops, Flora and Fauna Farm, Grown Up Farm, Love Leaf Farm, Song Sparrow Farm and Sweet Babu's Granola. A full list of 2023 vendors can be found on the market's website

farmersmarketsouthhadley.com.

Bringing the market back, after it closed several years ago, has been a work of passion for Kressler and other members of the community. A change in location and several updates to the program have reinvigorated it and brought much interest and support from the community.

'We've encountered nothing but absolute enthusiastic support

Please see **MARKET**, page 7

FREE May 19, 2023

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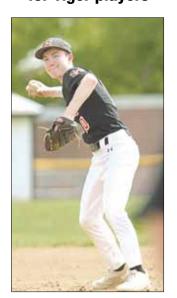
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Chance of a lifetime for Tiger players



Registered voters needed for Town Meeting Review Committee

SOUTH HADLEY — Residents are encouraged to apply for up to four positions on the South Hadley Town Meeting Review Committee.

The committee is tasked with improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Town Meeting and making formal recommendations to improve the event's function and format.

According to a news release, the Town Meeting Ad-Hoc Review Committee was established as a standing committee in 2010 to study ways to improve practices and procedures associated with Town Meeting.

The first committee appointed in 2009 made numerous valuable recommendations, including establishing a Town Meeting Electronic Communications Advisory Committee to recommend ways to improve electronic communications and requiring that minutes of all boards and committees

be posted to the town's website, the release

To ensure that the process of reviewing Town Meeting operations is ongoing, Section 419 of the General Bylaw calls for a new Town Meeting Review Committee to be appointed every five years. It began in 2015. The committee consists of the Town Moderator, one representative each of the Selectboard, School Committee, Appropriations Committee and Planning Board, three Town Meeting members and up to four registered voters who are not Town Meeting members.

The Selectboard seeks registered voters who are not already Town Meeting members to volunteer for the committee. Anyone interested in appointment is asked to apply online at southhadley.org under the "Boards & Commissions" section of the "I Want To" drop-down menu.



House

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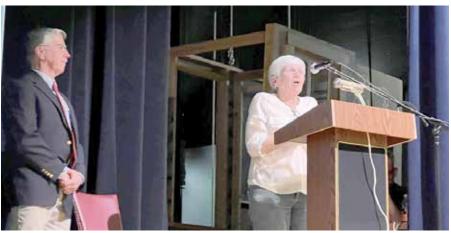
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- Mailbox Post Kit



489 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA Saturday, May 20th | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



(Courtesy Phot

Mary Lou Guarnera of Neighbors Helping Neighbors recently received the Lions Club Award for her efforts to combat food insecurity in the community.

Lisa Wong's WEEKLY WRAP UP

SOUTH HADLEY – Town Meeting voted to approve bylaws allowing for accessory dwelling units and short term rentals.

The bylaws will be sent to the Attorney General's office for review and staff will work on the applications and implementation. Thank you to the staff, elected and appointed officials, community groups, boards and residents who discussed these developments during numerous meetings.

For more information on the bylaws, visit www.southhadley.org/1318/ProposedDraft-Bylaws.

Tax exemption for survivors

Town Meeting voted to adopt the local option that provides full exemption from taxes on domiciles of surviving parents and guardians of active-duty military personnel and veterans who died as a proximate result of injury or disease suffered during active duty.

To find out what exemptions you qualify for visit, www.southhadley. org/154/Assessors.

E-waste and shredding event

An e-waste and shredding drive will be held in the South Hadley High School parking lot on Saturday, May 20. Proceeds help the music department. Laptops/computer towers, flat-screen monitors, VCR/DVD players, keyboards and printers can be recycled for \$20 each. Air conditioners, dehumidifiers and microwaves are \$50 each.

Shredding is also available for \$25 a

Find the South Hadley Music Parents Association on Facebook for a full list of acceptable items and prices. For more information or questions, email shmpa@ southhadleymusic.org with "e-waste" in the subject line.

Recognitions

Congratulations to Mary Lou Guarnera on receiving the Lions Club Award. Guarnera is the manager of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and has been helping families and individuals combat food insecurity in town for over a decade.

The pantry is open Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon. For more information, visit nhnfoodpantry.org.

Congratulations to Kim Prough for receiving the Joseph Taylor Award. Prough is the President of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and most recently was pivotal in the success of the pickleball courts at Buttery Brook Park.

Both names will be added to their respective plaques located in Town Hall.

PARK from page 1

park with seating features throughout, and several other improvements to make other aspects of the park more accessible.

In addition, the grant would help to fund playground improvements including a shade structure, an area for frisbee golf, a potential move of the basketball court and additional pickleball courts. The pickleball courts, which opened recently, have proven very popular so adding more just makes sense.

Because the costs for these improvements can add up quickly and are already quite expensive, the Friends of Buttery Brook Park will likely need to do some fundraising to take care of any extra costs. No specific plans have been set as of yet.

This will be the first significant improvement to Buttery Brook Park in 10 years. Several goals from that round of improvements were not completed, so

the recreation department and Friends of Buttery Brook Park are hoping to achieve those this time around. In addition, new concerns have come to light over the last 10 years that should be addressed in this renovation.

The goals of this project came from feedback from park visitors, results from a survey sent out to town residents, a public meeting in early May and feedback from both friends of Buttery Brook Park and the recreation department.

The state's PARC Program was established to help cities and towns both acquire and develop land for park use and outdoor recreation space.

The program will reimburse up to \$500,000 of the project's cost, a maximum of 70 percent of the total planned cost. To qualify for the grant, towns must have an up-to-date open space and recreation plan and an official recreation commission



Fun on the Trails

By Tina Lesniak Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - For the first time, South Hadley will host a series of trail fun runs for kids this summer. The six-week program will take place on Thursday evenings from July 6 to August 10 on different trails around town and is open to kids up to age 15.

"South Hadley has a lot of great trails, and this is a great way to promote some of them with a group activity," said Laura Friesner, a member of the South Hadley's recreation commission. "I'm really hoping the kids have fun and we can grow this program in the future."

Runners will be divided into groups by age: six and under, seven to nine, 10 to 12 and 13 to 15. Distances for each run will also vary depending on the age group and the location. Completion times and rankings will be recorded and shared with the runners, who will also receive a T-shirt and racing bib.

Some of the locations that will be used are River to Range Loop Trail, Black Stevens Conservation Area, and Upper Lake Loop Trail and Prospect Hill Trail, both at Mount Holyoke College.

"We looked at trails that are easy to run and have good parking," explained Andy Rogers, the recreation director for South Hadley. "[Recreation Commission member] Kathleen Sharkey suggested using the trails at MHC as they are very popular and it is good to collaborate with them as well."

The idea for trail runs for kids stemmed from the experience of several South Hadley families who had been participating in a similar event in Springfield. Member Laura Friesner approached the commission with the idea of bringing something like this to South

The trail fun runs offered an opportunity for different town committees to work together and to promote one of the goals of the town's master plan - to connect families with outdoor resources.

We want to get families together, promote healthy living and exercise and showcase the many wonderful trails we have in town," said Rogers. "This also connects the recreation department with the bike-walk committee, conservation commission and Mt. Holyoke College."

So far families appear to be responding positively to the program.

'We have 16 kids so far, which is great," said Rogers. "I think we were anticipating getting 25 to 30 in total, so this means we should go way over that total.'

Members of the recreation commission are hoping that this will be a jumping-off point for families to be more active and have more opportunities to explore the outdoor areas of town, potentially introducing them to new trails that they may not have already known

"The town of South Hadley has so many wonderful recreational resources, and this program is another way that families can experience and enjoy the outdoors in our town," said Sharkey

The cost for the whole series is \$20 and families can register their children at southhadleyrecreation.org.

NOTICE

Future uncertain for the Human Rights Commission

TOWN Reminder

By Ben Hernandez Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - What's old is new again. The South Hadley School Committee discussed the reestablishment of the Human Rights Commission. Eric Friesner, the School Committee Chair, opened the floor for potential volunteers.

The Human Rights Commission, as stated in its by-laws, serves four crucial purposes for the town. The first is to create community-based groups and educational programs to increase town fellowship and harmony, the second to work with existing town governing bodies to increase diversity and sensitivity towards human and civil rights issues. The Commission will also serve as a respondent to human or civil rights complaints filed within South Hadley, as well as provide referrals to those filing unlawful discrimination charges.

The Commission, created at last year's town meeting on paper, has two vacant seats that are yet to be filled. The School Committee, however, has had trouble filling the positions. Ever eager to help, acting Vice Chair Danielle Cook chimed in on the discus-

"It makes sense to have at least

someone [on the Commission] to be a School Committee nominee for that position," explained Cook, who volunteered herself for a one-year term. Cook stated that there was a historical lack of interest when the positions were first offered, which sparked further discussion on how to fill the vacant seats. Friesner applauded Cook's initiative and regretted he couldn't follow his peer's example.

"I will say, personally, I think it's wonderful that we are establishing the Human Rights Commission," commented Friesner. "[However] I do not feel like I have the time personally to devote to that commission."

As the floor remained open for further volunteers, Jennifer Voyik, assistant superintendent for Finance and Business Operations, offered a practical solution; keep the open seat vacant and ask the greater school community. Sending a wider inquiry, Voyik argued, could increase public interest in the Human Rights Commission as well as drastically expanding the candidate pool.

At the moment, however, the commission has at least one vacant seat filled. In a unanimous vote, Danielle Cook now has a position on the subcommittee. The other seat, for now, remains open.

Volunteers needed to flag veteran graves

SOUTH HADLEY - Volunteers are needed to place flags on the graves of military veterans on Saturday, May 20 at Notre Dame and Mater Dolorosa Cemeteries at 63 Lyman

The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are once again inviting grateful and patriotic citizens to assist with the flagging of more than 2,500 veteran graves as they conduct "Flags In South Hadley."

This is a time-honored tradition dating back to the Civil War and will start with a brief opening ceremony at 9:45 a.m. at the flagpole on the Notre Dame side of the cemetery followed by the instructions and the distribution of flags to all who can help. It's a big job and any amount of time anyone can give will be appreciated, the organizers said.

Wear comfortable shoes, comfortable clothing and bring water. It is expected to be a very warm day. The event is rain or shine.

Tables available for church tag sale

GRANBY — The First Presbyterian Church at 160 W. State Street will be hosting its first Tag Sale since the pandemic began in 2020 on May

This new and expanded version will be under the direction of the Event Committee led by Joan Hodgkins and will contain many new features. There is space available for anyone to use to show their wares.

There will be something there for everyone, so bring a spouse or significant other and check out this event. To reserve a table or for more information, call Hodgkins at 413-467-3447 or 413-626-6772.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Town Reminder

Selectboard seeks citizens to serve on several boards

SOUTH HADLEY — Volunteer • Zoning Board of Appeals opportunities are available on town boards and committees.

A total of 16 boards and committees have at least one position with a term expiring in June and nearly all boards and committees have vacant positions needing to be filled. Boards and committees with expiring terms and/or vacancies include:

- Bike Walk Committee
- Bylaw Review Committee
- Canal Park Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Commission on Disabilities **Conservation Commission**
- Council on Aging Board
- Cultural Council
- **Historical Commission** Historic District Study Committee
- Master Plan Implementation Com-
- Recreation Commission
- Sustainability & Energy Commission
- Tree Committee
- Trustees of the Old Firehouse Mu-

The Selectboard is seeking citizens with diverse interests and abilities to apply for these positions. There are no special requirements for any of the boards and committees other than a willingness to serve.

The Selectboard interviews and appoints candidates three times a year and at their June meetings. The terms of these new appointments begin July

Those wishing to apply to serve on a board or committee must do so online at southhadley.org by June 9.

These positions are not automatically filled by incumbent reappointments. However, incumbents with expiring terms who wish to continue serving will be given all due consid-

Address any questions to Kristin Maher, executive assistant to admin-

istration at kmaher@ southhadleyma.gov or 538-5030 ext 6135.

Tuesday Nights 6:30pm Pitch Night Friday, May 26th 5-7pm

Steak & Chops ★ Memorial Day 12-2pm ★

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs All are Welcome

Saturday, May 27th 10am **Installing Flags at St. Jerome Cemetery**

All Help is Needed & Appreciated

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GUEST COLUMN

Planning for safe celebrations for your teen

By Abaigeal Duda

Tt's prom and graduation celebration season, which for teens can be both exciting and worrisome. For parents, this may also be true, but for different reasons.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens and that one out of three crashes involve alcohol or other substances. In rural areas like ours, when these tragedies occur, they are felt by the entire community. How can we support our young people so that they create positive memories of these

There are some practical steps that you can take as a parent, or caregiver:

The most important and effective is also typically the most overlooked: Have an honest conversation. How do you feel about underage drinking and other substance use? If you aren't aware of the negative effects on the development of young brains, it's worth understanding that there can be long-term consequences.

One Choice (saying no to all substances) has a good overview at tinyurl.com/5jzsyhtd. Studies show that encouraging young people to make choices that support their health, wellbeing and long-term success rather than trying to scare them with horror stories to avoid – is the most effective approach.

People tend to overestimate how many other people use substances like alcohol and other drugs. In the Quaboag Hills region, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance conducts surveys in our school districts, and it is true of all schools and grade levels that most students are making choices not to use substances.

If you aren't sure how to start a conversation with a child or teen, get examples from "Talk. They Hear You" at samhsa.gov. Another way to have a conversation about driving expectations is to Take "The Pledge," an agreement between caregivers and teens available at the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance website at qhsua.org.

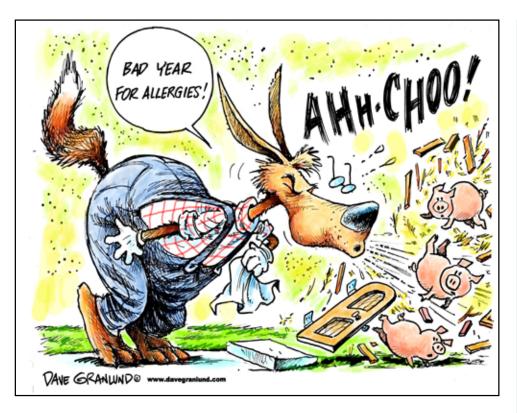
Know who is driving your teen. The night of prom or graduation, will another teen be driving? A parent? An older sibling? A hired vehicle and driver? In our area, we do not have the same transportation options that are available in more urban areas. If a teen suddenly realizes that his/her/their ride has been drinking, calling for a cab or rideshare is very unlikely to be a viable option.

No matter who is supposed to drive, make sure that your child knows that you are available to take a call if there is any question about transportation safety or any other questionable situation that may arise. You might agree upon a text or emoji to send to you to let you know that you are needed so that he/she/they don't have to have an awkward conversation that might be overheard about unsafe behavior.

If you are hosting a graduation party at your home for your teen, make it a "dry" party. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Massachusetts' underage drinking laws known as the Social Host Law. If underage drinking does happen on your property, you could face criminal or civil liability charges. Make a list of fun activities with your teen and his/her/their friends that they would enjoy doing together to create positive memories that will last a long, healthy lifetime.

Healthy celebrations are celebrations worth remembering.

Abaigeal Duda is STOP Act Grant project director at the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. For more information, or if you or a loved one needs help for substance abuse, call the statewide helpline at 1-800-327-5050 (TTY: 1-800-439-2370); the phone line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also go to hub.helplinema.org/findhelp.





Flowering problems you may encounter this spring

y mom called up last night, disappointed that there is only one bud in her entire clump of Bearded Iris. I am always one to turn a question into a column, so why don't we get to the bottom of my mother's sparse irises and also delve into why some flowers haven't given us the wow factor this spring.

If once upon a time your irises bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years.

Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place in July or August. This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

If you have no blooms, feel free to get the job done now!

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative

digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand.

The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about 2 inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While vou're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil

Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang The top of the rhizome should be level

with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well; keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed.

If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Many gardeners remarked that their Forsythia didn't usher in spring last month as usual. Very few blossoms but lots of green

Presently, my Japanese Rose (Kerria japonica), usually a showstopper, looks just about the same and I hear so do some types of Azaleas.

Why? I am guessing that the buds were killed by the one really cold, minus 17 night. Sometimes, if we have a few inches of snow when temperatures dip, you will see blossoms on the forsythia down low, where the snow insulated the buds on those low branches.

Lots of folks are sad when a tulip patch that bloomed prolifically the year before, doesn't do so well the year after. Why is that?

Tulips are bred more for their flowers and less for longevity in the garden. Some species are more apt to return than others, namely Darwin Hybrids, Emperor, and the more diminutive wildflower tulips, Greigii and Kaufmanniana among other, less known

Planting at the proper depth (for tulips usually 3 times the height of the bulb) in a sunny location with good drainage will get you off to a good start, and then we leave it up to Mother Nature to to ensure adequate moisture in late winter/early spring, followed by a dry summer.

Fingers crossed for repeat blooming in year two and beyond. Hoping early flower woes will give way to a summer's worth of

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 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

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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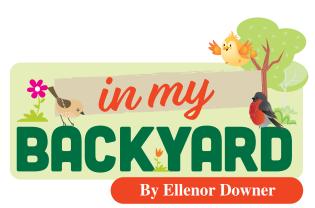


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Viewpoints





Ovenbird

The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests. They eat insects, worms and spiders. They walk on the ground and fallen branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp "chip" call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.

Barred owl

An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28. She said in an email, "I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for sever-



al minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel." The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

Other birds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared.

She said, "For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose

breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose colored splash on its breast. This phenomenon causes the partial loss of all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feeder this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork. She wrote, "Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in Palmer. Imagine my surprise – white bird with black wing tips – wood stock is from Florida." She said she opened her "Journal" to she who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planed to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

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

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Seniors

Here's what's happening at the Senior Center

SOUTH HADLEY — The Council on Aging's senior center at 45 Dayton Street invites local seniors to experience enriching and interesting programs, take advantage of services and enjoy meals with others.

THIS COMING WEEK Dinner and a movie 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23

"A League of Their Own"

Purchase your dinner in the Cafe and join us for this sweet movie. Free popcorn and ice cream sodas. A hot dog special has been added to the regular menu in the Café for this event. Meredith Starr plans to bring little samples, prepared ahead of time in their Food Bank Kitchen, from one of their cookbook recipes.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23

Join a free visit to the Skinner Museum with Dr. Aaron Miller (offsite). Transportation available upon request. Maximum of 30 attendees. Dr. Aaron Miller is the Curator of Visual and Material Culture and NAGPRA Coordinator, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. Please register for this wonderful event. This program is funded by the South Hadley Travel club.

Pickleball Instruction for Seniors 11 a.m. May 23 or May 25

This class is for people who have never played pickleball. Learn the basics of the sport at the pickleball courts at Buttery Brook Park. Paddles will be provided if needed. Cost is \$10 and you must pay at the Senior Center prior to the lesson

date. One class per person. If it rains, we will schedule a rain date. South Hadley Pickleball is offering these classes at a reduced rate for our seniors in honor of Older American Month.

The Life and Times of Marjory Stoneman Douglas 2 p.m. May 24

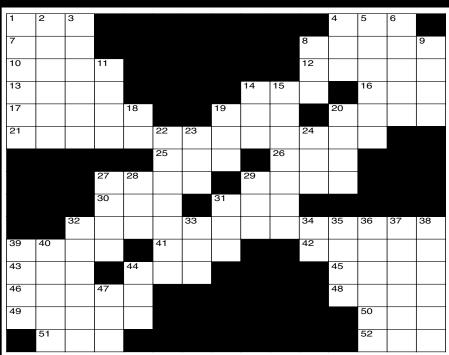
Join historian Cesar A. Becerra as he tells the story of this remarkable woman who lived to 108. Marjory was an American journalist, author, women's suffrage advocate and conversationalist known for her defense of the Everglades.

Memorial Day Veterans Breakfast 8:30 a.m. May 26

Join the South Hadley Council on Aging and the South Hadley Veteran's Service Department as we observe this day of remembrance. This event is open to Veterans and a guest. The event will include a delicious breakfast prepared by the SHHS Culinary Dept., music by the SHHC Vocal Road and distinguished speakers, military remembrance, and ceremonies. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and the South Hadley Veterans Services.

SERVICES

The COA provides free in town transportation for residents 60 and older 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and Tuesdays at 4 p.m. The minibus is equipped with a wheelchair lift. Rides must be scheduled 24 hours in advance by calling the center at 538-5030. Grocery shopping at Big Y is every Tuesday and Friday.



CLUES ACROSS

- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 4. Chinese philosophical principle
- 7. Branch 8. Jewish spiritual
- leader 10. Slang for
- requests 12. "So Human An
- Animal" author 13. Rocker Billy
- 14. British Air Aces
- 16. Type of tree 17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
- 20. Goddess of fertility
- 21. Localities 25. Beloved singer Charles 26. Clue

- 27. Ridge of jagged CLUES DOWN rock below sea surface 29. Helsinki
- neighborhood 30. Farm resident
- 31. Ocean 32. Where ballplayers work
- 39. Unable to hear 41. Cool! 42. Cape Verde capital
- 43. One point north of due east 44. Kilo yard (abbr.) 11. Stony waste
- 45. Middle Eastern nation 46. It yields Manila
- hemp 19. State attorneys 48. People operate it (abbr.) 49. Regenerate
 - 50. Not healthy 51. Chinese sword 52. Mild expression 22. Where beer is of surprise

- unit of angle 2. Headgear to
- 3. Clots 4. Follows sigma 5. A woman who is the superior of
- 6. Greek units of weight 8. Radio direction
- finder (abbr.) 9. Systems, doctrines,
- theories matter
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! 15. Hostile to
- others 18. U.S. State 19. Not wet 20. Something one
- thinks up made

- 23. Clumsy person
- 24. Belonging to us control a horse 27. Canadian
 - flyers 28. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 29. Snakelike fish a group of nuns 31. Unhappy 32. Fruit
 - 33. Not good 34. Zero degrees Celsius
 - 35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit 36. Crawls into the
 - head (folklore) 37. Legally responsible
 - 38. Move in a playful way 39. Regarded with deep affection
 - 40. Partner to flowed 44. Native
 - American tribe 47. Head honcho

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone)

Tuesdays from 8:30am to 11:30 BY APPOINTMENT.

Sue LaMastro, Certified SHINE counselor, will guide you through the Medicare maze and explore what Medicare Plan is right for you.

Food collection

The Senior Center continues to have a bin, located in the lobby to collect food for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The requested item is cold cereal.

Join the Community Table: Lunch is served at 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance by calling the center. Suggested donation for lunch is \$2.25. Guests under 60 are charged \$6.50 (per federal regulations).

Tech Time With Sandy: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. She can help you with your technology needs.

iPad Loan Program: Available for a six-week loan period (renewals available if there is not a waiting list for the device). One-on-one lessons on how to use the iPad will be given by technology instructor, Sandy Cahillane, by appointment. If you do not have WIFI at home, there are several options: The South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Library have Wi-Fi hotspots for loan. The South Hadley Council on Aging has public Wi-Fi available throughout the building and your iPhone can be used as a hotspot (Instructor Sandy can help you with that) Call Emily at 538-5030 for an application. To find out about low-income Wi-Fi support: Fiberspring by S.H.E.L.D. has an Affordability Connectivity Program (www.acpbenfit. org) and Comcast has Comcast Essentials (internetessentials.com/apply).

The senior center is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and Tuesdays until 7 p.m. For more information on the COA or upcoming programs, call 538-5030 or go to southhadley.org/324/ Council-on-Aging.

SCWM Intro to outdoor skills offered for girls

Girls from Belchertown and Granby and their guardians are invited to free Intro to Outdoor Skills events offered by the Girls

Scouts of Cen-

tral and Western

Massachusetts. They will earn their first Girl Scout patch while learning basic campfire-building techniques,

first aid, and jackknife safety. Join and discover creative ways to form a new troop together.

The event will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31 at Camp Lewis Perkins, 9 Camp Perkins Road, South Hadley. Please register by May 27 on the website: https://bit.ly/ osshadleygranby

The events are for girls going into kindergarten or first grade in the fall, who are not currently Girl Scouts.

For information on the events or Girl Scouts in general, contact Hannah by email: HLaprade@gscwm.org or phone: 413-584-2602, extension 3604.

About GSCWM

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serve over 5,000 girls from kindergarten through grade 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts.

The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership

GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

GRANT from page 1

ADUs

It was also announced that the draft accessory dwelling unit bylaw passed at the recent town meeting.

The Board further discussed ADU's that already exist and what has worked for them and what hasn't so they can make educated decisions on the matter going forward. They mentioned homeowner's insurance and a potential fee for having a second kitchen.

The Board plans to take a look at recent police reports to see if there have been issues or complaints concerning

The Board's goal is to come up with rules that make ADU's as clear as possible. The Board plans to reach out to their local advisor at the Division of Local Services and ask if they have any written opinions and guidance for ADU's.

Abatements

The Board heard the monthly reports for March and April. First was the 2021 motor vehicle excise abatement with one transaction totaling \$209.96, second was the 2022 motor vehicle excise abatements with four transactions totaling \$1,702.07.

They discussed the 2023 real estate abatements that had 18 transactions totaling \$7,234.2, followed by the 2023 motor vehicle excise abatements with 101 transactions totaling \$11,032.08. Lastly was the 2023 boat excise abatement with one transaction totaling \$16.36, for a total of 125 transactions approved, all together these transactions added up to \$19,565.13. The April monthly reports included the 2014 excise with only 36 abatement transactions totaling \$1,496.36, the 2022 motor vehicle excise abatements with four transactions totaling \$360.92. The 2023 motor vehicle excise abatement included 83 transactions which came out to \$8,400. making for a total of 123 transactions which came out to a total of \$10,345.91 which were all approved.

At the Board's previous meeting they voted to abate 102 bills totaling \$6,264.28 for the calendar year 2014 as deemed uncollectable by the collector.

In processing those they came across a couple of things including a couple of bills not marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and a bill that had already been paid, the board would not abate a bill that has already been paid so they worked with the Collector's office, and it seemed that there is a discrepancy with some of their old bills.

The Board plans to continue processing the discrepancies. Due to the fact that the Board previously voted to abate a bill that had already been paid, to avoid issues going forward they decided to rescind the prior vote.

The Board then voted to abate 101 bills for the calendar year 2014 totaling \$6,252.40. The Board also voted to approve a 22A exemption for David Mendoza for \$400 for fiscal year 2023.



The Wild Epicurean

Hostas

By Christal Whelan Editor cwhelan@turley.com

At this time of year, you may notice that one of the elegant ornamental plants that surrounds your house, your neighbor's, or the edge of a forest is returning, and breaking through the rich soil.

I am referring to the hosta, also known as "plantain lily," which shares the same plant family as asparagus - the Asparagaceae. The leaves of this plant are ovate-shaped, covered with longitudinal ribbing, and grow in full but low-lying clusters, looking like a big green tuft from which eventually emerge long spikes or pedicels with an inflorescence of pale lavender to dark purple tubular flowers.

Had I not spent a decade in Japan, where the young leaves of this plant are widely eaten, and also sold in grocery stores countrywide, I might never have gathered and consumed those around my own home and urged my neighbors to do the same.

But the hosta (H. montana), called "giboushi" or "urui" in Japanese, has been cultivated in Japan since the early modern period (called Edo in Japanese), although many people continue to forage the young leaf stalks for themselves in the wild.

In Japan, hosta shoots are often eaten with scallops or prawns, but just as often the rolled-up leaf that emerges in early spring is lightly boiled or steamed and then sprinkled



with soy sauce and a drizzle of ses-

While that is my preferred way, they also do well in stir-fry as their flavor is somewhat like a mild form of bok choy. Steamed hosta dressed with a little olive oil and salt are another tasty option.

Although the shoots, leaves, and flowers are all edible, the best part is the tender young shoots while still furled. If they are gathered at this stage, leaving about an inch of the plant above the ground, they grow back very quickly. You will not

have destroyed the growth and flowering of the plant for the season.

In the springtime, I have cut and recut them and collected two rounds before leaving the plants alone to complete their natural flowering cycle. The closest hosta to the one used in Japan is the

H. sieboldiana. Try them out - hosta tempura, hosta risotto, hosta as surrogate broccoli.

Native to Japan, China, and Korea, hostas have also found a home in America.

Welcome them. They are an excellent dietary source of minerals: calcium, iron, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc. Just one caveat: as with any plant, avoid consuming those that have been treated with insecticide or that grow close to the road if there is any significant traffic there.

Business students can apply for scholarships

REGION — The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is accepting applications for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and the Women in STEM Scholarship.

The deadline to apply for both is June 17.

The winner of each will receive \$1,000 and is eligible for an additional \$5,000 award at the Zonta International level.

The Jane M. Klausman Business Scholarship is awarded to college students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in business management. The Women in STEM Scholarship is awarded to college students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in STEM science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects

Eligible applicants for both scholarships should be in at least their second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a master's program at the time the application is submitted.

Details and applications are available at zontaqv. org/scholarships. For more information, email Dana Burton at info@zontaqv.org.

Annual fireworks at HCC

HOLYOKE — The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual 4th of July fireworks on Friday, June 30 (with a rain-date of July 7). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 16, for a permit application at $41\overline{3}$ -322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities. The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

If you have any questions, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.

MARKET from page 1

the town administration, community organizations and businesses, and the people who live in town. People are very excited," said Kressler.

The new location at Buttery Brook Park allows for more parking and safety than the original market's location near the Village Commons.

"There will be ample parking if you go into either entrance, but they will not be able to drive through the market itself. It'll be blocked off for safety reasons," said Kressler. "The park features a really nice playground and spray water park for kids on hot days as well."

The market will also have a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program match program where SNAP recipients will receive a \$10 match of their funds weekly

TOWN Reminder

We will be able to help SNAP recipients stretch their SNAP dollars to purchase other items at the market and our matching portion can be used to purchase anything at the market, not just food," explained Kressler.

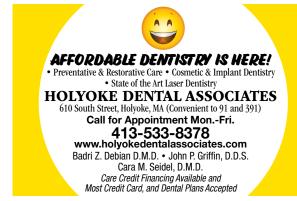
All vendors at the market will accept SNAP but to use it recipients will have to go to the market booth to get coins. Most vendors also accept cash, cards, and Venmo as forms of payment.

Each weekly market will have a food truck serving

lunch and a dedicated group of volunteers setting up and running the market booth. If any questions arise while at the market, customers can seek out a volunteer wearing a red lanyard for answers or just general help.

The market is currently run by Kressler and an all-women committee made of local, full-time vendors. The market is still accepting applications for vendors and







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In the Classroom

COLLEGE NOTES

Holyoke Community College

The following local students have been accepted for membership into the Alpha Xi Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society at Holyoke Community College:

Kevin Komoyingo of Amherst; Jan Ashley Masse of Granby; Grace Koehler of Hadley; and Emma Boryczka, Alice Ladley, Cat Longpre and Sthela Sibley-Welch of South Hadley.

Students are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa when they have completed at least 15 college credits while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. HCC's spring 2023 inductees were recognized in a virtual ceremony on May 18.

Local residents earn award from WGU

The following local residents have earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University: Amy Langone of South Hadley has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University Leavitt School of Health. Jacob Broyles of South Hadley has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Business.

The award is given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

Bridgewater State University

Allison Bergeron and Calvin Bridges, both of South Hadley, were among the graduates who received their degrees during Bridgewater State University's 182nd Spring Commencement Convocation held at Gillette Stadium on Saturday, May 13. BSU's 2023 commencement celebrated the power of art and the performing arts to enrich our lives and recognized those who have made their mark in the region and beyond.

Western New England University

Madison Sexton of Granby received the Outstanding Student in Pharmaceutical Business award during the recent Western New England University College of Business Senior Awards Ceremony. This award recognizes a graduating senior selected by the faculty for excellence in the study of Pharmaceutical Business and was presented by Professor of Marketing Harlan Spotts.

'We are so proud of you all for your many academic achievements and recognize the hard work, perseverance and commitment that is required to attain this award," said College of Business Dean Sharianne Walker.

'You are all not only high performing students but remarkable business citizens who have added value to the University, your organizations and to society. Your work and your presence are impactful and important to those in your various communities. You are all prepared to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's business world and we couldn't be proud-

Sexton is graduating with a BSBA in Pharmaceutical Business.

Southern New Hampshire University

Nicholas Gaston and Amy Silvestri, both of South Hadley, were named to the President's List at Southern New Hampshire University for the winter term, which runs from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/

spring and summer. Congratulations Rachel Irzyk on graduating from the University of Maine. **Ewe** are amazing! We are so udderly proud of all your accomplishments and the person you have become. Let your dreams Soar! Love, your family

Granby Jr. Sr. High announces Q3 Honor Roll

Granby Jr. Sr. High School recently announced the list students who achieved Honor Roll status for the third quarter of the 2022-'23 school year:

Seventh Grade Maximum Honors

Lauren Barlow, Gianna Capone, Noah Chambers, Ralph El Aouji, Vitaly Gavel, Gabriel Helbok, Abigail LaDuke, Anthony Misiaszek, Emma Murphy, Kaelynn Slapski, Richard Sweet and Isabella Tetreault.

Seventh Grade High Honors

Sophia Labonte, Sophia Press and Kaileena Smith.

Seventh Grade Honors

Logan Carmody, Makayla Dennis, Emily Durham, Abigail Esquivel, Adrien Harrington, Chase Hauschild, Wyatt Kennedy, Liam McKinnon, Colin Sicard, Gavin Summy, Jacob Weglarz and Carli Zobka.

Eighth Grade Maximum Honors

Meredith Bartosz, Madison Boyington, Sydney Chateauneuf, Parker Dufresne, Tessa Healey, Madelyn LaPointe, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Lydia Pike, Audrey Pleisch, Jaidyn Roberge, Ania Scott, Eleanor Szlosek and Kirra Trudell.

Eighth Grade High Honors

Lyla Bergeron, Daniel Brown, Logan Campbell, Kyrsten Gaj, Maeve Lawler, Joseph Sevarino and Kalli White.

Eighth Grade Honors

Brennan Anderson, Maylee Champigny, James Duga, Morgan Justin, Rowen Silva, Thomas Slater, Nathan Walsh and Mckenna Zumbruski.

Ninth Grade Maximum Honors

Kaitlyn Curran, Braeden Gallagher, Daniel Hackett, Maxwell Kennedy, Braydon LaDuke and Mylin Laliberte.

Ninth Grade High Honors

Emma Beaulieu, Danielys Carrion Huertas, Benjamin French, Gracie Levreault, Allison Maslak, Julia Ricardi and Stephen Szlosek.

Ninth Grade Honors

Richard Beaulieu, Lea Charest,

Quinn Fuller, Brodie Funk, Jake Gagnon, Julian Hernandez, Jared Lapite, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Faith Ramos, Anthony Santiago, Daniel Santiago. Addison Scott and Isabella Woods.

10th Grade Maximum Honors

Cassandra Flaherty, Cole Fuller, Gavin Kennedy, Alexis Lapite, Cheyenne Laramee, Cameron LeBlanc, Ava McFarland, Olah Roller, Austin Smith and Stewart Szlosek.

10th Grade High Honors

Jena Abbott, Aiden Beach, Nathan Benson, Mabel Carillon, Sawyer Clarke, Margaret Crawford, Gavin Moreno, Ava Saunders and Autumn Sicard.

10th Grade Honors

John Crawford, Brianna Houghton, Justin Merced, Chenoa Mestre, Tristan Moe, Addison Prignano and Maxwell Seymour.

11th Grade Maximum

Zachary Auclair, Jessica Holubowich, Cindy Kusumo, Sara Lessard and Corey Rondeau.

11th Grade High Honors

Chloe Castro, Ciara Charest, Andrew Feldman, Rhea Gagnon, Peyton Justin, Neil Lindberg and Noel Summerlin.

11th Grade Honors

Nicolas Grandmont, Abigail Landry, Margaret O'Connor, Grace Roy, David Silchuk and Phillip Silchuk.

12th Grade Maximum

Michael Arabik, Markus Baran, Eva Bartosz, Rebecca Gavel, Emma Hall, Victoria Quinlan, Katherine Vallee and Robert Walsh.

12th Grade High Honors

Patrick French, Madyson Gaj, Alexander Galusha, Haven Guerard, Robert L'Abbee and Brady Pete.

12th Grade Honors

Joshua Chateauneuf, Jack Hartling, Olivia Hauschild, Abigail Huebner, Max Lempke, Paul Lucchesi IV, Hao Pham, Samuel Weatherbee and Carter White

In Person at **384 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam**



Reparations long overdue for Quabbin Reservoir

Legislators pitch five bills to the state

By Christal Whelan Editor cwhelan@turley.com

The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources convened at the Massachusetts State House last month to consider the testimonies in regard to 34 bills related to waterways, wetlands, water resources and oceans in Massachusetts.

Justice for the towns around the Quabbin Reservoir was high on the agenda with five bills, more than four legislators, and several citizens all testifying in support of some kind of compensation to the communities in western Massachusetts who have lost rather than gained by sharing one of their greatest natural resources - water - with the commonwealth. Collectively, the tone of the legislators was one of moral outrage for the annexation of land, the human cost of flooding a vast and populated plain to build the Quabbin Reservoir, and the continued one-way gain for eastern Massachusetts.

In a swift three-minute pitch, the time allotted to all the speakers, state Rep. Aaron Saunders addressed the uncomfortable issue of regional equity, and recommended a closer examination of how the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has been operating for decades since the towns of Enfield, Prescott, Greenwich and Dana were first disincorporated and then completely submerged to make this enormous, life-sustaining Quabbin Reservoir.

The bills aim to offer some kind of consideration to the communities that continue to steward the Quabbin watershed. At present, a section of the bill prohibits any consideration of the water.

Said Saunders, "The communities that steward this land, that owned this incredibly valuable resource receive absolutely nothing for the water that has fundamentally built Boston and the surrounding area."

Although the resounding word of the meeting was equity, the actual proposal was quite modest. The bill would see that the mu-



nicipal government be charged 5 cents in excise per 1,000 gallons of the water.

"This would create an estimated \$3.5 million for the communities, living in the Quabbin watershed area," said Saunders, who described how desperately in need they are of support. He elaborated on how such funding might be used for non-profits to provide transit services that do not currently exist.

The bill would also set term limits on the MWRA advisory board and provide representation for western Massachusetts in the decisions concerning the watershed.

"The average Boston household goes through 41 gallons of water a day," said Saunders. The actual impact to ratepayers would be equal to 6 cents per month.

State Sen. Anne Gobi added another dimension to the Quabbin story. She cautioned that although there were four towns totally erased to make the reservoir in order to "help quench Boston's thirst," she said that the creation of the Quabbin tends to overshadow other aspects of the region's history such as the Ware River.

Tapping into her earlier life as a history teacher, Gobi relished in the details. She recounted how in 1926 the Ware River Act did not submerge or disincorporate towns, but rather several towns lost huge amounts of land to watershed protection.

"Rutland lost north and west Rutland," said Gobi. "And Oakham lost its main business area which was in the vanquished village of Coldbrook Springs."

All of those towns had post offices, mills, hotels, and businesses. Farmers also lost their land and with lives totally disrupted had to move elsewhere.

In 1995 local people formed an advisory committee to talk about what mattered to them. They started to meet two years later. But some groups quit while others assumed active roles.

Gobi's proposed bill aims to remove groups that no longer exist and add three more active players such as a snowmobile association, a local equestrian group, and the New England Mountain Bike Association.

The most impassioned call for reparations in the form of fair compensation to the long-suffering communities came from state Sen. Joanne Comerford who encapsulated in an unbelievable three minutes the history of the Quabbin Reservoir.

She explained how in 1893 the Massachusetts Department of Health was concerned for the sustainability of its port and major city, and sought sources of water for Boston. First they considered Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire, Sebago Lake in Maine, and the Merrimack and Nashua rivers, but ultimately decided to take water from the Ware River and create a massive reservoir in what was then known as

the Swift River Valley, largely underwater now.

The rest is history and today eastern Massachusetts uses 200 million gallons a day from the Quabbin, and some three million people in the commonwealth drink this pristine water filtered through a watershed of over 100,000 acres.

Comerford explained that the MWRA is now looking to expand its water supply to a dozen communities north of Boston, 10 to the south, and 15 more in MetroWest.

The problem is that the people who do not have access to the water are often those who live closest to it. She cited the children, faculty and staff at the Swift River Elementary School in Salem who drink bottled water because their well is poisoned with polyflourinated substances while Quabbin's water flows eastward.

What Comerford and Saunders together are filing "is a modest, really modest pivot toward a necessary new day." That new day would consist of four key provisions.

The bill establishes a fee of 5 cents for every 1,000 gallons drawn from the Quabbin. The monies would be placed in a Quabbin community development trust fund that would generate an approximate \$3.5 million fee annually to be distributed to

municipalities and nonprofits in the Quabbin watershed. Secondly, the bill rights a longstanding wrong concerning Payments in Lieu of Taxes known as PILOT payments.

Currently the Watershed PI-LOT Program reimburses municipalities for property tax revenue lost due to non-taxable state ownership of watershed lands.

What it leaves out is the erasure of the four towns required to create the Quabbin.

Their former land was annexed to surrounding towns: Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Petersham, Pelham and Ware. These municipalities receive the PILOT payments for state-owned annexed lands within their borders.

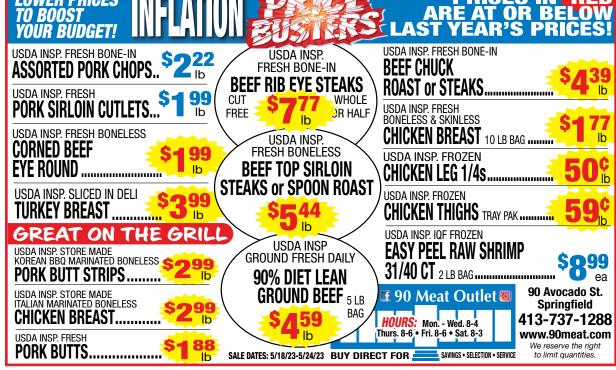
However, for the Quabbin Reservoir land itself that was flooded and is now underwater, there is no payment. The new bill would remove this exception and require payments for land also underneath the waters of the Quabbin.

Third the bill requires representation of Quabbin-area residents on the MWRA, such that three of the 13 board members would consider western Massachusetts home. The bill would also require the MWRA to explore all expansion options.

Opportunities to serve communities that steward the water need to be fully explored. It calls for similar evaluations of expansion into communities in Westfield River, Chicopee River, Connecticut River, and Millers River valley basins.

State Rep. Mindy Domb offered a climate-awareness perspective when she testified in support of the Quabbin bills. "I know from my work on this committee, that the [water] need is probably going to increase – drought, rivers drying up, towns needing water. The towns may say, 'Oh let's just go to the MWRA; western Massachusetts can't do that."





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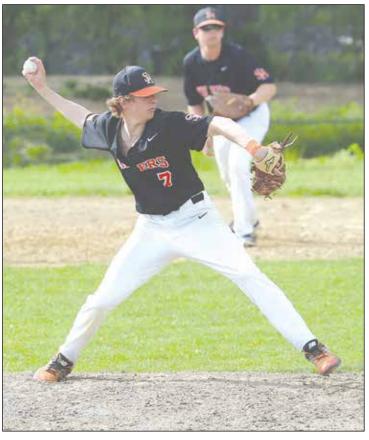


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Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pitcher Matt Drobiak delivers to the plate.

Chance of a lifetime for Tigers baseball players

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the South Hadley varsity baseball team hadn't played a game at iconic Doubleday Field, which is in the shadows of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, since 2018.

But this year, South Hadley varsity baseball players had the opportunity to play a game at one of the oldest baseball fields in the United States.

It turned out to be a very memorable day, as the Tigers celebrated a 10-5 victory over the Greenfield Green Wave on Sunday, May 7.

"My coaching staff and I have been here a couple of times in the past," said Matt Foley,

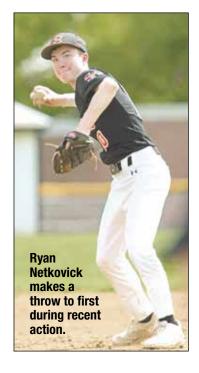
who's in his 27th season as the South Hadley varsity baseball coach. "We haven't played a game on this field since before COVID started. We were really excited as a coaching staff about being able to come back here again this year and the kids felt that excitement. It's a wonderful experience for them."

South Hadley also beat Greenfield, 4-1, at Doubleday Field in 2018. The Tigers did lose to Northampton when they made their inaugural visit to Cooperstown in 2016.

More than 100 Hall of Famers have played on the same baseball diamond as the Tigers players did.

"It was an unreal feeling knowing that you're playing on

Please see **TIGERS**, page 11





Meredith Bartosz pitches for Granby.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetodgphotos.com

Kaitlyn Curran looks for the out at second base.

Final week determines fate for Rams

will be league leader South Hadley while the other is ranks below the Top 32 in the power rankings.

GRANBY – Following a split of games last week, Belchertown, a team they beat in a slugfest recently. Granby softball looks to make tournament with an Last week, Granby defeated Smith Vocational 16-9 8-8 record and two games remaining. One opponent while losing to Holyoke 18-6. Granby currently



Ellie Szlosek catches an out in center field.



Cassie Flaherty slings a throw to first.



Grace Roy stretches for the catch at first.

Mutiny offense shines in opener

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The ed Women's Soccer National semifinal and final matches were held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last July. This year's U.W.S. championship weekend is scheduled to take place 3,000 miles west in Los Angeles, California.

The New England Mutiny players didn't get to compete for the championship trophy on their home turf last summer. They're hoping to make the six-hour plane ride to the west coast in July.

The Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching Worcester Fuel FC, 7-1, in the season opening match before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"All of the players worked very hard, and we got the result that we wanted," said Hope Santaniello, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2021. "Our hope for the future is to win the championship title this year. We really want to bring home the trophy for Joe (Ferrara)."

Ferrara, who's the Mutiny General Manager, has put together a roster full of talented soccer players. Santaniello is one of 13 players from Western Massachusetts.

Other players from the region include Julia Robak (Chicopee), Brianna Romaniak (Belchertown), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Alexis Le-



www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jenna Kalwa sends a pass forward.

gowski (South Hadley), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Brooke Samborski (Chicopee), Calleigh Foley (Ludlow), and Sophia Syocurka (Ludlow).

Foley and Syocurka will be juniors on the Ludlow girls varsity soccer team in the fall. The duo normally play for the academy team, but they were called up to the U.W.S. team for the season opener.

Laura Gouvin of Monson is also listed on the Mutiny roster. She did not play against Worcester.

Please see **MUTINY**, page 12

Sports •



Submitted photo

Jimmy Blewett wins the SK Modified event at Stafford Speedway last weekend.

Jimmy Blewett scores the wins in modified event

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT Stafford Speedway hosted the 51st Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler on Saturday, May 13 with feature events for the SK Modified, Late Model, and SK Light divisions along with two 15-lap last chance qualifiers for drivers to earn starting positions in the NAPA Spring Sizzler 100lap main event. Jimmy Blewett scored the checkered flag in the 40-lap SK Modified feature his second career win at Stafford and first since the 2005 NAPA Fal Final. Tom Fearn was the winner of the 30-lap Late Model feature and the SK Light feature saw a photo finish with Brian Sullivan making a last lap pass on Tyler Chapman and winning the race by inches or .005 seconds. Matt Swanson won the 15-lap Last Chance Qualifier for the NAPA Spring Sizzler. In the 40-lap SK Modified®

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Jimmy Blewett led the field to the green and he began to set the early pace with Michael Christopher, Jr. going around Cory DiMatteo to take second behind Blewett. Chris Jones was fourth in line in the early going with Keith Rocco quickly moving from seventh at the start up to fifth. Christopher made a move to the inside of Blewett on lap-6 but wasn't able to make the pass. Christopher then came under attack from DiMatteo on lap-7 but he was able to hold off that challenge.

With 10 laps complete, the order was Blewett in the lead followed by Christopher, DiMatteo,

Please see **RACING**, page 13

Pioneers prevail in preseason match

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—With only a handful of returning players, it'll probably take a couple of matches for the Western Mass. Pioneers players to jell.

The Pioneers kicked off the 2023 campaign with a 5-1 victory in a friendly match against KO Elites FC before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last Friday night.

"We had a lot of turnover from last year's team, so we're in the rebuilding process this year," said Federico Molinari, who's beginning his 12th season as the Pioneers head coach. "We do have some youngers players and a couple of returning players. It's probably going to take us some time to jell."

A year ago, the Pioneers finished in second place in the Northeast Division table with an 11-3 regular season record. They lost to the Seacoast United Phantoms, 1-0, in extra time at home in the Eastern Conference semi-finals

It marked the second year in a row that the Pioneers (11-3) faced Seacoast United, who finished at the top of the Northeast Division table, in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Pioneers were scheduled to play their first regular season match at the Boston Bolts on Tuesday night before hosting the Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

The first meeting of the regular season with league rival Seacoast United will take place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25. The second meeting between the two squads is slated to take place in Ludlow on June 23.

The Pioneers other home matches this season will be against Black Rock FC (June 3), Boston Bolts (June 7), Albany Rush (June 30), Vermont Green FC (July 7), and AC Connecticut (July 15). All of their home matches are scheduled to start at 7 pm.

One of the returning players is Khalid Rose, who has been a member of the Pioneers squad since 2018.

"I have the most service time on this year's team," said Rose before signing some autographs following the match. "I always come back here every year for the fans. I just love playing this beautiful game."

Rose, who played college soccer at Central Connecticut State University, assisted on the Pioneers first two goals in last Friday's friendly match. Newcomer Alec Hughes scored both goals during the first ten minutes of the first half. Hughes came out of the match with a minor injury during the 25th minute.

"Alec is a new player this year," Molinari said. "Hopefully, he'll be able to play in our first game on Tuesday night."

Hughes, who's a forward from Glastonbury Conn, is also a member of the UMass men's soccer team. He finished his junior season last fall with a total of 10 goals, including a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at George Washington. He also had two assists and led the A-10 conference with a total of 22 points.

Following the 2022 college season, Hughes was selected to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region Second-Team squad.

Hughes is one of the players looking to replace Braudilio Rodrigues, who led the Pioneers with ten goals last summer. Rodrigues recently signed with the Tacoma Defiance, which compete in the MLS Next Pro league. The Defiance is the reserve team for the Seattle Sounders FC.

The other returning players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster are Chaney Nash-Gibney, Jared Smith, Ignacio Albo, Lucio Berron, Tomas Duben, Nicholas Oberrauch, and Connor Hicks, who graduated from Monson High School six years ago.

Hicks, who graduated from AIC, didn't play in the friendly match because of an injury.

Oberrauch is the Pioneers captain and he assisted on the third goal, which was scored by Duben during the 21st minute.

"It's an honor for me to be the team captain again this year," Oberrauch said. "I really enjoy being the team leader."

Thomas Quiterio, who's wrapping up his junior year, and Thomas Wadas, who's finishing his sophomore year at Ludlow High School, saw some playing time during the second half. They'll be practicing with the Pioneers and be playing games for the USL Academy team.

"The academy team prepares the players to play for the USL team," Molinari said. "A couple of them had an opportunity to

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12

TIGERS from page 10

the same baseball field as many Hall of Famers did in the past," said South Hadley senior captain Ben Foley. "It was just a great experience for us."

The baseball game was just a part of the memorable day for the South Hadley players and coaches.

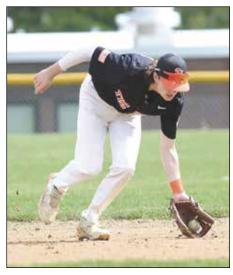
After eating breakfast together at a restaurant in South Hadley, the varsity baseball team made the three-hour bus ride to the small village in upstate New York

"The first thing that we did once we got up here this morning was to go visit the Hall of Fame, which all of the kids really enjoyed a lot," coach Foley said. "We spent more than two hours at the museum and the players went off to the different rooms in small groups. Some of the kids checked out the Nergo League exhibits, while some others looked at the new stuff, some kids like the old stuff. We allowed them to have some freedom. After visiting the Hall of Fame, we ate lunch, and the players did a little bit of shopping. Then we played a great baseball game against an outstanding Greenfield team. Coach Suchanek is a great guy and I have a lot of respect for his coaching staff."

The Greenfield varsity baseball coach is Tom Suchanek, who has been coaching the Green Wave for the past 50 years.

Both teams entered the non-league game at Doubleday Field with 9-4 overall records.

The winning pitcher was South Hadley junior righthander Matt Drobiak, who pitched very well during the first four innings. He then allowed five runs on eight hits before being relieved by senior captain Nate Carillon, who started the game at shortstop, with two outs in the sixth in-



Nathan Carillon fields a grounder.

ning. Carillon, who earned the save, only gave up two base hits.

"Playing a game on this field almost feels like you're playing in the major leagues," said Carillon, who earned his first save of the regular season in an extra innings win at Southwick, last Friday night. "I just want to thank the coaching staff for giving us this opportunity. This is something that I'm going to cherish forever."

The Tigers, who were the home team, took a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning with a little bit of help from the Green Wave defense, who committed four costly errors in that frame.

Ben Foley, who started the game in centerfield, hit a ground ball to the short-stop leading off the inning, but he wound up standing on second base following a throwing error. He then scored the game's first run following another throwing error by the catcher. Carillon followed with a



Jack Maziarz readies for the throw to

single into right field before scoring on a fielding error by the third baseman following a ground ball hit by freshman DH Logan Carpenter. A couple of batters later, sophomore second baseman Ryan Netkovick knocked home two more runs with a single into left field. Another run scored on the same play following a throwing error.

A very strange play took place in the top of the fourth inning.

The Green Wave began that inning with back-to-back singles by junior catcher Mike Pierce and sophomore Caleb Thomas, who was their starting pitcher. Then freshman first baseman Malik Moore hit a flyball to shallow centerfield. It appeared like Foley made an outstand-

ing diving catch, but the base umpire said he trapped it. Foley quickly threw the ball to Carillon, who recorded two outs by tagging the runner before stepping on the bag for the force out. He then threw the ball to freshman first baseman Justin Moskal, who completed the rare triple play.

"That's the first time that I've seen a triple play during my coaching career, and it was a very weird play," coach Foley said. "Nate Carillon is a very smart baseball player, and he always knows what's going on during a game."

With two outs and two runners in scoring position in the bottom of the fourth, South Hadley junior third baseman John Viola (2-for-4) blasted a double to deep center field, which increased the lead to 7-0.

The Green Wave battled back with two runs in the fifth and they added three more runs in the sixth, which closed the gap to 7-5.

South Hadley pulled away again by scoring three runs in the sixth inning.

One of those runs was scored on an infield hit by freshman catcher Memphis Huertas. Drobiak who walked, scored on a wild pitch and their other run came home on a fielding error.

"The three runs that we scored in the sixth inning took a lot of pressure off us," coach Foley said. "Greenfield is a very good hitting team."

South Hadley also clinched a berth in the Division 4 state tournament for the second consecutive year, so it was a very enjoyable bus ride back to Massachusetts for the Tiger players and coaching staff.

"Winning a game on this field just feels amazing," said Carillon, who scored three runs. "It's going to be a fun bus ride home."

Sports

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN - Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. 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.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, 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, archery, judo, 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 girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art

facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.

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 2023 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.

PIONEERS from page 11

play in tonight's game, but they just need to continue working hard."

Wadas had the chance to play in a couple of regular season matches for the Pioneers a year ago.

"I normally play for the USL Academy team and it's a big jump playing for the men's team. The game is much quicker at this level," Wadas said. "It's also a lot of fun playing with one of my high school teammates.'

Quiterio, who's also a member of the Ludlow boys' volleyball team, played for the Pioneers for the first time in last Friday's match.

"I was a little bit nervous at first, but I did feel comfortable after a few minutes," Quiterio said. "I grew up watching the Pioneers play and it's a dream come true to have an opportunity to play for them. It just feels amazing.'

The Pioneers scored two more goals during the second half, including a penalty kick by Simba Pelltier.

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and John Voight.

The Pioneers faithful supporters are hoping to have a lot more enjoyable evenings at Lusitano Stadium during the next couple of months.

MUTINY from page 11

Before the start of the regular season, Ferrara named Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra as the Mutiny head coach.

"Everyone is a little bit nervous before the first game of regular season, but we got off to a great start tonight," said Coimbra, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers. "I've coached at the youth level, but it's very special to win my first game at this level. I think it's going to be a very exciting season."

Coimbra took over the coaching duties from Brian Linnehan, who was hired as an assistant women's soccer coach at Bryant University.

Coimbra is aided by assistant coaches Jill Kochanek, Ciro Viviano, and Federico Molinari, who's also the head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers.

Santaniello, who's a forward, scored a pair of goals during the first half, which gave her team a 2-0 halftime lead.

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During the 24th minute, Santaniello lined a shot over the head of Worcester Fuel goalie Lilliana Mantoni into the back of the net.

About 15 minutes later, Cat Berry sent a forward pass into the box and Santaniello finished off the play by shooting the ball into the left corner.

"I'm very happy for Hope," Coimbra said. "I think she's a great soccer player, and she has a very bright future. She shoots the ball mainly with her right foot, but she scored one of her goals in tonight's match with her left foot."

After playing soccer for two seasons at the University of Rhode Island, Santaniello has decided to enter the NCAA transfer portal. The portal allows Division 1 athletes the opportunity to transfer to another school without having to sit out a year.

"I decided to leave U.R.I. for personal reasons," Santaniello said. "I just want to keep growing as a soccer player. In order for me to do that, I felt like the best thing was transfer to another school. I just want to find the right school, which will help me get to the next level."

Berry, who's from Hingham, will be a senior on the University of South Carolina women's soccer team in September. She'll be heading back to Columbia, South Carolina in the middle of June to train with her college soccer team.

"Cat is a great soccer player and she's going to have a successful career in the future," Coimbra said. "We're very lucky to have her on our team. We enjoyed watching her play in tonight's match.

Ferrara is hoping that Berry will be able to return to Ludlow if the Mutiny do make the playoffs.

"The atmosphere at the stadium is al-



Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, goes after the bouncing ball.

ways great," Berry said. "I just love playing soccer with this group of girls. It was a great way to start our season."

Berry, who's the fifth all-time leading goal scorer at the University of South Carolina with 24 career goals, took over the spotlight at the second half. She finished last Saturday's match with a total of four goals. A couple of her goals came on

amazing shots that not very many goalies would be able to stop.

"We definitely could've scored a few more goals in the first half," Berry added. "We just wanted to come out at the start of the second half and put the game away. I took advantage of my opportunities. Hearing the roar of the crowd here at Lusitano is very special."

Berry, who has two more years of eligibility remaining at South Carolina, will most likely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team after she graduates.

"Playing at that level is something that I've dreamed about my whole life," Berry said. "It would be awesome to play for a professional soccer team in the future."

Chandler Pedolzky also scored a second half goal for the Mutiny. Jenna Kalwa, who's the women's soccer coach at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, was credited with

Down at the other end of the field, Kopec, who was the Mutiny starting goalie, only had to make three saves. She was replaced in goal by Robak with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

The members of the Mutiny defensive unit are Sofia Weber, Laci Lewis, Megan Cunningham, and Kinsman.

This is just an awesome environment to play a soccer match," said Cunningham, who's the Mutiny captain. "We also have a lot of returning players this year, which is a great thing."

The Mutiny will be playing a couple of road matches before returning home to face the Albany Rush on June 10. Their other two home matches during the regular season will be against Sporting CT (June 24) and CT Rush (July 8).

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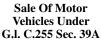
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05/12, 05/19, 05/26/2023

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RACING from page 11

Stephen Kopcik, and Rocco. Anthony Bello was sixth followed by Jon Puleo, Noah Korner, Mikey Flynn, and Todd Owen. Bello was black flagged on lap-15 and he had to report to pit road for dumping fluid. David Arute was shown the black flag on lap-20 for fluid also while Blewett and Christopher were still the tow lead cars with DiMatteo, Rocco, and Kopcik giving chase. Marcello Rufrano was the car on the move in the first half of the race, taking 11th on lap-22 after starting shotgun on the field in 28th. The caution flew with 24 laps complete for a spin by Rich Gautreau that collected Rufrano, who pulled off the track and behind the wall, ending his great run.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Christohper in second. Kopcik and DiMatteo were wheel to wheel for third place with Rocco and Korner right behind them. Kopcik took third on lap-26 with Rocco taking fourth and Korner fifth as DiMatteo slid back to sixth. Christopher's car dropped off the pace on lap-29 and he

pulled on to pit road just as the caution flew for spins in turn 4 by Dylan Kopec and Tom Bolles.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Rocco moving up to second, but before a lap could be completed the caution came out for Rich Gautreau, who hit the wall in turn 4.

Blewett took the elad back under green with Rocco in second. DiMatteo and Kopcik ran wheel to wheel for a lap before DiMatteo got clear into third place. Korner took fourth with Kopcik sliding back to fifth while up front, Rocco was applying heavy pressure to Blewett for the lead.

Korner's car dropped off the pace on lap-37 and he limped back to pit road after running in fourth place. This promoted Kopcik to fourth and Mikey Flynn to fifth as Blewett was still in command over Rocco and DiMatteo. Blewett slowly stretched out his advantage over Rocco in the closing laps and he picked up his second career SK Modified win at Stafford, his first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Rocco came home second with DiMatteo, Kopcik, and Flynn rounding out the top-5.

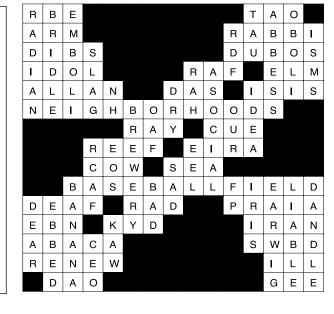
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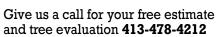


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