

TOWN Reminder



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FREE
June 2, 2023
Vol. 54, No. 6

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First half makes difference in playoff defeat



FATAL CRASH ENDS WORLD WAR II MILITARY SERVICE



Airmen honored annually on Mt. Holyoke

By Christal Whelan
cwhelan@turley.com

HADLEY – Last Friday evening, on the summit of Mt. Holyoke, a small group of military people and civilians gathered to honor the 10 young airmen who lost their lives in a fatal crash on

this mountain on May 27, 1944. These men, slightly more than two decades old themselves, had joined the U.S. Army Air Force where they were training intensely for combat in Europe.

Please see **CRASH**, page 6

United States Air Force Master Sgt. Christine Lupacchino and U.S. Army Retired Staff Sgt. Brian Willette stand on either side of the monument for the airmen who perished in the crash on Mount Holyoke.

Art Squad on Display

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Four local women, dubbed The Art Squad, kicked off their very first art show titled Art Squad: Inspirations x4 at the South Hadley Public Library. The new experience for group members Elizabeth Austin, Lucia Foley, Abigail Jaffe, and Marion Pascone opened to positive reviews, art pieces being sold, and more opportunities to display their work.

“Creating art has given me purpose, excited me, and helped me see the world and see art differently, explained Austin, who came up with the idea of putting on an art show. “I could never have created what I have without the guidance, encouragement, and support from Marion, Lucia and Abby. I am deeply blessed to have this group in my life.”

The show, on display in the library’s community room through June 28, features work from each of the four artists in a wide range of styles and materials.

Austin’s abstract work, “Movable Feast Paintings,” features four canvases whose orientations can be changed to create new variations on the same piece.

“Many people much prefer realism over abstraction in art and relating to abstract work can be difficult,” said Austin. “I had some anxiety about whether my work would be accepted and it turns out that several people have shown interest, and three pieces have been purchased. That is very gratifying.”

Foley’s work features watercolor paintings primarily of flowers and vegetables, perfect pieces for the late spring season but also a beautiful way for

Please see **ART**, page 19

What is a Purple Heart? A veteran’s story

By Christal Whelan
cwhelan@turley.com

Repeating my question aloud, Vietnam War veteran John Hurley answered, “It’s a medal no one tries to get.”

He remained silent a moment and then added, “because you

have to be combat wounded.” Recipients of the Purple Heart are either badly wounded in combat or else fatally wounded.

In the second case, a family member accepts the posthumous award for the deceased. In either case, the Purple Heart “desig-

nates that you’ve been in combat fighting whatever the enemy is,” said the former Marine.

Cpl. Hurley, as he was known in the Marine Corps, sat for this interview at the Ludlow Veterans Center in a room stacked with

Please see **VETERAN**, page 7

A sea of flags washed over South Hadley on Memorial Day

By Matty Anderson
Staff Writer
manderson@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY– The flag at Town Hall flew at half mast on Memorial Day, as scouts showed their unwavering gratitude to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

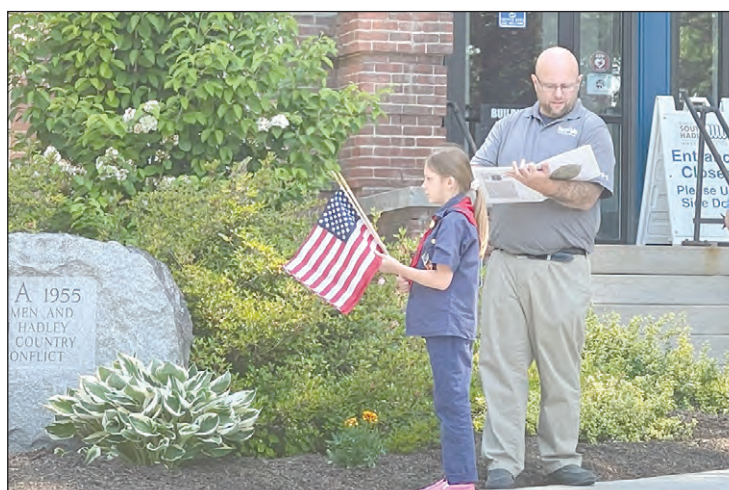
It was a beautiful spring afternoon, with a slight breeze sweeping across the town and breathing life into hundreds of flags that decorated South Hadley. From the cemeteries to Town Hall our little town was

Painted red white and blue as a sea of flags danced across our streets and decorated our homes.

The presence of the scouts was felt in stride on Monday, from Cub Scout Pack 303 to Troop 303 of the Boy and Girl Scouts. One member of Ship Troop 303 attended on behalf of the Sea Scouts, who were there in spirit but at sea physically.

For the Scouts, honoring our war-dead has been a sacred tradition for many years. This year Peter Root, Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 303B, took on the re-

Please see **FLAGS**, page 3



Veterans agent Michael Slater and a local scout pay their respects.

► South Hadley

Racist rhetoric sparks controversy surrounding town meeting by-laws

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – A racist outburst at the annual town meeting that took place on May 10 has sent the Select Board scrambling for answers. The uncensored slur, which was uttered in public by concerned citizen Bruce Forcier, was contextualized as an alleged direct quote from superintendent Jeff Cyr.

The quote was uttered as a response to a private conversation that took place at the Ledges Golf Club when Cyr was asked if he planned to visit citizens at Buttery Brook Park. Forcier then petitioned the shocked participants and the board for one thousand dollars of the town’s funds for an in-depth investigation on the supposed incident. The article petitioning the investigation was dismissed as “a waste of time.” What is as confusing as the shocking outburst, however, is the apparent gray areas that arose regarding public decency enforcement and free speech definitions during official public hearings. “This is kind of an unusual thing,” said Lisa Wong, town moderator. She called for an informal review of the incident during a May 16 meeting of the South Hadley Select Board to brainstorm potential ways to address the issue.

However, what course of action the committee should take to prevent future incidents doesn’t appear to be cut and dry.

“It’s a bit of a Wild West,” said Wong in regard to the existing by-laws that govern town meetings. She proceeded to paint a bizarre and confusing picture illustrating the Select Board’s limitation of power during public hearings.

For example, imagine a person shouting their intent to plant propaganda into residential mailboxes during an election cycle.

If the intent were shouted during a town meeting, all the Select Board could do would be to acknowledge that the illegal conspiracy had been voiced, mention that tampering with mail is a federal offense and direct the offender to the Post Office’s website for further clarification.

This strange limitation of power not only creates a paradox with how the committee can enforce public decency during their own public hearings, but also highlights a power vacuum created by legal vagaries within the existing municipal government.

Wong even admitted that she wasn’t even 100 percent familiar with all of the existing governing rules, stating that some rules were “steeped in law,” while others were more general guidelines of “practice and decorum.”

While members agreed that something needed to be done regarding clear enforceable expectations during public discourse, the Select Board remained uncertain as to what the proper course of action should be. Wong, however, did offer a potential solution.

If the disruptive outburst could be addressed as a point of order, it is possible that a town moderator could be brought in for consultation. Moderators have a unique position during a town meeting, in that they are the only ones that can review and enforce code of conduct rulings. Despite the significance that this would have for future town meetings, the extent of these powers weren’t explained as the heated discussion continued. One thing is for sure, however.

The vagaries surrounding existing rules and regulations are significant and provoke deep philosophical questions regarding free speech and the rights of local government to enforce public decency. “Can you censure a town meeting member [for improper conduct],” asked Wong to her uncertain peers. “Can you censure the public?”

We’re not sure. The code of conduct that the town has sort of talks about a [certain] level of behavior and our ability to tell somebody they are no longer allowed in the building.” For now, it remains uncertain as to what the threshold is to dismiss someone for inappropriate behavior. A Town Meeting Review Committee is being created to tackle the topic in earnest.

The board is seeking members to fill seats, but requires all applicants to have already served on the review board. The Select Board expects elections to be finalized by June 6.

Outdoor concert and yoga at the library

SOUTH HADLEY — The public is invited to entertaining and enriching events that will be held on the grounds of Gaylord Library at 47 College Street.

A free concert by Cameron Sutphin is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. on June 8 on the library’s back lawn. He performs his original material, as well as classic country and folk cover songs such as “The Times They Are A-Changin’” by Bob Dylan, “Where Have All The Flowers Gone,” by Pete Seeger, “Heart Of Gold” by Neil Young and John Prine’s “Angel From Montgomery.”

In 2017 as a solo act, Sutphin released his debut Nashville-produced recording, “Heartbreak Town,” which is in rotation on the jukebox at J.R.’s Café in East Windsor, Connecticut, as well as several local folk radio stations in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He has appeared on the “Blue Plate Special” live audience radio program in Knoxville, Tennessee, and performed at the Big E in 2018 and 2019.

Sutphin has shared the stage with many national touring artists, including Drew Kelly, Mark Mandeville and Raienne Richards, as well as Emily Ann Roberts, a season nine runner-up on “The Voice.” He has performed at multiple venues in 30 states and Washington D.C, including Gaylord Memorial Library last summer.

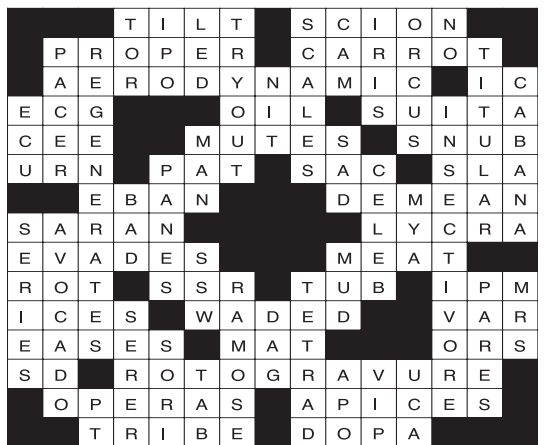
Limber up with yoga

Also on the back lawn, Outdoor Yoga with Michele Lyman will be offered 4-5 p.m. on June 22, and 29 and July 13 and 20.

This class is a combination of sustained poses as well as poses flowing in a mindful progression with emphasis on core strength, flexibility and balance. This class is based on physical postures, deep breathing and mindfulness.

Key benefits include increased strength, flexibility and stamina while releasing tension and stress. All levels are welcome.


Sign up at gaylordlibrary.org, or contact Sarah Courtney at 413-538-5047 or sgcourtney@cwmar.org.



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Regenerate your land

Learn to make pollinator gardens

SOUTH HADLEY – Growing Wild South Hadley will present a program on Thursday, June 8, at 6 p.m. in the public library. Heidi Dollard of the Massachusetts Pollinator Network will talk about how to attract and maintain pollinators in your yard.

In “Transform Your Yard to Support Pollinators: A 12 Step Program,” Dollard will elucidate the process of evaluation, planning, and implementation to allow for both large and small changes in your yard. She will teach the skills necessary to support pollinators and other beneficial wildlife while creating a beautiful and low maintenance landscape.

If you aspire to a pollinator-friendly garden, but don’t know where to start, this is the place to begin.

With guidance and patience, every person can take meaningful steps to restore and maintain an ecologically sustainable landscape.

Growing Wild is an initiative of the Conservation Commission to promote biodiversity through planting native and pollinator species. This initiative follows

guidance from other organizations such as the Homegrown National Park, DCR’s Growing Wild Massachusetts, the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association and the Massachusetts Pollinator Network.

The mission of Growing Wild is to help the community understand that even a private yard can be more than just place to hold barbecues or a patch of grass where pets and kids can play. Each yard is connected with the environment through an intricate web of relationships with nature.

Property owners have a responsibility to care for, and improve, that link and support biodiversity throughout the community.

Attendees will be entered in a raffle for door prizes that include books, rain gauges and a birdhouse. They will also leave with native herbaceous perennial plants to begin on their own gardens - butterfly weed, red columbine, bee balm, and blue iris.

The program will be held in the South Hadley Library’s community room.

For more information, please contact Rebekah Cornell, Conservation Administrator, at 413-538-5030, ext. 6129, or at rcornell@southhadleyma.gov.

Meet authors for readings and discussions at Odyssey Bookshop

LITERARY EVENTS

SOUTH HADLEY — The Odyssey Bookshop at 9 College Street regularly hosts authors for an intimate discussion about their work. Upcoming visits include:

Claire Fuller in-person
7 p.m. June 6

Fuller launches her new novel, “The Memory of Animals” and will be in conversation with Catherine Newman.

About the Book

From the award-winning author of “Our Endless Numbered Days,” “Swimming Lessons,” “Bitter Orange,” and “Unsettled Ground” comes a beautiful and searing novel of memory, love, survival – and octopuses.

In the face of a pandemic, an unprepared world scrambles to escape the mysterious disease causing sensory damage, nerve loss, and, in most cases, death. Neffy, a disgraced and desperately indebted 27-year-old marine biologist, registers for an experimental vaccine trial in London – perhaps humanity’s last hope for a cure. Though isolated from the chaos outside, she and the other volunteers – Rachel, Leon, Yahiko, and Piper – cannot hide from the mistakes that led them there. As London descends into chaos outside the hospital windows, Neffy befriends Leon, who before the pandemic had been working on a controversial technology that allows users to revisit their memories. She withdraws into projections of her past: a childhood bisected by divorce, a recent love affair, her obsessive research with octopus-

es and the one mistake that ended her career. The lines between past, present, and future begin to blur, and Neffy is left with defining questions including, who can she trust?

About Catherine Newman

Catherine Newman is the author of the memoirs “Catastrophic Happiness” and “Waiting for Birdy,” the middle-grade novel “One Mixed-Up Night,” the kids’ craft book “Stitch Camp.” She has been a regular contributor to the New York Times, Real Simple, O, The Oprah Magazine, Parents magazine, Cup of Jo, and many other publications. She lives in Amherst.

Emily and Mitchell Clionsky in-person
7 p.m. June 13

The two present their book, “Dementia Prevention: Using Your Head to Save Your Brain.”

About the Book

Emily Clionsky, MD, and Mitchell Clionsky, PhD, are a physician and neuropsychologist couple who have cared for their own parents with dementia, created a test used by doctors to measure cognitive function, and treated more than 25,000 patients with cognitive impairment. In ‘Dementia Prevention,’ they combine the most current scientific findings about Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias with their experience to present a practical guide that empowers you to improve your brain’s future.

This book skips the fads, the unsupported claims of advertised products, and fringe theories.

Instead, the authors guide you through a science-based tour of dementia, including how your brain works and how its function is affected by everything from blood circulation and blood pressure to sugar levels, medications, vision, and hearing. You will learn how your activity level, weight, habits, mental outlook, and social engagement may affect your likelihood of developing dementia. Dementia Prevention provides a dementia risk checklist to better understand your personal risk profile to help you on your journey. The authors’ training and experience as behavioral scientists will help you set better goals, identify roadblocks to success, and overcome these obstacles.

About the Authors

The Clionskys have a combined 70 years of professional and clinical experience in medicine and neuropsychology and have treated more than 10,000 patients. They partner at a private practice, Clionsky Neuro Systems, Inc., based in Springfield. They are experienced public speakers and workshop presenters for general and professional audiences.

Jeremy Bushnell in-person
7 p.m. June 14

Bushnell presents his new novel, “Relentless Melt,” and will be joined in conversation by Christopher Boucher.

About the Book

Stranger Things meets the

Please see **BOOKS**, page 19

FLAGS from page 1

sponsibility and honor of leading the ceremony.

Root said, “As a troop we are very involved with our veterans especially on Memorial Day, we gathered here today to honor the fallen by placing flags in front of Town Hall, earlier this morning we also visited a few cemeteries. We placed flags at Precious Blood and St. Rose Cemeteries, while the Girl Scouts attended Evergreen Cemetery.” Scoutmaster, Jeff Holmes said “Peter ran

everything, he was out front organizing everything, us adults knew that we could leave it to him, he did a great job today.”

A number of local veteran organizations attended including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion post 260 and the Sons of the American Legion. Veterans Agent, Michael Slater said “on Memorial Day we don’t want the world to stop, we just ask everyone to pause for a moment to honor our veterans and then enjoy their weekend.”

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Opinion



I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security.

Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working: Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months.

Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240.

If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded, they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by).

The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims.

DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA.

Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break-even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim versus claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income.

As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate.

I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20

Please see **SSI**, page 17

When Kids move out
to attend college...



When Kids move back
in after graduation...



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in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Lots of blue options for the spring border

I got so excited the other day.

I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or *Sisyrinchium*. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, *Amsonia* almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like *Peony* or *Dictamnus*.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is *Baptisia australis*, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, *Baptisia* is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant

once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult - maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispyish plants - a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.



Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium caeruleum*, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

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 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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The *Town Reminder* is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from an Oakham resident last week, who had “three very raucous sandhill cranes” fly past his house, heading northeast.

He said he went to a web site to verify their call and he included the link in his email. To hear sandhill cranes visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYN-HI9MqkE0>.



Sandhill crane

The sandhill crane is a 45 inches tall heron like bird. It is gray with a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored, possibly due to staining while preening from iron rich mud on its bill. They feed by picking or probing with the bill and eating weeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

A pair of sandhill cranes have nested in Hardwick for several years and successfully raised young. The cranes the Oakham resident heard flying over might be those.

The sandhill crane makes a mound like nest of arch plants, grasses and weeds placed on the ground or in shallow water. The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks. There call is a low pitched “karoooo, karoooo karoooo.” Courtship displays are often seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dance like manner.

Years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair doing their courtship antics while they were in a field in Barre. This was years before the nesting pair appeared in Hardwick, so I assume they were in route to their summer breeding grounds further north.

Sandhill cranes form huge flocks in winter and during migration. They are often seen in agricultural fields and roost at night in the center of shallow lakes or large shallow rivers.

Nesting bluebirds

An Oakham resident said she has nesting bluebirds again this year. She said usually the bluebirds and swallows squabble over the nest box, but she has not seen the swallows this year. She was wondering if anyone else has seen swallows.

I have seen them in my hayfield and I also saw some flying over Long Pond in Rutland.



Nesting ospreys

I received another email this week about the nesting pair of ospreys in Wilbraham. He said the pair were on or near the nest. If the eggs hatched, the young were too small to be seen. He will make a return trip later.

In a previous column he said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham

Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

Hummingbirds

An Oakham couple reported lots of hummingbirds at their feeder. They keep busy filling the nectar feeders. People may make their own nectar by adding 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water and bring to a boil. I make extra nectar, which I keep in the refrigerator. It will keep up to a week, but I am refilling every two to three days so it never gets past the one week mark.

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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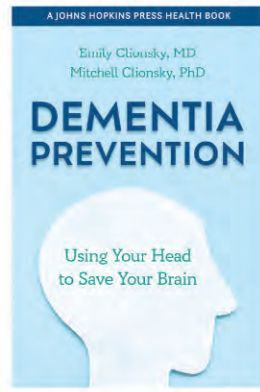
JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER
Mitchell Clionsky, Ph.D. ABPP(CN)
JUNE 6th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Light Refreshments Will be Served
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THE Arbors
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Worried About Memory Loss and Dementia Risk?
Join us for a special presentation by Mitchell Clionsky to discuss his new book **DEMENTIA PREVENTION: Using Your Head to Save Your Brain** (John Hopkins Press)
Dr. Clionsky will present an overview of dementia and the various elements that go into dementia risk, but rather than just a lecture, he will be focusing on answering YOUR questions!!!





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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR 

PURCHASE A BOOK ON AMAZON 



(Turley Publications photos by Christal Whelan)

The road to the memorial monument for the airmen lost in the fatal 1944 crash ascends to the summit of Skinner State Park.

CRASH from page 1

The crew consisted of a pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, engineer with his assistant, radio operator with his assistant, and two gunners. As a team they were learning how to maneuver a B-24 Liberator, a massive bomber plane with extremely heavy wings, four engines and with an empty weight of more than 18 tons.

This was to be one of their last training missions before they would be sent to England to join what had become an air war against Nazi Germany.

Sometime close to midnight they took off in their B-24 from Westover Field in nearby Chicopee. The Westover Air Reserve Base was a bomber-training center during World War II, and a preeminent port of embarkation for America's war effort. B-24s were also based there.

The crew had planned to drop dummy bombs made of sandbags on Block Island, which was regularly used for such target practice. But they also carried on board machine gun ammunition.

The point of the exercise was for them to learn to navigate the plane while carrying its maximum load. In this way they could replicate an actual experience of a bombing foray in Europe. Mt. Holyoke was only about seven miles from Westover.

At that point in the war, time was crucial. The bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 by Japanese dive-bombers had marked a turning point, not only in this war but in military history.

It had shown that the era of battleships was over and war had moved to the skies. Despite the shift from battleship to aircraft, aviation was still in its early stages; Charles Lindbergh had only made the first nonstop solo transatlantic flight 17 years earlier.

B-24s out of Westover had crashed previously in the region. One had landed in a farmhouse in Granby, while another had fallen into a swamp in Belchertown.

In his opening remarks Sgt. Willette said, "The Allies were losing 400 planes a month, shot down over Germany."

One of the most important targets at this time for the Allies was Romania - the Ploesti oil refineries - where Germany got its oil. The preferred plane for bombing these oil refineries was the B-24.

No one knows for certain



The inscription on the memorial stone reads, "In memory of those who fell here on 27 May 1944. A U.S. Army Air Force B-24J from Westover crashed on this mountain. This monument is dedicated to the crew."



Veteran Commandant Keith Buckhout served for 27 years in the International Guard, and was deployed three times to airbases in Italy and the Middle East for wars in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq.

what caused the B-24 from Westover to fail to raise its elevation in order to clear the mountaintop - whether it was technical difficulty or human error. But when it hit the treetops its tail got snapped off, and soon

one of its wings was broken off. The aircraft then lost balance and crashed into a cliff on the side of the mountain.

People say that the explosion could be heard all over South Hadley. Some saw flames. Others smelled things.

Keith Buckhout, who grew up in Hadley at the foot of the mountain, was not yet born, but had heard stories from his mother, Merle Buckhout, now 93. "It was asparagus season," she had told her son, "when everyone gets up early. That's when we heard it." As a combat crew in training, its machine gun cartridges in the aircraft exploded all through the long night..

Since the dedication of the monument in 1989, a service has been held annually on the mountaintop near the Summit House for the airmen of the 1944 crash. The initiative came from a native of South Hadley, Frank Tencza, a veteran who served for a year in Vietnam. He used to enjoy hiking on Mt. Holyoke.

In 1958 he came across some



Pete Drew attended the ceremony and offered a bouquet of white flowers for one of the deceased airmen who lost his life on the B-24.



The Color Guard arrived and led the group in saying the "Pledge of Allegiance."

twisted metal parts in a clearing. After several visits and some research, he realized they were remains of a B-24 Liberator. Moved and saddened by the story of these brave men with their lives ending prematurely, Tencza organized the establishment of the granite monument with their names inscribed.

Midway through the ceremony, Sgt. Willette asked Patricia Eagan from the Friends of Holyoke Range to offer a few words. She said that she visits the summit every season and never tires of its beauty. Her voice cracked from emotion and tears welled up. "We appreciate this event," she told all those present.

Sgt. Willette reminded everyone there of the value of life, dedication and preparedness "It was a training accident but it means no less. It's the same loss,



(U.S. Air Force Photo)

U.S. Army Air Forces B-24 Liberator aircraft similar to the one that crashed in 1944.

whether it's an accident or in combat. These men were preparing for war - to do their job at the highest possible level."

The memorial for the B-24 airmen is located at 195 Skinner Park State Road in Hadley within the Skinner State Park. For more information, please call 413-586-0350.

VETERAN from page 1

canned vegetables, packaged breakfast cereals, and bottled juices - a food pantry for veterans less fortunate than Hurley who has put all his children through college, paid up his mortgage, and now enjoys his six grandchildren.

Hurley was not a career military man. He spent under two years in Vietnam, from Aug. 1969 - Sept. 1970, but was hurt badly - designated 100 percent disabled - such that he was given disability and ordered to Da Nang to catch a plane back to the United States.

As a young man, Hurley signed up voluntarily to go to Vietnam after his first year of college where, he said, "I majored in party," and had received grades that evidently reflected his major.

On a summer evening, when Hurley's father announced at the dinner table that he was going to go to the Credit Union to take out another loan for his son's second year of college, the young man stopped him in his tracks and said, "You don't have to because I'm not going back to college. I joined the service."

Hurley senior, an impressive Navy man who had fought in WWII, remained in a state of suspended disbelief. "So," he paused, "they're sending you to the Great Lakes for boot camp?"

When the answer to that question was a "no," he wondered out loud, "Why then would they send someone from the East Coast to boot camp in San Diego?"

That question was also off-target. The young man finally answered, "I'm going to Parris Island," a well-known Marine Corp training center in South Carolina.

At that point, knives and forks dropped; his mother began to cry, and his father declared they would get him out. But the young Hurley shot back, "I'm over 18-years-old and I signed for myself."

The Vietnam War was going on heavily at the time. Hurley felt that if he were headed for combat he would need the best training available. "That's why I joined the Marine Corp," he said. He also did not want to waste any more of his father's money on college.

The training was organized into several stages. He went through boot camp, then into the Infantry Training Regiment or ITR. Later he attended a specialty school for machine-gunners.

After a month-long leave, he went to Camp Pendleton in California for four weeks of jungle-warfare training. His next stop was Vietnam.

Hurley was an infantryman in Vietnam. Although he was a machine gunner, the military didn't just give a machine gun to a new soldier until they were certain of how he would react in a firefight.

The commanders needed the assurance that the gunner was fully responsible. After a few months, said Hurley, "I got the gun, an M60, and I was the team leader for my gun team."

Only he carried a machine gun though. "We called ourselves 'the grunts' because you grunt from the weight when you move along."

Infantrymen go out in the bush and stay there. Even though they had trained to live in the thick of a jungle, it was still a shock. "Basically you're living like an animal," said Hurley.

"You're out in the jungle crawling along and have to watch at night in case the enemy comes, and during the day the patrols tried to locate the hidden enemy."

The first months in Vietnam were very tough. At night the men slept on the ground. Even during monsoon season, they had only their ponchos to keep them dry, and therefore they remained perpetually wet.

Before bedtime, they had to dig a fighting hole every night. These were waist-high holes, usually dug to accommodate two to three Marines per hole.

The holes protected the men from enemy projectiles, bullets, rockets and shrapnel. But sometimes rain would fill the hole and they would end up sleeping in a pool of water.

To stay strong and healthy the men were required to take a huge pill every



(Turley Publications photo Christal Whelan)

John Hurley, Purple Heart recipient, Vietnam War, Aug. 1969 - Sept. 1970.

Sunday for malaria, which ultimately got dubbed the "Sunday pill." Hurley got ringworm fungus on his legs.

He also got round worms in his stomach. For these he was given a little tablet of arsenic that would usually kill them off in three days.

A tour in Vietnam lasted for 13 months. After about six or seven had passed, Hurley was assigned to battalion headquarters or H&S to work; he was the battalion re-supply non-commissioned officer, an NCO.

His job was to determine who was combat-ready. Although a position normally held by a second lieutenant, Hurley's high aptitude in mathematics allowed him to be given the job.

The four companies out in the bush would call on Hurley at night for a resupply and he would see they got what they needed. "I determined for our colonel whether our battalion was combat ready on a weekly basis."

There were a lot of factors to consider. He would get reports from armory, personnel, the motor pool, from any department. "I'd have to keep track of anything in low supply and determine the ratios of each battalion.

I'd put the ratios together, and if a group fell below 92 percent, they would remove the battalion from Vietnam overnight." His colonel said to him once, "'That's not going to happen [to us],' so we were always somewhere on the 97 percent."

The first week he returned from his job at the H&S, his camp was overrun at night by a regiment of North Vietnamese Army soldiers, dressed as Marines. "It was a nightmare," said Hurley. "They were running around the hills and we didn't know who to shoot at. That's how I got wounded."

Hurley was in a hole with two others when an enemy soldier ran by and threw a satchel charge into their hole. This homemade bomb is like a tin box filled with nails and glass and other dangerous objects, he explained.

It immediately killed one Marine, and inflicted holes in the head and back of another. It blew Hurley completely out of the hole and landed him about five yards away, rupturing his eardrums. Shrapnel pierced the back of his head and down his whole back.

The field hospital where Hurley later found himself was a Quonset hut where he remained for about three weeks while doctors removed the shrapnel from his body piece by piece.

When the day finally arrived when he

was supposed to leave Vietnam and return home to the U.S., the helicopters couldn't fly because the rains were pelting down hard. His captain said to him, "Come on, we'll put you on a jeep and drive you to Da Nang for your flight home."

As they drove, a convoy of trucks belonging to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam or ARVN was approaching, but somewhere along the convoy they had been ambushed, causing one of the trucks to pull out into their lane.

The jeep in which Hurley was riding was hit head-on. One Marine was killed, two others were wounded, along with Hurley who embarked on a new medical odyssey.

He spent three weeks in an Army hospital, was then sent to Guam for four weeks, medevacked to San Diego for one night, to Dallas for another night, to Chicago one night, to Washington DC for one more night and then to Chelsea Naval Hospital (in Chelsea, Massachusetts until its closing in 1974) where he stayed for about four months in recovery.

Hurley raised his left arm to prove a point. He said, "I have no left wrist." He moved his arm in a different way and said, "They screwed my arm together here." Then pointing at his left ear, he said, "I'm deaf in this ear."

He drew a line with his index finger on his head, "I have a big cut where the top of my head was lifted off. And I have PTSD."

When Hurley finally returned to the U.S., right back to his parents' home, and was officially out of military service, he stayed drunk for one full year. His parents encouraged him to see a doctor, a priest, whatever it would take to set him right.

He would rise at 2 p.m. before they would get home from work, and then leave the house and not return until 7 a.m. when they had already left for work.

In this way, he tried to push his war memories out of his consciousness. Finally, one morning when he woke up, he said to himself, "Okay, I don't need this anymore," and he stopped drinking.

Years later as a retired businessman, he was volunteering at Toys for Tots and putting the toys in categories when a customer came in, and after some conversation, asked him, "So what are you doing for your PTSD?"

Peeved by the mere suggestion, Hurley said defensively, "I don't have PTSD. Get out of here!" At that time, he thought PTSD was for those who came back from Afghanistan.

But the following week, another person came in the store and asked him the same question. This time he went home and asked his wife for her opinion.

From her he learned that he had changed in a relatively short period of time. She said he had become defensive and argumentative.

He went to the Veterans Center in West Springfield and they sent him to a psychiatrist. Through this therapy, it dawned on him that all the things he had pushed to the back of his mind that first drunken year of his return from Vietnam were returning now with a vengeance.

He was a retired person now, with his mortgage paid, and he had put all his three children through college. His bills were paid off, and his mind was cleared of its usual daily preoccupations.

Onto this cleared deck nightmares from Vietnam had come rushing in. He became aware of habits such as when it

grew dark at night he would automatically pull down all the shades. "You don't want the enemy looking in when the light's behind your head."

Homecoming is a difficult adjustment, he explained. "You are always on edge. In the jungle there are always booby traps or an ambush awaiting. At night you'd only get to sleep for four hours. And if you ate one full meal a day you were lucky."

Asked how he feels now, Hurley said, "I don't think you're ever really healed. I go for therapy over at the Veterans Center on a regular basis."

He's learned his trigger points and how to avoid them and finds camaraderie with other veterans who have been in the same or similar situations crucial. "Have you noticed that a veteran will not talk about combat to anyone unless it's another veteran who has been in combat? Because no matter what I say, a non-veteran would never understand it."

He offered as an example his return to college after his tour in Vietnam. He went to get a degree in education to teach math. We were called "baby killers" and all kinds of things. I actually got in a couple of fistfights at school.

He recalls an English professor who was talking about a certain work of literature one day in class. Then she looked at Hurley and said, "Hey, Mr. Marine, why don't you stand up and tell us how it was to kill babies." I looked at her and I said, "You have no right to talk to me like that."

He went immediately to the chair of the English department's office and told him what had happened. "Well, go on back and tell her because I want to hear this too," he responded.

At that, Hurley walked out. Instead of teaching, he went on to get an MBA and pursued a career in business.

His first peacetime encounter with Vietnamese people occurred when the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall visited the Big E in West Springfield. They made a Vietnam day out of it with a lot of Vietnamese people coming by bus from Boston and New York, Hurley recalls.

As he was mingling with the group, he met a woman who asked him where he had been in Vietnam. When he answered, "Dong Ha," she said her father was in the NVA in that area.

"You could have been fighting against my father," she said to Hurley, who then asked if her father was still alive. When she answered yes, he said, "Go back and tell him thanks. He is a good soldier."

On the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC, are the names of five of Hurley's friends, two with whom he was very close. When he first visited the wall, he stood up and leaned on the side of it and cried for quite a long time.

"That's what Memorial Day is all about. It's for our fallen. We think about our veterans who are no longer here. Memorial Day is not for the living - that's Veterans Day - it's for the dead."

Although many people may look at Memorial Day as just the beginning of summer, Hurley adds a potent corrective: "It is a time to reflect and remember our fallen veterans. There are going to be a lot of ceremonies in every town and I wish more people would show up for them.

"I also wish we would be teaching our kids more about Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and what we went through, and what this country has been through.

"That's us."

WONDERING ABOUT YOUR WATER QUALITY IN SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO.2?

Please go to, https://www.shdistrict2.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3811/f/uploads/2022_consumer_confidence_report.pdf

To view your annual water quality report and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper copy of the 2022 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home please call, 413-532-9210.

► Seniors

Beat the heat at the COA 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.

With summer here, there's no better way to beat the heat than enjoying activities and events inside the air conditioned senior center, including a live music series. Here's a look at some of the offerings:

THIS COMING WEEK

Learn about "romance" scams 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 6

Law enforcement officials will discuss romance scams and other ways fraudsters target senior citizens for cash.

A Beyonder Tour: Virtual Live Presentation 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 7

A Panoramic Tour of Rome. On this virtual tour you will join your guide, Olga on a panoramic tour of the Eternal City starting from the northern gate, Piazza del Popolo, continuing to the Spanish Steps, Fashion District, across the Trevi Fountain and beyond.

Loomis Chorus 2 p.m. Friday, June 8

The Loomis Chorus invited Dick Matson to become their director in January 2018. The group numbers approximately 35 singers from Loomis Village, South Hadley, and Applewood in Amherst. The chorus sings a variety of songs, many chosen by the singers. The group performs two concerts a year.

Abraham Rodstein Holocaust Presentation 1 p.m. Saturday, June 9

Local Holocaust survivor Abraham Rodstein will share his experiences growing up in Lithuania, being held in a ghetto and Nazi concentration camp as a teenager and ultimately immigrating to the United States. His memories of both Russian and German occupation and interment in Dachau are a fascinating view into the life of a young boy surviving the horrors of war. You don't want to miss this moving presentation. Register by calling 538-5030

UPCOMING

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series 5

p.m. June 13

Join Rachel Sayet (whose name in the Mohegan language is Akitusut, which means "She Who Reads") a member of the Mohegan nation, as she shares traditional knowledge about seasonal planting, harvesting and hunting and fishing practices as well as food preparation and preservation in New England. Akitusut draws from her unique experiences a professionally trained chef and community-based researcher focused on recording and revitalizing. This program is sponsored by the SHCOA Travel Club.

Sound Bath Meditation Presentation 2:30 p.m. June 14

This program will be a one-hour sound healing meditation journey with Jeffrey Wyda, who is a Nationally Board Certified Holistic Registered Nurse specializing in the integrative healing arts. Beginning with a short introduction to the evidence-based health benefits of sound healing as a form of self-care, Wyda integrates healing tools, such as gongs, singing bowls, vocals and percussion instruments to help people find inner harmony and balance. It is recommended that participants wear comfortable clothes. Prepare to pause and reset from the busyness and stress of everyday life.

Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m. June 16

Join Steven Laplant and Bernie Marois of ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate, will host this month's breakfast.

Cancer Survivors Month

Holyoke Hospital Oncology Presentation 2 p.m. June 16

HMC Hematology/Oncology Dept. will be here to talk about Breast cancer updates. Dr. Dulala will be joined by Nancy (RN- Navigator), Lisa Weary-Schecterie, Director of Community Benefits, Lynn White-Lynch and Iris Romero (CNA and Spanish interpreter). There have been some great improvements in the treatment of breast cancer. Join us for this hope-filled event.

Summer Concert Series schedule:

Banish Misfortune 5:30 p.m. June 20
July 25th double header: Madison Cur-

belo at 4 p.m., and Noah Lis at 5:30 p.m.

Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks 5 p.m. Aug. 29

Each concert is \$4 or purchase all three at the same time and have your name entered for a chance to be Senior Center VIP, which includes:

Free exercise punch card

\$5 gift card to the Woodlawn Café
A free ticket to an upcoming concert of your choice

Individual tickets or tickets purchased in a group at the welcome desk.

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Alzheimer's Association Presentation 1:30 p.m. June 29

Susan Antkowiak, VP of Program and Services, MA/NH will present the tremendous gains that have been made in understanding Alzheimer's and other dementias. Wrapping up this month-long highlight of dementia related challenges - participants will learn the landscape of Alzheimer's science, highlights in early detection diagnosis, the latest advances in clinical trials and most importantly, the treatment with lifestyle interventions we can begin today

Oncology Presentation 2 p.m. Friday, July 16

Holyoke Medical Center, Hematology/Oncology Dept will talk about breast cancer trends in 2023. Dr. Dulala will be accompanied by Nancy (RN- Navigator), Lisa Wray-Schecterie, director of Community Benefits, Lynn White-Lynch (Dr Dulala's MA) and Iris Romero (CNA) (Bilingual) - assists w/interpretation.

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.

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. (Ask about the requested item if not posted).

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.

CAMPUS NOTES

Fitchburg State University

Tajahn Joyner of Hadley recently graduated from Fitchburg State University, earning a BS in Sociology.

Springfield College

The following local students were named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Springfield College for the 2023 spring semester: Emma Blaney of South Hadley, who has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA; Maggie Cyr of South Hadley, who has a primary major of Sports Biology; and Anthony Kelly of South Hadley, who has a primary major of Criminal Justice.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Holyoke Community College

Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 52 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 25.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony at HCC's Campus Center, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin from a registered nurse and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses. Holyoke Community College, Associate of Science in Nursing program graduates for 2023 include Monica Drew, Victor Koskey and Jackie Tran of South Hadley and Leigh Montemagni of Hadley.



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2023

SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Charlie Anischik



Deandre Bailey



Kaitlyn Bashista



Annalise Beiser



Yarilenis Bermudez



Haley Bernash



Matthew Bernier



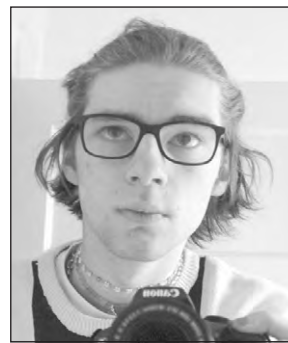
Jonathan Blais



Monica Boivan



John Boryczka



Rowan Butler



Yaritza Cabrera

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CLASS OF 2023

SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Alicia D'Amour



Todd Danio



Eliza Danko



Austin Deren



Hannah Doerpholz



Moira Doolittle



Catherine English



Benjamin Foley



Yiann Fontanez



Halei Foss



Pacey Gauthier

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Best wishes and all of our support, The South Hadley Drug and Alcohol Coalition and the SH Peer Leaders

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CLASS OF 2023 SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Sadie Germain



Megan Gouin



Rachel Gouin



Brayden Harper



Kyle Harris



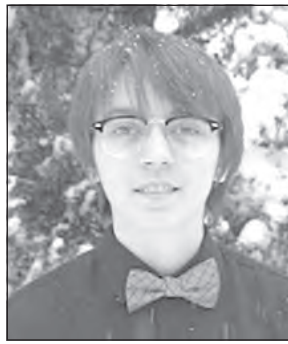
Natalie Hartley



Nicholas Hartley



Sydney Henry



Tristin Henson



Audissey Hill



Nick Hollis



Alexandra Jackson



Jace Johnson



Alexander Jovan



Braden Joy



Richard Kida III



Timothy Laporte



Zaeli Laviera

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SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Shelby Lawrence



Alena Lempke



Josiyah Leonard



Kacie Levrault



Lily Lewis



Matthias Lipp



Josephine Lloyd



Reese Mackenzie



Xavier Macon



Lily Marion



Alexander Martin-Romero



Aidan Mastorakis



Peter Mateo Jr.



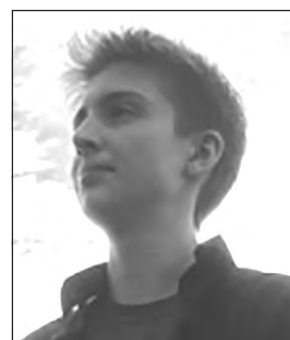
Chase Mathers



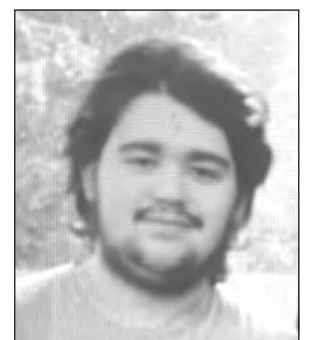
Nyx Matthews



Alyssa McGinnis



Samuel McIntosh



Justin McMains



Caleb Menard



Audrey Messina



Perla Moreno Saravia



Mitchell Moriarty



Angel Muñoz Diaz



Alexis Neill



Conor Neumann



Esther Ngure



Ariana Niles



Kayla Norman



Yamileyshka Ortiz



Adam Papineau



Isabella Parsons



Jasmine Patruno



Mickayla Patruno



Ruth Pietrzykowski



Sasha Plotniak



Lily Provost



Colin Quinn



Nicholas Ramos



Jacob Reddy



Haley Resnick



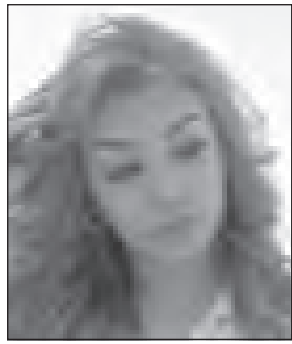
Paige Robitaille



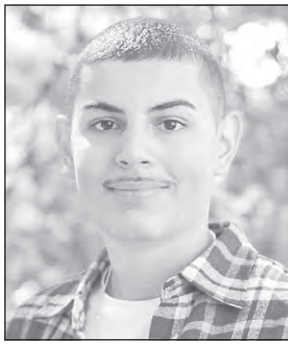
Austin Rodriguez



CLASS OF 2023 SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Jasmaly Rosado



Anthony Ruiz



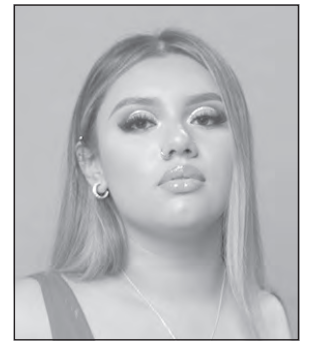
Jessica Sabourin



Nikolas Sabourin



Emma Sanford



Estela Saravia



Nathan Sarrazin



Summer Schark



Marissa Schenker



Alexis Scott



Ashley Scott



Mehek Shahid



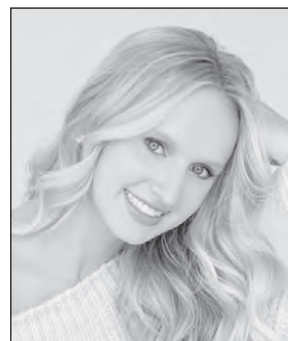
Joshua Snow-Wolanczyk



Alexis Stratton



Rylee Suchenicz



Delaney Sulek



John Sullivan Jr.



Sean Sullivan

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Class of 2023

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As you get ready to take the next step, we want to thank you for setting a great example with your hard work and dedication to achieving your goals.

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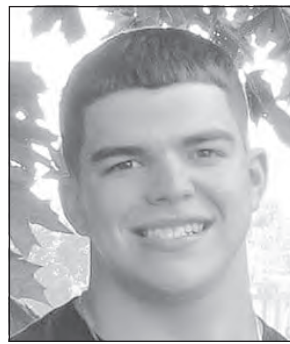
CLASS OF 2023 SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Adam Theroux



Helena Theroux



Justin Van Hoy



Jaelianna Velazquez



Kyleigh Vieu-Fleury



Salle Waite



Shaye Walker



Georgia Wall



Evan Wartel



Sean Whalen



Cameron Williams



Nicholas Woloszyn



Edward Wykowski

Photos were unavailable for the following graduating students:

- Zind Zhi Greene
- Kaylee Lewis
- Mitchell Moriarty
- Madeline Petell
- Matthew Sexton-Acosta



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Tigers head for WMass finals



Raquel Losty fires a throw to a teammate.



Jordyn Balint sprints up the field.



Caitlin Dean keeps the ball away from an opponent.

SOUTH HADLEY – After taking care of Granby in their regular season finale last week, South Hadley girls lacrosse scored a win in the Western Mass. semifinals over Amherst 11-8 and was set to face off with Belchertown on Wednesday afternoon. Highlights from that matchup will be next week's edition.



Rachel Yabra winds up for a pass.



Margaret Watkins tries to avoid the defense. Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hall adds new lighting display

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum's iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city's most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

"We've completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building's exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the riverfront area," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We couldn't be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield's night sky."

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.

Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
- Food vouchers for every home game
- Transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12
- Free clinics for any household member ages 6-13
- Special Host Family recognition event
- 40% discount on all merchandise
- Season-long access to our live-game radio
- Access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined

If you are interested in being a host family, please contact mattd@valley-bluesox.com for more information.

First half makes difference in playoff defeat



Kalli White sprints up the field.

GRANBY – The Granby High School girls lacrosse team was outscored 9-5 in the first half, and that made the difference in a 15-11 loss in the semifinals of the Class C Western Mass. tournament last Thursday. The Rams got seven goals from Ella Laliberte and three from Kalli White in the loss. Granby will make the state tournament with a .500 record.



Ava Loughman heads up the field.



Kelly Lynne Kenney gets ready to shoot. Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

► Sports

Hirschman dominates to win at Granite State Derby

LEE, N.H. – In the inaugural Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway, Matt Hirschman dominated early but came up short in the stretch. This time around, Hirschman would not be denied.

“Big Money Matt” took charge on the third lap and never looked back en route to his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win of the year and his first at “New Hampshire’s Center of Speed.”

“We just finally closed one,” Hirschman said in victory lane. “These races are tough to win, and I think we should have had five or six of them in recent years.”

The Northampton, Penn., veteran started third and only needed a couple laps to get alongside polesitter and defending race winner Doug Coby. Once at the front, Hirschman checked out, maintaining a modest advantage over Coby, Sam Rameau and Jon McKennedy as the leaders plotted their tire strategy.

Patient and clean racing through the pack was paused on lap 69 when Max Zachem spun down the frontstretch, opening the pit strategy window. Hirschman led the entire field down pit road for tires, then beat Coby and McKennedy back to the track to lead the field back to green.

Coby stumbled on the restart with clutch problems, sliding back through the pack as McKennedy and Austin Beers settled into second and third. Beers



Matt Hirschman gets the win in the Granite State Derby.

Submitted photo

snuck past the reigning series champion and into the runner-up spot, but Hirschman was setting a steady pace at the front that the sophomore could not outmatch. The leaders prepared for one last pit stop, all the while managing their tires to go the distance if necessary.

McKennedy slipped back around Beers with 25 laps to go, carving time off Hirschman’s advantage as the leader dispatched slower traffic. But the caution McKennedy needed to erase that

advantage never came.

Hirschman, ever disciplined at conserving equipment, crossed the line 1.120 seconds ahead of McKennedy to win his sixth career NWMT race and his first since the 2021 season opener.

“We deserve better than what the results have been, and a lot of that is on me,” Hirschman said. “I take the most responsibility for that. But today, we delivered.”

Beers held on for third place, with Rameau and Ron Silk rounding out the top five. Coby

raced his way back to sixth at the finish.

Hirschman’s win is a small step toward repeating last year’s Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship for car owner Roy Hall’s Pee Dee Motorsports. Coby won the first leg of the triple-race program, the Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway.

In addition to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, six more feature races kept fans on the edge of their seats with a mix

of local and regional star power. Supermodified wunderkind Jeffrey Battle passed his uncle Eddie Witkum with the white flag in sight to claim victory in the 350 Supermodifieds. Tom Harwood prevailed in a three-way battle to win the 25-lap New England Dwarf Car Series showdown. The New England Pro 4 Modifieds staged their inaugural Dan Meserve, Sr. Memorial Race, with Brayden Meserve taking an emotional win for the family.

Massachusetts’ Ryan Kuhn topped Lee’s best Pro Stock racers, leading wire-to-wire in a commanding performance in the 80-lap Pro Stock open. Wade Gelinus turned in a similar performance with the NHSTRA Late Models. And setting the stage for the night’s main event, Kyle Valeri took his first-ever win with the NEMA Lites.

The next scheduled event for JDV Productions is the inaugural Winchester Open Modified 100 at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., where the JDV Open Modifieds will make their debut at “Mad Dog” Saturday, June 3. More information on this special event will be released later this week.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.

Registration open for 41st annual 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 individ-

ual 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 dif-

ferent state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

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

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

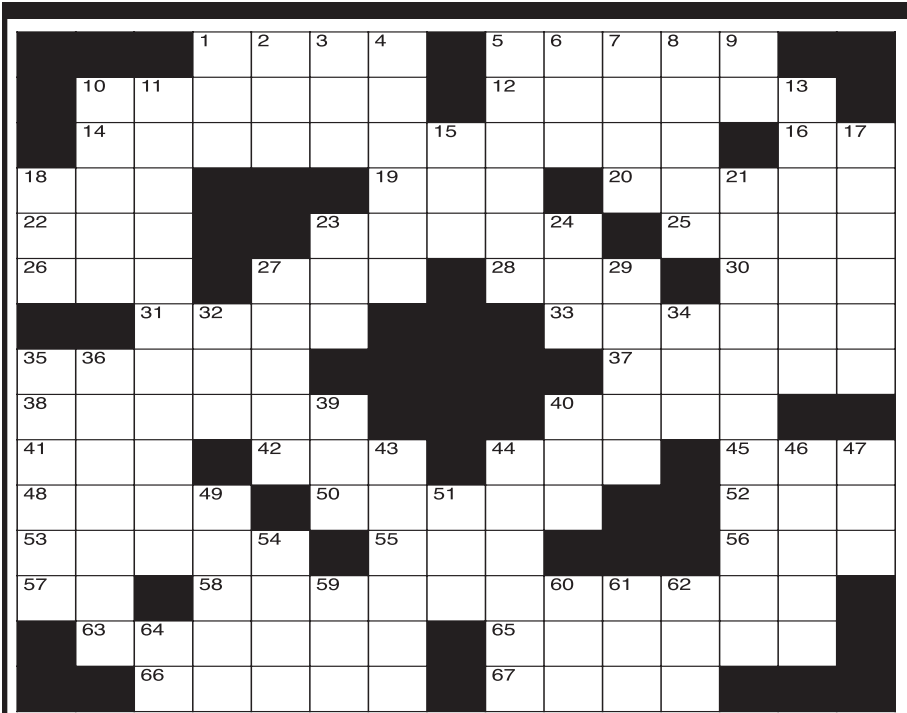
For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

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Public Notices



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade

- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/___
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous person

- 32. Not good
- 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- 35. The "World" is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating "away from"
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy

LEGAL NOTICE
Chuck It Self Storage
Self Storage Facility
Public Auction
 On **Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.**, at the premises of Chuck It Self Storage, 346 East St., South Hadley, MA 01075, the contents of the following units, consisting of personal property, will be sold at Public Auction to satisfy the lien of the storage operator. This sale is held pursuant to and under the authority of Chap. 105A, Sec. 4 of the M.G.L. Sales to be PAID IN CASH ONLY at the time of the sale. Contents to be removed off the premises within 48 hours.
 Claire Robillard
 06/02, 06/09/2023

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF GRANBY
CABLE TELEVISION
LICENSE RENEWAL
PROCEEDING
 The Town of Granby Select Board, as cable television licensing authority under MGL 166A s.1, will hold a public ascertainment hearing on **June 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**, at Town Hall, 10-B West State Street, Route 202, Granby, MA as part of the Town's Comcast cable television license renewal process. The Comcast license is due to expire on October 5, 2025 and the federal Cable Act, 47 USC 546, requires a public proceeding to ascertain the community's cable-related needs and interests as part of the license renewal process. Public comment is invited

regarding the Town and public's cable license renewal needs and interests. For further information contact Town Administrator Chris Martin c/o Town Hall or Attorney William August at (617) 548-3735. If and when Comcast files a license renewal application or other renewal records, copies shall be available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk. By order of the Select Board as License Issuing Authority.
 06/02, 06/09/2023



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

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:
 Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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SSI from page 4

participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to
 Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

www.turley.com

Town Reminder

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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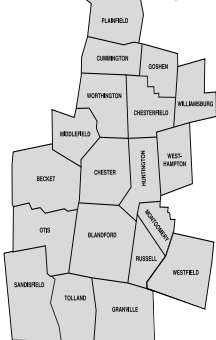
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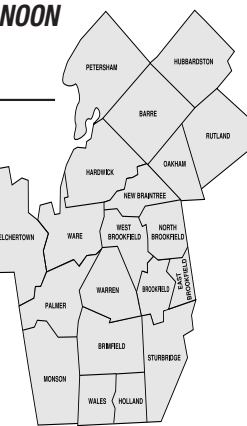
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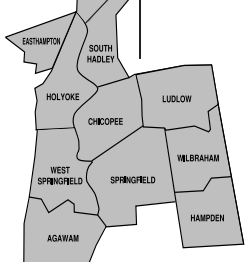


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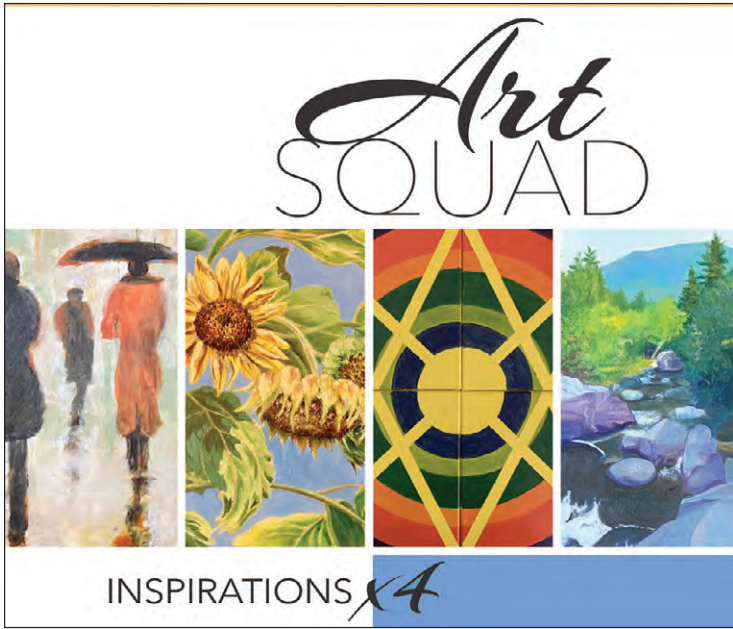
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(Courtesy Photo by Tina Lesniak)

Art Squad inspirations x4 runs through June 28.

ART from page 1

communication. “While I do landscapes and other subjects, often in acrylics, I’m very drawn to things that grow,” said Foley. For Jaffe, art provides the challenge of creating a scene moving for both her and others. She paints landscape paintings with a focus on color from photographs both she and others have taken. “My art allows me to step away from the mundane parts of daily life,” said Jaffe. “I painted during my teenage and college years but wasn’t able to contin-

ue while working and raising a family. Returning to painting in retirement has been a lifelong goal and I’m thrilled that I’ve been able to do it.” Art has been such a gift for the squad members. Pascone, whose painting showcase koi fish as a reminder of her trips to Japan, spoke to the experience of the successful show. “We delight in each other’s work and offer each other so much inspiration,” said Pascone. “Having a successful show is very motivating. It’s so interesting to see how people react to



(Courtesy photo by Kai Judge)

South Hadley artists Lucia Foley, Abby Jaffe, Marion Pascone and Liz Austin prepare to welcome guests to the reception for their artwork exhibit at South Hadley Public Library.

your paintings. Who likes what can be a big surprise.” The show’s reception, although a bit scary and much work, served as a community-building event and a nice shift from the more alone time of the pandemic. “After the constraints of the pandemic, we all looked forward to the reception as an opportu-

nity to have a party,” said Foley. “People coming and going at different times, the room was full, but not overcrowded. We all enjoyed seeing everyone.” The Art Squad formed in 2016 after the women met in an Easthampton art class and decided to start meeting weekly to talk and create. During the pandemic, the group met on Zoom or out-

side to continue its work. It has tentative plans to participate in another show in 2024 as a squad. “Having a squad to work with that shares a similar interest has been a terrific thing for all of us, and the longer we’ve done it, the more we appreciate what we’ve created as a group,” said Foley.

BOOKS from page 3

Golden Age of Detective fiction in a rollicking supernatural detective thriller that introduces Artie Quick, a sales assistant at Filene’s in Boston, who moonlights as an amateur detective. The year is 1909, and Artie Quick, an ambitious, unorthodox and inquisitive young Bostonian, wants to learn about crime. By day, she holds down a job as a salesgirl in women’s accessories at Filene’s; by night she disguises herself as a man to pursue studies in Criminal Investigation at the YMCA’s Evening Institute for Younger Men.

Eager to put theory into practice, Artie sets out in search of something to investigate. She’s joined by her pal Theodore, an upper-crust young bachelor whose interest in Boston’s occult counterculture has drawn him into the study of magic. Together, their journey into mystery begins on Boston Common, where the tramps and the groundskeepers swap rumors about unearthly screams and other unsettling anomalies. Artie and Theodore uncover a series of violent abductions that take them on an adventure from the highest corridors of power to the depths of an abandoned mass transit tunnel, its excavation suspiciously never completed. Will Theodore ever manage to pull off a successful spell? Is Artie really wearing that men’s suit just for disguise or is there something more to it? And what chance do two mixed-up young people stand up against the greatest horror Boston has ever known, an ancient, deranged evil that feeds on society’s most vulnerable?

About the Author

Jeremy P. Bushnell is the author of three novels published by Melville House, “The Weirdness” (2014), “The Insides” (2016) and “Relentless Melt.” Each of them is about magical claptrap, diabolical villainy and ordinary human confusion. He is also the author of a newsletter, the Wednesday Investigations. He lives in Dedham and teaches writing at Northeastern University in Boston.

About Christopher Boucher

Christopher Boucher is the author of the novels “How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive,” “Golden Delicious” and “Big Giant Floating Head” (a 2019 Massachusetts

Book Award Fiction Honors selection), all out from Melville House. He’s also the editor of Jonathan Lethem’s “More Alive and Less Lonely: On Books and Writers and the managing editor of Post Road Magazine.” Boucher lives in Northampton and teaches writing and literature at Boston College.

Jeff Herman in-person 7 p.m. June 15

A literary agent, JHerman shares insight from his book, “Jeff Herman’s Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents, 29th Edition: Who They Are, What They Want, How to Win Them Over.”

This program will share insider secrets about the book acquisition process that will substantially increase the odds that you will be traditionally published. Herman has made more than 1,000 book deals and enjoys sharing what he has learned and experienced in his more than 30 years as an agent. He’s the author of the book industry’s leading book about how to get published.

Herman will show you how to write sizzling query letters and proposals and more.

A Q&A session will follow Jeff’s presentation.

Yvette Lisa Ndlovu in-person 7 p.m. June 20

Ndlovu talks about her collection, “Drinking from Graveyard Wells: Stories.” She will be joined in conversation by Kelly Link. At the request of the author and conversation partner, masks will be required at this event.

About the Book

“Even in death, who has ownership over Black women’s bodies?”

Questions like this lurk between the lines of this stunning collection of stories that engage with African women’s histories, both personal and generational. Their history is not just one thing: there is heart-break and pain, and joy, and flying and magic, so much magic. An avenging spirit takes on the patriarchy from beyond the grave. An immigrant woman undergoes a naturalization ceremony in an imagined American state that demands that immigrants pay a toll of the thing they love the most.

A first-generation Zimbabwean-Amer-

ican woman haunted by generational trauma is willing to pay the ultimate price to take her pain away – vanishing in the night. A shapeshifting freedom fighter leaves a legacy of resistance to her granddaughter.

About the Author

Ndlovu is a Zimbabwean sarungano and an MFA student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst who received her BA from Cornell University. Her work has been supported by fellowships from the Tin House Workshop, Bread Loaf Writers Workshop, and the New York State Summer Writers Institute.

About Kelly Link

Link is the author of “Get in Trouble,” a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, “Magic for Beginners,” “Stranger Things Happen” and more. Her short stories have been published in The Best American Short Stories and Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards. She is a MacArthur “Genius Grant” fellow and has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is the co-founder of Small Beer Press and co-edits the occasional zine Lady Churchill’s Rosebud Wristlet. She is also the co-owner of Book Moon, an independent bookstore in Easthampton.

2023 Book Club Preview 7 p.m. June 21

Are you in a book club? Are you thinking about what you’re going to read for the rest of the year, and maybe beyond?

Sales reps from Penguin Random House and Hachette talk about titles they love. There will be light nibbles, and giveaways. Bring your whole club and make an evening of it.

Megan Tady in-person 7 p.m. June 22

Tady presents her new novel, “Super Bloom,” and will be in conversation with Sarah Sawyer.

About the Book

In this sparkling, heartwarming debut set at an iconic Vermont spa, massage therapist Joan Johnston struggles with grief. Can a quirky assignment from a demanding, eccentric author help Joan rewrite her life?

Massage therapist Joan Johnston can’t seem to get her life back on track. She’s wallowing in grief over the accidental

death of her boyfriend, Samuel, and her attitude is now seriously jeopardizing her job at Apex Inn & Spa, a Vermont institution, as well as her friendships. Then a new client, Carmen Bronze – famous for her bestselling romance novels as well as her crazy demands and flaming temper – offers Joan the chance to pay down her massage school debt and get back in her boss’ good graces at work. All Joan needs to do is funnel Carmen insider dirt for her next book, which is set at a spa. Joan’s not sure, but she’s out of better options and takes the deal.

As the task unexpectedly reawakens a dormant talent in Joan, she’s irresistibly drawn to writing her own romance novel, one based on her relationship with Samuel that stretches into the bright future they didn’t get to share. Writing seems to be the therapy Joan so desperately needs, and her heart begins to open to unlikely friendships, workplace injustice and even a new romance.

But it’s not that easy, especially with the intensity of Carmen breathing down her neck. When Carmen discovers what Joan has been up to, she snatches Joan’s hand-written manuscript and claims it as her own, leading Joan’s new motley crew of friends to hatch an audacious (and hilarious) plan to get it back.

About the Author

Megan Tady is a writer and editor who runs a company called Word-Lift. When she’s not scrutinizing copy, she can be found stocking her free neighborhood library, challenging anyone to a dance-off, or stewing over how “Portlandia” stole all of her jokes. She’s hard at work on her next novel, “Champions for Breakfast,” which will also be published by Zibby Books. She’s a corn-fed Nebraska gal who now lives in a quaint New England town with her husband and two kids.

About Sarah Sawyer

Sarah Sawyer is a high school English teacher at a boarding school in Western Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband and two children. She is a graduate of Amherst College and Middlebury’s Bread Loaf School of English. “The Undercurrent” is her first novel.



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