

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Assistant town administrator welcomed

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - For Chuck Romboletti, the new assistant town administrator and human resources director, the position is both a natural next step in his career and a coming home.



I'VE ALREADY SEEN WHAT A DEDICATED STAFF WE HAVE AND WANT TO REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW AND WHY THINGS WORK THE WAY THEY DO."

CHARLES ROMBOLETTI
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

"When I saw the position posted, I thought it could be the perfect fit. I had known about South Hadley from growing up in the area and always thought the town had a lot to offer," Romboletti said. "I have great memories as a kid visiting McCray's, the Summit House, the Mount Holyoke botanic gardens, movies and dinner at the Village Commons, and baseball at the Beachgrounds."

In front of community mem-



Courtesy Photo, Lisa Wong

The swearing-in ceremony for the new Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director was held at the library. Charles "Chuck" Murphy Romboletti was sworn in by Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner and accompanied by his wife and two children.

bers and colleagues, Romboletti was sworn in on August 7 at South Hadley Public Library with his wife and two young children by his side. After his swearing in, Romboletti has jumped right into the job.

Among the first items on his to-do list are getting to know the human resource policies and procedures, how they are working, and looking for ways to make them more efficient, he said.

"I've already seen what a ded-

icated staff we have and want to really understand how and why things work the way they do," Romboletti said. "Being a small organization that has such a broad scope of responsibilities, we need to be able to do more with less, and I'd like to really see where we can maximize our capacity administratively first, in order to continue to enhance our proactive and strategic work in the future."

Romboletti is also working to familiarize himself with the gen-

eral workings of the town, getting to know the government departments, the people, and the community. As he gets a better understanding of the vision and goals of the community and organization, he wants to use that knowledge to better support Lisa Wong, the town administrator.

"Her role as town administrator comes with broad responsibility for the entire organization, and

Please see **ADMIN**, page 3

Input sought on potential Senior Tax Work-Off Program

SOUTH HADLEY - The town, as well as the South Hadley Senior Center, are seeking input from residents on a potential Senior Tax Work-Off Program.

South Hadley Town Meeting has not adopted Mass General Law Chapter 59, Section 5k to allow for such a program yet, according to a town statement. "The program would potentially appear on a fall special town meeting or 2024 South Hadley annual town meeting warrant," the town released.

The program, if approved by South Hadley Town Meeting members, would allow income-eligible seniors to earn up to a \$1,500 abatement off their property taxes in exchange for volunteering in municipal departments and entities. The potential program would be open to seniors aged 60 and older, who own property in and pay real estate taxes to the town of South Hadley.

Residents can send feedback on whether the town should move forward with a Senior Tax Work-Off Program to selectboard@southhadley-ma.gov.

Inaugural 'South by South Hadley Festival' coming this October

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - The town is gearing up for its first-ever "South by South Hadley" festival, to be held in October.

The three-day event has been described as "a showcase of local

arts and culture" and will be held Friday, October 6, through Sunday, October 8.

"[The] first-ever South by South Hadley festival [is] a three-day cultural celebration embracing the diverse talents and offerings within and around the town," a press statement reads.

South by South Hadley is "a testament to the creative spirit of our town, produced, supported, and performed by numerous local artists," event organizers released. "Generous grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Town of South Hadley, the South Hadley Cultural Coun-

cil, and charitable contributions from businesses and individuals, in partnership with MASH [Music and Arts South Hadley], have made this event possible," a press statement reads. The festival is seeking corporate sponsorships to supplement grants. The funds will contribute

to compensating artists and promoting their work, event details read.

The event will include live performances, exhibitions, presentations, and more at assorted public and commercial venues around

Please see **FESTIVAL**, page 3

Residents invited to Housing Forum

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - The town has been engaging in a public outreach process to update its Housing Production Plan, last updated in 2016.

A third community forum will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street.

Through the Housing Production Plan (HPP) update process, the town is seeking to open discussion and analyze South Hadley's current

housing stock and housing affordability relative to its population and demographics, according to a town statement. "Your contribution is vital to the creation of a successful plan," the town released.

The town of South Hadley is developing the draft plan, according to reports, in coordination with Outwith Studio.

"It is anticipated that the draft will be available to the public on August 28," the town released. "The process has been guided by an Advisory Committee, consisting of appointed community members,

and will ultimately be adopted by the Planning Board and Selectboard following a public hearing process after which it will receive State review and approval."

The HPP process is established by the State Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, formerly the Department of Housing and Community Development, and seeks to "demonstrate strategies to increase opportunities for affordable housing."

For more information, visit shhousingplan.org.



Courtesy Photo, South Hadley Police Department

It was a Picnic in the Park

Two of the police department's veterans, Lt. Baran and Detective Perez, attended the recent Veterans Picnic in the Park event at Buttery Brook Park.

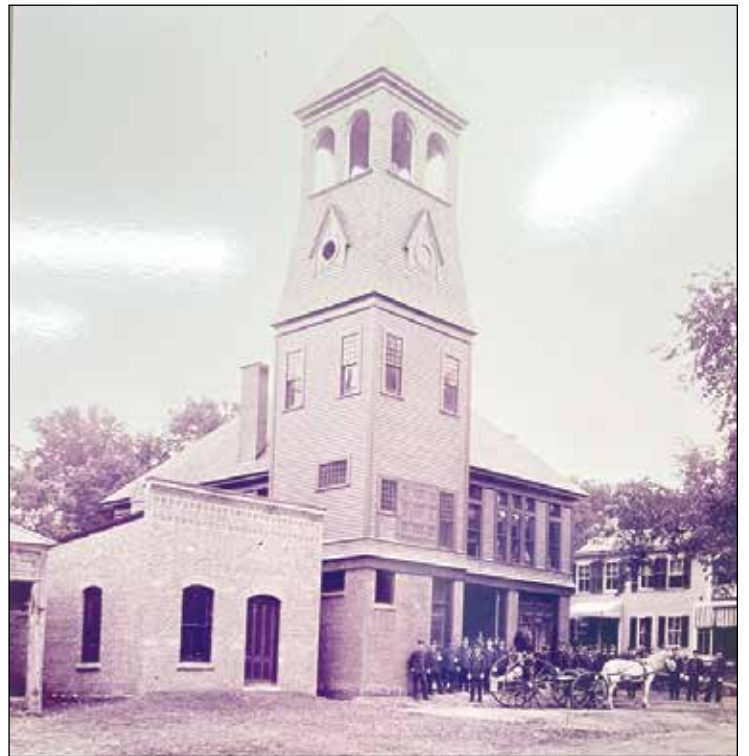
▶ South Hadley

Town happenings with the TA

SOUTH HADLEY – Town Administrator Lisa Wong has released updates regarding the Old Firehouse Museum, as well as several Eagle and Girl Scout projects in the community. Regarding the Old Firehouse Museum, Wong said that Diane LaRoche, Chair of the Trustees of the museum, and members from the Historical Commission hosted Wong, Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti, and Director of Building Operations Scott Moore this week. “The museum was founded 48 years ago after the closure of the station when a larger station was built,” Wong released. “The Museum, located at 4 North Main Street, is open on the fourth Sunday of the Month from 1:30-4 p.m. or by appointment.”

There is no admission charge. In other news, Wong said that three Eagle and Girl Scout projects were completed this summer. “Zosha Dimock re-blazed the orange trail at Black Stevens Conservation Area to earn her Silver Award with her Girl Scout Troop,” Wong released. “Brendan Maloney completed his Eagle Scout Project repairing and replacing a bridge at Canal Park that connects the trail to the river. Owen Bauman completed trail clean up at the trails at Canal Park for his Eagle Scout Project.”

Courtesy Photos, Town Administrator Lisa Wong
Three Eagle and Girl Scout projects were completed this summer.



A photo of the Old Firehouse Museum.

Senior Center to hold sign-making workshop, more

SOUTH HADLEY – The town’s Council on Aging has announced several upcoming events, including one to be held today.

Sign Make & Take Workshop – 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 18

Event with South Hadley Board and Brush. Choose from three different single board signs and choose your stain with instruction from the Board and Brush staff. The types of signs can be found at the Senior Center and on the Facebook page.

Caregiver Support Group – 10 a.m.

Are you a caregiver to a senior living with a chronic illness?

“Caregivers come in all shapes and sizes,” the Council On Aging released. “No

two caregivers are on the same journey.”

With the help of the COA Social Service Coordinator Ann Andras, this group will explore all facets of Caregiving.

National Senior Center Month - September

The 2023 theme “Discover Yours” encourages residents to come to their senior center, “whether you are a regular or if you have never visited,” South Hadley’s Council On Aging released.

“The theme also encourages you to discover your unique interests, talents, and aspirations.”

A list of special events will be on the Senior Center’s Facebook page, on Channel 15, and throughout the Senior Center in the coming weeks.

Cultural Council’s resident input deadline today

SOUTH HADLEY – The town’s Cultural Council is seeking input on what residents want to see in 2024.

“Let Cultural Council members know what kind of events you would like to see them sponsor in 2024 by completing this brief survey,” the Council released in a statement on the town’s website; a link to the survey is also available on the website, southhadley.org. “Thank you for your participation.”

Resident input will also help

plan a community event in the coming year. Survey responses are asked to be submitted by Friday, August 18.

According to a survey description, the South Hadley Cultural Council is an eight-member group of appointed South Hadley residents.

“We are part of the Local Cultural Council (LCC) program of Mass. Cultural Council, and every year we—and LCCs throughout Massachusetts—receive money to grant to our local

grant applicants,” the Council shared. “Eligible projects are in the arts, humanities, or sciences.”

The Cultural Council added that the aim of the survey is “to hear what cultural offerings, events, and resources you, as residents of South Hadley, feel our community would benefit from.”

“Your input will assist us as we make grant decisions in this upcoming grant cycle (September/October 2023) for projects to take place in 2024.”

Updated COVID-19 vaccines available next month

SOUTH HADLEY – In a recent community update, Town Administrator Lisa Wong released information regarding the updated COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccines are “expected to be available at the end of September,” Wong said, and are awaiting

approval from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax will have [a] shot that will be available for almost all ages,” Wong released.

Once approved, the recommendations regarding use will be released.

Learn more mass.gov/covid-19-updatesand-information.

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Courtesy Photo, David Neill

The Fanfare Brass Ensemble

Brass concert on Granby's town green

GRANBY – The Fanfare Brass Ensemble will present a music concert on Monday, September 11, on the town green.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m.; in the case of rain, the concert will be held in the church at 235 State Street, Granby.

The 10-part brass ensemble performs light popular music, according to a spokesperson with the event. The concert is free and open to the public.

Music attendees may hear includes: “West Side Story, Here’s That Rainy Day, Glenn Miller Medley, Phantom of the Opera, The Cowboys by John Williams, Mountain King Swing, Shenandoah, Scottish tunes, America the Beautiful,” and more.

This concert is sponsored in part by the Cultural Council of Massachusetts and the Granby Cultural Council.

ADMIN from page 1

it’s amazing to see her breadth of knowledge and management skills in action,” Romboletti said.

In fact, it was Wong’s state-wide reputation that was one the reasons Romboletti felt drawn to the position, he said.

“Lisa has a great reputation among local government managers in the state, and I had often heard great things,” Romboletti added.

Additionally, he felt drawn to the town administrator/select board type of government. Having experience with both this kind and the mayor/town council type, he thinks the type of government South Hadley has offers many “benefits conducive to efficient and effective operations.”

Romboletti comes from Needham, where he was promoted a few times and

worked a variety of roles in the human resources department for nine years.

“At one time or another I directly oversaw each of our office’s functions, which I think will help me in a smaller office manage the breadth of operations by providing hands-on expertise while keeping an eye toward efficiency, effectiveness, and equitability of our processes and policies so that we are continually improving the quality and accessibility of services offered,” he said.

Romboletti explained that he is already seeing high-level dedication among the current South Hadley employees.

“It’s clear that people here are dedicated to their jobs and to the community and in providing top-level services,” Romboletti said. “The boards and committees have also been very welcoming, and I appreciate their intelligent and thoughtful perspectives.”

FESTIVAL from page 1

town, including the South Hadley Town Common, South Hadley Falls, churches, libraries, and a selection of local restaurants. “South by South Hadley will offer an enriching experience for all,” event organizers shared.

South by South Hadley aims to “attract residents from throughout the Pioneer Valley, encouraging them to explore South Hadley’s cultural and educational institutions as well as its scenic outdoor spaces.”

“The event is a collaborative effort, guided by a passionate Steering Committee representing the business, educational, and cultural communities,” a press statement reads.

Beyond celebration, South by South Hadley aims to have a “lasting impact by benefiting small businesses and positioning the town as a cultural destination in the region.”

South by South Hadley organizers said the event is dedicated to inclusivity, with all events free to the public. Attendees have the option to make a donation to support local art and artists.

“The festival is committed to accessibility, ensuring that all venues hosting events are disability-friendly,” event details read. “The event is made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers.”

The Steering Committee and subcommittees are donating their time and talents to ensure the success of South by South Hadley, event organizers shared.

“South by South Hadley promises to be an enriching and unforgettable experience; a celebration of our cultural tapestry and a chance to showcase the talent that makes South Hadley shine.”

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, visit southhadleyarts.org.

Event organizers added that artists and events will begin to be announced soon.

Gaylord Library’s August programs

SOUTH HADLEY - Due to on-going problems with the air-conditioning at the Gaylord branch, Gaylord’s August events are subject to cancellation or relocation to the main library based on the weather conditions.

For the latest updates, visit the library’s website at gaylordlibrary.org or the Facebook page at facebook.com/gaylordlibrary.

“Thank you for your patience,” library staff released in a statement.

Additionally, the Gaylord Library reminded residents that it runs the “home delivery” of library materials for the town of South Hadley.

“Delivery is available to South Hadley residents who have health or transportation issues that keep them from the library on a temporary or on-going basis,” the library released. “Any item that can be checked out from the Gaylord Memorial Library or South Hadley Public Library can be delivered.”

For more information or to sign-up, visit the library’s website or call Adult Services Librarian Sarah Courtney at 413-538-5047.

against friends or meet a new one. No pre-registration required.

Needle Felt a Mouse with Anna Sunschauer

Thursday, August 31, at 6 p.m. (rescheduled from July)

Come learn the art of needle felting. Gaylord staff member and fiber artist Anna Sunschauer will teach attendees how to sculpt fluffy wool fiber into 3D objects using felting needles. This is a beginner project. No prior needle felting experience is necessary, but it is recommended that all participants have good fine motor skills to avoid injury with the sharp needles. This workshop is open to teens and adults ages 12+, and is limited to eight participants per session. All necessary tools and materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Register online at gaylordlibrary.org, by phone at 413-538-5047, or in-person by stopping by the circulation desk.

Mount Holyoke College Student Exhibit and Circulating Art

The Mount Holyoke College Studio Art Department and the Gaylord Memorial Library are presenting “Paintings in Circulation,” an exhibition showcasing artwork by spring 2023 Painting 1, taught by Associate Professor Lisa Iglesias. Joining the tradition of the book cover as subject matter, each student spent time observing and researching a tome of their choice at the Gaylord Memorial Library. The students then created renditions of the book covers in the form of acrylic paintings on stretched canvas, which are now available for checkout until September 2023. Paintings can be checked out for three weeks, or you can enjoy the exhibit in the rotunda.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Not Just Knitters Stitch Together Program

Friday, August 25, at 3 p.m.

Bring crochet, needlepoint, felting, hand-quilting and, knitting. Share your crafting know-how, browse a selection of crafty books full of new skills, or just enjoy stitching in the Gaylord rotunda. Some weeks will include a theme such as mending, finishing projects, or getting started on new ones, but all projects are welcome in all weeks. Event is for ages 10+.

Bring Your Own Board Game

Friday, August 24, from 6-8 p.m.

Bring a favorite board game to play

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 6

**South Hadley Fire District No. 1
SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING**
Monday, August 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
to be held at
Fire District No. 1 Fire Station
144 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

PALMER OFFICE

GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT SEEKS DESIGNER / PAGINATOR

Turley Publications, Inc. is looking for a **Graphic Designer** to produce newspaper pages and advertisements in a busy, fast-paced environment. Must be efficient with InDesign Creative Suite. Web design and Wordpress skills a plus.

We will consider less experienced applicants but must have proven design skills.

Design samples required. Send with resume to:

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Attention: Graphics Manager

Or e-mail directly to dsoat@turley.com.

No phone calls or drop-ins, please.



SOUTH HADLEY
HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN

COMMUNITY FORUM #3

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

7-9 PM

South Hadley Senior Center

45 Dayton Street

Come explore strategies for creating new housing in your community for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities.

DRAFT Housing Production Plan -- www.shhousingplan.org
Hard copies -- South Hadley Public Library, Senior Center & Town Hall

Comments & Questions: acapra@southhadleyma.gov | (413) 538-5030 x6128

Opinion



Why is Social Security withholding my monthly payments?

Dear Rusty: I have been working since I started collecting Social Security when I turned 62. Last year I was apparently overpaid because of my job. I made \$37,000 and now the Social Security Administration says I owe them \$8,800 dollars because I made too much and they have withheld my \$2000 monthly SS payment.

I am close to the maximum allowable again already this year. So, I am looking at quitting my job so I don't go over, but they are holding my payments so then I would have no money. Any help would be appreciated.

Signed: Frustrated by Social Security

Dear Frustrated: You are being affected by Social Security's "earnings test," which applies to everyone who collects early Social Security and also works before reaching their Full Retirement Age. If your earned income exceeds the annual limit, which was \$19,560 for 2022, Social Security will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earned \$37,000 in 2022 you were more than \$17,000 over the limit and owe half of that back to Social Security. They usually recover what you owe by withholding your future benefit payments, so they won't pay you benefits until they have recovered that \$8,800, after which your benefits will resume, but only for a while.

If you are working full time and also collecting early Social Security benefits, the earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months. The earnings limit goes up a bit each year for 2023 it is \$21,240, but if you continue to work full time, you'll receive another overpayment notice and have more benefits withheld.

A better approach might be to contact Social Security in advance and tell them what your 2023 earnings are expected to be, thus permitting them to suspend your benefits in advance and avoid overpaying you. I'm afraid there is no way around this – collecting early benefits while working full time means the "earnings test" will affect your benefit payments.

The "good news" in all of this is that when you reach your Full Retirement Age, you will get time-credit for all months your benefits were withheld. By that I mean they will, at your FRA, recalculate your benefit entitlement as though you had claimed later (later by the number of months you had benefits withheld), which will result in a higher monthly payment after your FRA.

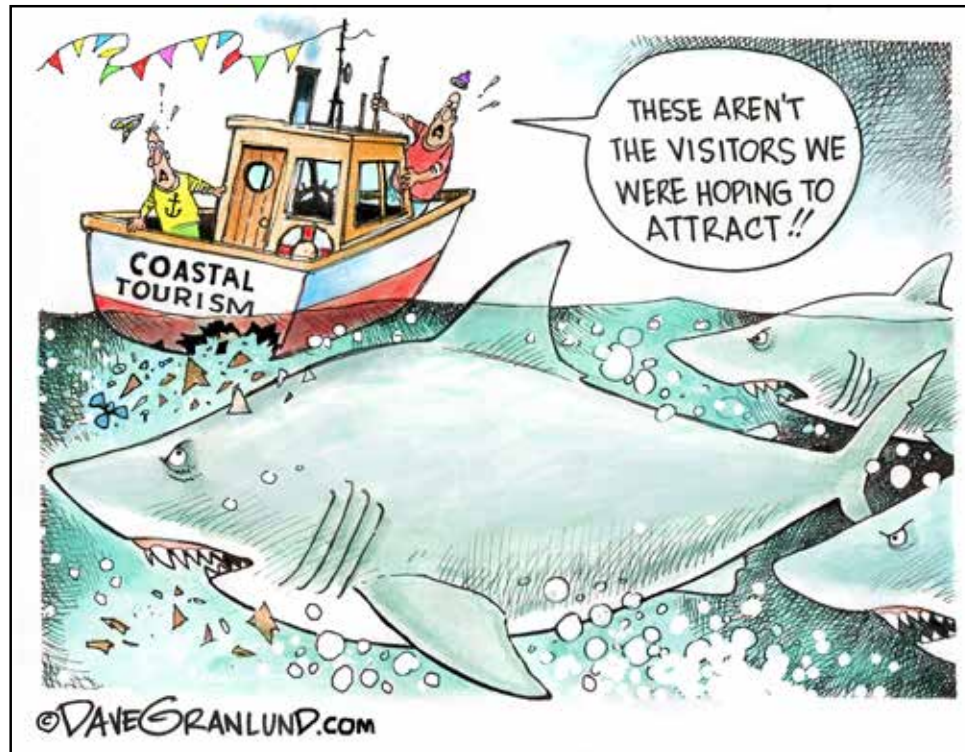
In that way, you may eventually recover some or all of the benefits withheld by receiving a higher monthly amount for the rest of your life, starting at your full retirement age.

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at your local office and tell them you want to provide them with an estimate of your 2023 earnings because you are working and collecting early Social Security benefits.

They will work with you to suspend your benefits for an appropriate number of (additional) months to avoid another overpayment situation. Note, you'll likely need to do this each year you continue to work full time, until the year you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit more than doubles. The earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Soil test this fall and beat the rush

A dear friend of mine sent me a picture of her pepper; her one pepper.

Granted, the fruit was picked a wee-bit prematurely by her 3-year-old granddaughter Genevieve, but still, one single fruit measuring 2 inches by 2 inches for all of her many pepper plants is nothing to brag about.

If I'm not mistaken, she used the word "pathetic" to describe said plants. Along with "stunted" and "pale."

Alas, what is a friend to do, but recommend a soil test.

I finally got the soil in two of my gardens tested last fall and I am so very happy that I did. With the necessary amendments added to bring up sub-par soil, I am enjoying bush beans and happy flowers in those areas.

Many of us garden for years before we have our soil tested. It is likely that we get fixed on our own routine of liming and fertilizing.

Perhaps too, we live with the same insect and disease problems each season and think that little can be done to remedy our situation. Maybe with a better understanding of our soil through testing, we will be able to create and maintain a fertile soil that supports healthy, optimal plant growth.

Rather than waiting until spring, beat the rush and send your sample off this fall. Here is a refresher on the nuts and bolts of soil testing.

We test the soil for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is to learn its pH.

Here in New England soil tends to be on the acidic side. Vital soil nutrients are unavailable to plants in an overly acid soil, even if they are in great supply.

Optimum pH for most plants is close to neutral, in the range of 6.2-6.8. Before you head for the garage to dust off the spreader, be forewarned that all limes are not the same!

Test results will indicate whether calcitic lime, hi mag lime, or dolomitic lime is best for your soil, and at what rates.

The test will also give you recommendations for boosting necessary soil nutrients, the most common of which are phosphorous, and potassium, magnesium, calcium and more. Let the soil testing laboratory know what crops you grow and what kind of

gardener you are, that way their advice can be specific to your needs.

Organic gardeners will want to use natural fertilizer sources such as blood meal, bone meal, bone char, wood ash, rock phosphate and greensand among others to feed the soil.

The standard soil test will also give you the levels of lead in your soil. As we all know, lead poisoning is a particular concern to children under the age of 6.

Produce grown in soils high in lead can accumulate enough lead in their tissue to be hazardous when eaten. The most likely cause of soil contamination is from particles of lead based paint that have been removed from nearby structures.

To reduce the risk of contamination, locate gardens away from old painted structures and keep pH and organic matter contents at optimal ranges.

For just a few dollars more, the percentage of organic matter in the soil can be determined. Organic matter is very important because it encourages a healthy population of soil microbes that solubilize stored nutrients, making them more available for plant uptake.

As organic material decomposes, humus results. Humus binds sandy soils and improves their water holding capacity; alternately, it aerates heavy clay soils and promotes better drainage.

If the percentage of organic matter in your garden comes in low, add compost, aged animal manure, or cover crops to bring levels up. Established shrub or perennial borders benefit from an application of bark mulch for the same reason.

It is very easy to gather soil for testing. First, remove a 6-8-inch core of soil from your garden with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

If your garden is large, mix about a dozen cores together to end up with about a cup of soil for testing. The different microclimates of your landscape should be tested separately.

Official directions and an order form are available at <http://soiltest.umass.edu>. The standard soil test is \$20, add an additional \$6 for the standard test including organic matter.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve to enjoy!

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.

Visit us at www.turley.com

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Josh's golden scam



The nickel that caused a dollar's worth of scandal

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

Like so many things in life, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and it would have been, too, if one man's swindle hadn't ruined everything.

When all was said and done, a con-man got off scot-free, Washington had egg on its face, and a new phrase entered the American vocabulary that's still used today.

This is the story of Josh's golden scam.

Back in 1866, the government began minting the first five-cent piece. It had the United States shield – our country's coat of arms if you will – on the front and "5 Cents" surrounded by 13 stars on the back.

The public liked the new coin and immediately began referring to it by the metal used to produce it: the nickel. (Its predecessor had been silver and called the "half dime.")

But it proved difficult to strike, causing countless headaches for the United States Mint. So a new design was produced.

Released on February 1, 1883, it featured Lady Liberty on the front with a giant V (the Roman numeral for five) in the center of the reverse. Americans enthusiastically embraced the new coin.

There was just one problem. It was a big one, too...and a man in Boston named Josh Tatum quickly spotted it.

No denomination appeared on the coin. There was just that great big V.

It could mean 5 cents or 5 dollars. Which caused a lightbulb to switch on in Josh's head.

The new nickel was about the same size as a \$5 gold piece. Both bore the likeness of Liberty on the front and, while not identical, to the untrained eye they looked similar to one another.

So, Josh took several of the new nickels to a jeweler and had them electroplated with gold. Then he went to a store.

Walking up the counter, he pretended to be deaf mute and pointed to a cigar.

The clerk said, "Five cents, please."

Josh handed over his phony gold-plated coin and was promptly given \$4.95 in real money in change. When he pulled the scam at different stores, it worked perfectly every time.

Apparently, Josh liked to think big. He had 1,000 nickels covered with a thin layer of cheap gold and worked his way to New York City.

Never speaking, only pointing, and always walking away the richer for the exchange. He supposedly made \$15,000 (about \$375,000 today) by the time he was arrested.

Josh was eventually hauled into court and tried for his hoax. But prosecutors had a serious problem.

At no time did Josh ever claim the coin was a \$5 gold piece. In fact, he never said anything at all.

He simply handed it over and trusting clerks accepted it was as genuine. Because he never claimed it was actually gold, the jury found Josh had committed no crime. He was acquitted.

While all this was happening, Washington was dealing with similar headaches caused by the new nickel. Other con artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of it.

The head of the Secret Service had noted the potential for criminal mischief at the outset and warned the government. Then as now, bureaucrats are loath to admit a mistake.

The Philadelphia Mint's director loudly defended the new nickel. He pointed out a three-cent coin had been minted for 22 years with just the Roman numeral III on the back and no denomination, and there hadn't been any problems.

Although he didn't mention that coin was smaller than a dime and the \$3 gold piece was larger than a quarter, making it impossible to confuse the two.

By now the scam was being reported as far away as St. Louis, Morgan City, Louisiana, and San Francisco. The government had no choice but to act.

On March 11 new nickels began coming out of the Mint with the word "cents" added directly below the V. It remained there until the Buffalo Nickel replacement debuted in 1913.

Today, the gold-plated frauds are called Racketeering Nickels and are cherished by collectors.

Two lessons from this story. First, the phrase "I'm joshing you" was popularized by the incident.

Though it appears to have shown up in print as early as 1845, its usage exploded after 1883.

And, the Mint learned its lesson. That was the last time it ever produced a coin that didn't bear the denomination.

I'm not joshing you.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

A summer tour of community colleges

By Eric Goodhart

There are many questions that need to be answered by a teenager, who has college aspirations.

But for now, here is just one. Whenever I asked a teenager why they want to go to college I often get one of two answers. "To get a good job," or "It is the expected thing to do."

I have yet to hear a student reply like this. "The career I am interested in something in the medical profession. Not sure if I want to pursue a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine or a Doctor of Medicine degree. Both cost a ton. My kid sister wants to be lawyer specializing in Health Care Law. She says she is going to keep an eye on me."

"I started in the summer between sophomore and junior year, taking college level classes at our local community college. I continued dual enrollment through junior year. The Salutatorian at my high school did that. He was accepted to Rhodes College as a sophomore plus a \$12,000/year scholarship. He saved his parents over \$102,000. In fact, each of the three years he will be there will cost about \$10,000 less than UMass, Amherst."

Such an outcome is possible. But it takes research coupled with practical planning including factoring in financial considerations.

For the students who are ready for a challenge, dual enrollment is a very good option. Mount Wachusett, Greenfield, Holyoke Berkshire Community Colleges and Springfield Tech all are focused on expanding their Dual Enrollment programs. Right now, summer is when many are offering on campus Dual Enrollment introductory talks or on Zoom. Greenfield, MWCC, Springfield and Berkshire CC have very easy to navigate websites with that information. Here is the website to visit for all the CCs in the state <https://masscc.org/colleges/>

In addition, each one, including Holyoke CC, has a Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter. It is not easy to become a member, nor should it be. PTK, founded in 1918, is an international honor society for community college students mirroring the principles of the much older Phi Beta Kappa honor society at four-year colleges. founded in 1776 at the College of William & Mary.

Membership in PTK comes with many perks. More about that next week. Be sure to ask admissions on your tour as to how many students received the honor in the last five years and where are they are now?

Whatever the reason for going to col-



Greenfield Community College president Michelle Schutt

lege may be, the first and most important first step of a teenager is to do some self-reflection and selected self-assessments. They are not tests.

Every community college has an academic and career advising department. Part of that advising includes some form of assessment and/or interest survey.

MWCC has a free 60 question interest questionnaire anyone can take resembling the John Holland SDS survey. That is a good start.

The college's overall explanation of its Academic and Career Advising process is very good. However, positive individual results ultimately depend on the student's initiative in taking advantage of that guidance.

Greenfield CC has several self-assessments anyone can take on its website. For a modest cost of \$39 a student even just thinking about attending Greenfield CC can take advantage of that. It illustrates the value and importance the college has in its advising philosophy.

The college recently completed a true Nation-wide search for a new President. Michelle Schutt, Ph.D. has a BS, two MS degrees along with her Doctorate in Education and Human Studies. A Midwesterner at heart she has brought that to Greenfield and adjusted seamlessly into her new role in Franklin County.

The college is fortunate to have her as the 11th President. Because of her past many leadership accomplishments in both the classroom and as a keynote speaker on leadership in many different stages it is no surprise that she is now in Greenfield. She has the academic and charismatic personality that, by all reports, foretells good things for the college's future and the wider community at the beginning of the Mohawk Trail.

Immaculate Heart of Mary to hold Summerfest event

GRANBY – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church will hold its Summerfest event from 12-4 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. Chicken dinner is \$15 and includes: Half BBQ chicken, baked potato, and corn on the cob; hamburgers and hot dogs

will also be available. The event will feature raffle prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100, raffle baskets, a bake sale, kids' games, prizes, music, and more.

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South Hadley Public Library announces August events

SOUTH HADLEY - Summer isn't over yet, and residents are invited to stop by the town's public library for several events this month, as well as books, movies, programs, technology, online resources, and more.

Plus, it's all free with a library card, the South Hadley Public Library released.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Tuesday Night Knitting Group

Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Join the library's Tuesday Night Knitters for some quality knitting and crocheting time. All skill levels are welcome. The group meets on the second floor in the Mandracha Quiet Study Room, but may move to a larger meeting room when available.

Spanish Conversation Circle

Saturday, August 19, at 10:30 a.m.

A wonderful and relaxed opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills. Participants should have some basic conversational skills to join the group. This is not a language class.

The Photo Angel with Kate Kelly

Saturday, August 19, at 11 a.m.

Attention family historians: the purpose of this project is to document success stories and inspire others to search their dusty attic boxes for photos with identifiable information and join in the fun.

Virtual Author Talks (register online)

Wednesday, August 23, at 8 p.m. - "The Mortal Instruments Series" by Cas-

sandra Clare

Wednesday, August 30, at 2 p.m. - "A Year Inside College Admissions" by Jeff Selingo

TEEN PROGRAMS

(for ages 11-high school)

Teen Takeaways

Teens may sign-up once and receive a new "Takeaway" every month, a craft with all supplies and directions provided, as well as some other goodies in each bag. No monthly meetings or online meetings. Craft on your own time with no pressure or stress. This month's Teen Takeaway features origami.

KIDS' PROGRAMS

Reading Buddies with

Duchess & Gwen

Duchess the Yorkshire terrier and Gwen the greyhound are reading therapy dogs from Bright Spot Therapy Dogs. Kids in kindergarten and above can schedule a 15-minute time slot to read to one of them. Duchess will appear on Monday, August 28, from 6-7 p.m., and Gwen will appear on Wednesday, August 23, from 3:30-5 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Parents or caretakers can sign their children up by calling the library at 413-538-5045 or stopping into the library. If all time slots are filled, feel free to give information for future visits.

Plains Elementary School Guest Reader Storytime

Every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the summer, the library will host a different Plains Elementary School ed-

ucator.

"We've been offering this for over 20 years as a way for incoming Plains students to get to know the staff or for former students to visit with a favorite educator," the library released.

The story times are held on the library lawn, if weather permits. Play time will immediately follow the story time. Parents also have an opportunity to speak with the Plains staff.

Story Time & Rhyme Time

Families are invited to Story Time every Monday and Thursday (with Plains School guest readers) at 10:30 a.m. for an assortment of picture books followed by an age-appropriate craft or other fun activity. While geared for birth to age five, the library welcomes older children to participate if desired. Join in the Storytime/Craft Room.

The youngest patrons and their grownups are encouraged to come to Rhyme Time every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Participants can sing and dance during this interactive music-based program. Children from birth through six will enjoy this fun activity. Depending on the weather, Rhyme Time takes place outdoors or in the Community Meeting Room.

CFCE Wednesday Playgroup

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Dana from the Coordinated Family Community Engagement Program will present a fun-filled program with stories, games, circle time, music, and more for children from birth to five. Older siblings are always welcome to attend, too.

Granby Police Logs

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 149 calls for the week of July 21 through July 27. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Aug. 4

8:53 p.m. - While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 61MPH in a 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Sunday, Aug. 6

5:30 p.m. - While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 50MPH in a 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding and not having a license in their possession.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

10:07 a.m. - A motorist reported that a vehicle struck a farm tractor. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

Thursday, Aug. 10

1:56 p.m. - Several motorists reported that a vehicle struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended MA driver's license.

LIBRARY from page 3

KIDS' PROGRAMS

Story Stroll on the Library Lawn

Enjoy "Whistle for Willie" by Ezra Jack Keats while walking around the Gaylord property; new story coming soon.

Story Time for Kids

Every Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Come to the children's room for stories and crafts.

Open Craft for Kids

Thursday, August 31, from 3-6 p.m.

Visit the children's room and join Miss Janet for a special craft activity.

Family Outdoor Games

Saturday, August 19,

from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join for some fun Saturday morning games on the library's back lawn.

Lego Club for Kids

Thursday, August 24, from 3-6 p.m.

Build with Lego, for those who enjoy creating with various sizes and types of Lego bricks. Age 12 and under. No registration necessary.

Adoptable Pets of the Week: Rozwell and Pigeon

For more information or to adopt one of these pets, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Rozwell

Currently a resident at the region's "Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow" animal sanctuary, Rozwell is a 12-year-old domestic shorthair male seeking a permanent home through adoption.

Pigeon

This nine-year-old domestic longhair male is also being housed with HTAT. This guy enjoys hanging out in a window enjoying the view or relaxing on a shelf.



Rozell and Pigeon are two senior cats in the area looking for their "fur-ever" homes.

Courtesy Photos, HTAT

SH Fire District No. 2 receives grant funding

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's Fire District No. 2 has been awarded a Federal Homeland Security Assistance to Fire-

fighters Grant in the amount of \$268,000.

These funds will be used for an air filling station and a new self-contained

breathing apparatus, South Hadley Fire District No.2 released in a recent statement.

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Rams makes PVSSL quarterfinals



Jaidyn Roberge settles the ball and looks to pass.

LUDLOW – The Granby girls summer soccer team fell 4-1 in the quarterfinals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League playoffs. The Rams were defeated by Ludlow in the B Division playoffs. They now turn their attention to the fall season, which begins next week.



Kalli White heads up the field.



Mylin Laliberte-Witaszek socks a kick away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Addison Scott dribbles up the field.

West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON – In last month’s Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase.

In the gold medal match, the West won 3-2. The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast from Cole Bamford (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). West then went up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jovuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the showcase with a 5-2 win over the Metro team. West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able to get on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

The West would go a perfect 6-0 in the showcase.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

Westside Sports Shop takes summer soccer title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women’s championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded Westside Sports Shop outshot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who’s from Agawam, managed to keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0 (3-1 PK’s) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

“I never expected this game to be so close,” said Westside Sports Shop coach

Chris Andre. “Their goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK’s. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the penalty shootout.”

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021. They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded Here for Beer in last year’s championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals.

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year’s championship match.

“It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league,” said Letendre, who’s from West Springfield. “We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much as we did in tonight’s match.”

Six of the Westside Sports Shop players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South Hadley, and Chicopee.

“Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams,” Andre said. “Then they went their separate ways in high school and it’s very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I’m already looking forward to next season.”

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer league for the past twenty years, but it was their first appearance in the women’s finals.



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Katie Shea makes a quick pass.

Please see **SOCCER**, page 8

Chapin picks up Modified win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Brian Chapin guided his fabled “Studebaker” Modified to victory Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and, on the same card, Milton Duran topped the points-rich Late Model 50-lap main event.

Bob Williams made it two in a row on the high banks in Mini Stock action, while Chelsea, VT’s Andrea St. Amour scored her first career Monadnock victory in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Owen Zilinski made it a hat trick season with his third youth division feature win of the summer.

In support card action, Doug Meserve held off a storming Rob Richardi in the Pro 4 Modified feature, and Jason Pomfry romped to victory in a North East Mini Cup Series 15-lapper.

Chapin and last week’s winner Tyler Leary led the NHSTRA Modifieds to the

green to get their 40-lap main underway, with Chapin jumping all over the lead. And while the popular Palmer, Mass. pilot would lead all the way; he’d never in all 40 laps had an inch of breathing room.

Both Nate Wenzel and JT Cloutier had All Star runs at Chapin’s back bumper but he ran a perfect line the entire distance to earn the win. Wenzel, a two-time 2023 winner and the current points leader finished second, with Cloutier impressive in his second straight podium finish.

With a boatload of points and cash on the line, Saturday’s Late Model 50-lapper drew an All Star cast. Teddy Bear Pools 2023 Triple Crown, NHSTRA Battle for The Belt, and Monadnock Speedway seasonal champ points were all up for grabs, with leaders Geoff Rollins, Milton Duran, and Tim Wenzel, respectively, all in the

house.

Wenzel set fast time atop the 23-car field, but Duran drew the pole. Rollins started sixth. Duran led the first 15 laps, then giving way to Chris Buffone on the third of what would become eight total restarts. Duran would then drift back to seventh.

Rollins, aboard probably the fastest car in the field, took charge on lap 33. Wenzel was whacked out of the top three on the 41st go-round, with Rollins then railed from the lead just moments later, the second time he’d been taken out. And who was patiently waiting in the wings? Duran.

He took charge again on lap 41, bringing potent Matt Sonnhalter with him, and held strong to score his third consecutive Battle for The Belt series victory. Sonnhalter finished at his bumper in second, with

strong and steady Billy Clement Jr. third on the night.

Andrew Brousseau came home fourth, with Rollins’ second charge through the field netting him fifth, while Wenzel stormed back for sixth.

Kevin Clayton, from row two, led the first 15 laps of the Mini Stock main, but rocket man Bob Williams then sailed past him in turn two and sped off to his second Monadnock victory in as many weeks. Clayton held strong in second, with top points man Louie Maher coming home third on the night, just ahead of the Sontag siblings, Cameron and Chris.

Hot shoe Jimmy Zellman took the lead from Dominick Stafford on lap two of the Pure Stock 25, holding the point until

Please see **RACE**, page 9



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corrals the ball.



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.

SOCCER from page 7

“We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could,” said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. “We played very well defensively in tonight’s game. We’re hoping to make it back here again next year.”

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who’s from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women’s soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

“I coached most of these players at HCC,” Galazka said. “It’s awesome coaching them again in this league. It’s a lot of fun.”

Celtic Grey peaked at the right time of the season.

“We ended the regular season with a shutout,” Galazka said. “Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up.”

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarterfinals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside’s Jocelyn Trajkovski, who’s from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.

Then Letendre made a save on the Celtic Grey’s first shot.

After both teams hit the post in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grey.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another championship title.

The Westside players will be looking to four-peat next summer.



Madison Sanborn chases down a loose ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal.

LEFT: Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.

PUBLIC NOTICE BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED EASTERN HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Eastern Hampshire District Court located in Hampshire County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the Eastern Hampshire District Court and the police departments located in Amherst, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, Pelham, South Hadley and Ware. Proximity to the communities listed and familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact:

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Sports

Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four benches that will be installed in the Naismith Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell, Rollie Massimino, Tom Young, and Kay Yow, will be honored with a bench dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and Geroge Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players – teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their lives.

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches are honored posthumously by either one individual or a group of individuals. Honorees include Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim Valvano, and John Wooden, among others.

T-Birds name new operations manager

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell announced today that Jeff Jordan has been promoted to Manager of Hockey Operations.

Previously the Thunderbirds' Video Coach and Team Services Coordinator, Jordan will continue his work with the coaching staff in the video department during the 2023-24 season.

"Jeff has deservedly earned this promotion through hard work, loyalty, and his dedication to the Thunderbirds on both the

hockey and business side," said Maxwell. "He is a tireless worker with a wonderful personality, making him a terrific conduit between players, management, and the front office. We look forward to seeing him continue to excel in the future."

Jordan joined the St. Louis Blues' AHL affiliate in 2019 when he was hired by the San Antonio Rampage as the team's video coach. Before starting his professional career, Jordan served as an assistant coach with the OHL's Ottawa 67's in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

GARDEN from page 4

Andrea St. Amour took over on a lap 18 restart. A lap later, Zach Zilinski moved up to second but came up one spot shy of duplicating his younger brother Owen's earlier Young Gun win.

Zellman, strong all night, joined St. Amour and Zilinski on the podium, with Chris Davis and Colton Martin rounding out the top five. Davis' one position advantage left he and Martin deadlocked atop the points parade at the end of the night.

Owen Zilinski led all the way in the Young Guns 15-lapper, earning his third victory lap of the summer. Markus O'Neil was solid in second, and Kailyn Hubbard earned the third-place trophy just ahead of her sister Cambri.

Pro 4 super star Rob Richardi was bounced off the frontchute wall at the drop of the green and then made a rock star effort to charge back to the winner's circle, coming up just short of winner Doug Meservey, who'd taken the lead from Jack Dumas on lap five.

With Meservey victorious, Richardi, Dumas, Justin Faford and Kurt Lester made up the top five in the fast-paced event.

Monadnock Speedway returns to ac-

tion next Saturday, August 19, when a large field of NHSTRA Modifieds will square off in twin feature events atop a full card of racing on the high-banked speed-plant.

Monadnock Speedway August 12 Unofficial Top Tens

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Brian Chapin, Nate Wenzel, JT Cloutier, Scott Zilinski, Tyler Leary, Joel Belanger, Andy Major, Kimmy Rivet, Kyle Boniface, Adam Lapoint.

NHSTRA LATE MODEL, 50-LAP: Milton Duran, Matt Sonnhalter, Billy Clement Jr., Andrew Brousseau, Geoff Rollins, Tim Wenzel, JD Stockwell, Robert Hagar, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud.

MINI STOCK: Bob Williams, Kevin Clayton, Louie Maher, Cameron Sontag, Chris Sontag, Erin Aiken, Nolan McClay, Jake Puchalski, David Pratt, Skyler Shippee, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Andrea St. Amour, Zach Zilinski, Jimmy Zellman, Chris Davis, Colton Martin, Chris Chambers, Teagan Edson, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Aaliyah Tacy.

YOUNG GUN: Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Cambri Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Addison Brooks, Madison Cousino, Hunter Duquette.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Gun Owners' Action League joined members of Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club to share information about their concerns with proposed bill HD.4420, "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws." Shown seated from left are Calvin Cieslak, Holly Wallace and Jim Wallace; and standing from left are Kevin Lizotte and Bob Lamb.

GOAL joins sportsmen at gun law petition event

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

REGION - The Gun Owners' Action League visited Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club this past Saturday, to meet with people concerned about how their rights will be affected by proposed bill HD.4420.

Jim Wallace, executive director of GOAL, was joined by his wife Holly and members of the Club to discuss the new mandates and restrictions outlined in the 140-page proposal entitled "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws."

Wallace and others at GOAL said the bill should be called the "Lawful Citizens Imprisonment Act," as the changes proposed to existing gun laws do more to place limitations on lawful gun owners than address gun violence, he said.

He said if the bill is passed into law, violent crimes could increase, and citizens would be limited in how they can protect themselves.

Wallace said GOAL is made up of five members, and they rely on volunteers such as the members of the Club, to help them share information about the possible impacts the changes in HD.4420 could have.

"Thanks to people like Calvin [Club President Calvin Cieslak], I just attend," Wallace said of the information session.

In addition to distributing information about HD.4420, GOAL also offered lawn signs and stickers to those opposed to the bill to make their voices heard. The Club provided three different copies of petitions that people could sign, if they agreed with the statements contained therein.

These petitions will be sent to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons

with Disabilities and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

Wallace said the entire bill is problematic, and it's hard to focus on just one or two of its proposed changes.

He compiled a list of concerns regarding new training requirements, including a written exam of unknown content; injury prevention and harm reduction education; active shooter and emergency response training when lawful gun owners are not allowed to carry in most places under this bill; applicable laws relating to the use of force; de-escalation and disengagement tactics; and live firearms training—to be determined by the State Police.

Other concerns involved new mandates and restrictions, such as mandatory registration of all individual firearms, receivers, frames, barrels and feeding devices; bans the possession of a gun on any property without permission; drastically changes the assault weapon laws to include things like a semi-automatic hunting shotgun with a pistol grip; mandates the registration and serialization of all feeding devices of any kind; bans anyone under age 15 from handling any type of semi-automatic rifle or shotgun; bans anyone under age 15 from training or shooting sports; a frame, receiver and barrel would separately be considered to be a firearm and each piece has to be registered and serialized; essentially bans hunting on private property; any changes, such as a sight or repairs to a gun, must be approved by the state prior to any modifications; and a new definition of "secured locked container" that must be able to deter all but the most persistent from gaining access.

Cieslak said one of his big concerns focuses on prohibiting youth under age 15 from attending firearms training or

Please see **GOAL**, page 11

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Public Notices

GOAL from page 9

sanctioned sports, as the Club has a highly competitive and skilled junior rifle league, coached by Bob Lamb.

One of the league members, Zuzu Demetrius, went on to compete in the Olympics, and has recently graduated from the State Police Academy.

Lamb said she is the second junior rifle league member to become a State Trooper.

If HD.4420 were to pass, Cieslak said, it would limit hunting and the resulting money raised through licensing to benefit state conservation efforts.

According to mass.gov, MassWildlife [Division of Fisheries and Wildlife] "is primarily funded through the sale of hunting, freshwater fishing, and trapping licenses, permits, and stamps, in addition to dedicated federal funds from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program...All funds from freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses and dedicated federal funds go directly into the Inland Fish and Game Fund, which can only be used for administering programs by MassWildlife."

"This bill is so overwhelming," Cieslak said. "This is a civil rights violation, it's not a gun bill. That's our fight...it turns law-abiding citizens into criminals."

HD.4420 is currently on hold until the fall.

Wallace encouraged citizens to continue voicing opposition of this bill, as the hold is only a delay.

Signs opposing HD.4420 are available locally at the following locations: Nenameseck Sportsmen's Club, 75 West Ware Road, Palmer; Nick's Sport Shop, 1029 Park St., Palmer; Bearded Arms, 1880 Memorial Drive, Chicopee; Down Range Sports, 590 Summer St., Barre; MB Sporting Goods, 51A Glenn St., Three Rivers; and Fairview Sportsmens Club, 280 Carver St., Granby.

For more information about GOAL, visit goal.org.

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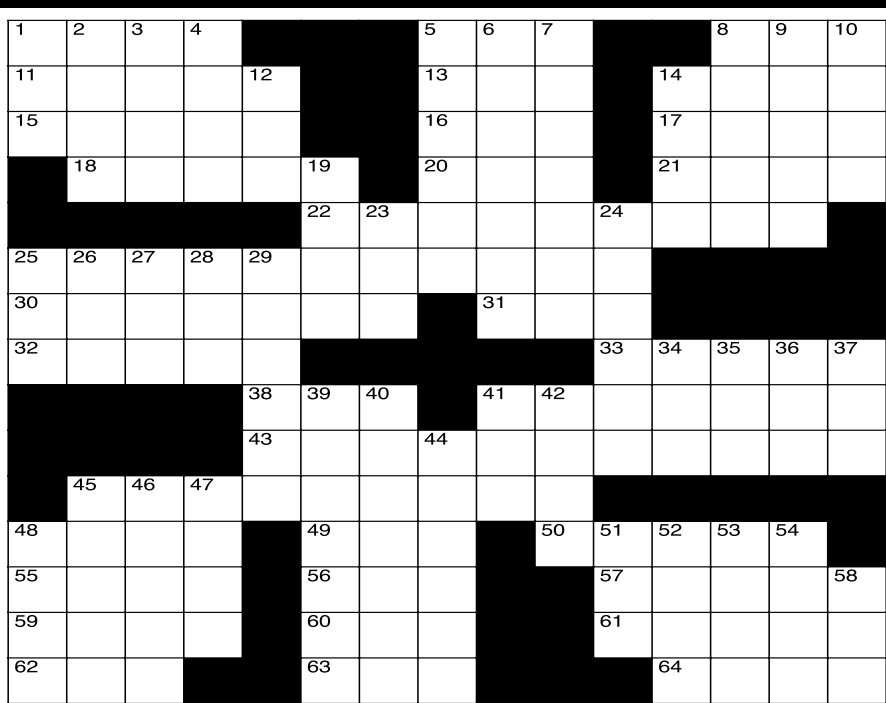
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