

TOWN Reminder

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Open Meeting Law violated

State AG's office recognizes District 1 Prudential Committee's infraction

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The state attorney general's office has found that the District 1 Prudential Committee violated Open Meeting Law at its March 8 meeting when it requested that Michael Wozniak leave the meeting but did not make such requests of other attendees who behaved similarly.

The ruling does not come with any consequences except a warning that "similar violations in the future may be considered evidence of an intent to violate the law."

"The complaint alleges that

during the Committee's March 8 meeting the Chair 'intimidated, coerced, and threatened' the Complainant causing the Complainant to leave the meeting," wrote Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Carnes Flynn in a Nov. 28, 2023 letter. "We find that the Committee violated the Open Meeting Law when it made its March 8 meeting inaccessible to the Complainant by asking him to leave the meeting and threatening to remove him."

To reach its decision, the attorney general's office reviewed the complaint, the committee's response, and a video recording of the meeting.

The finding does not bring about the removal of the chair of the committee, which is what Wozniak requested in his complaint.

"Mr. Perron only received a slap on the wrist which was not a forceful response. My goal is to have him removed from office," said Wozniak.

"He should at least have either been fined or been criminally charged for his actions. My biggest concern is that Mr. Perron will continue to intimidate citizens who speak out against him. He needs to be voted out of office when he comes up for re-election in 2025."

Perron did not respond to a request for comment.

According to Flynn's letter, her office determined the following facts of the case. After Moderator Ed Wall presented when and where to hold the upcoming annual meeting and election, Wozniak clarified.

Perron, chair of the committee, asked Wozniak not to interrupt the presentation. Wozniak complied and Wall noted that there would be time for questions later.

According to the letter, after Wall explained that the budget had to be received a certain number of days before the elec-

Please see **VIOLATION**, page 2



Brynn Adams, age 5, jumps in the snow during the new year's first snowstorm.

Turley Photo compiled by Tina Lesniak

Town Manager, Selectboard focus on equity in workplace

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Town Administrator Lisa Wong and the Selectboard discussed efforts the town is taking toward making South Hadley a more equitable place, starting with the municipal government, in their meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting, which was held virtually rather than in hybrid format due to inclement weather, gave Wong and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti, in his role as Human Resources Director, the opportunity to update members of the Selectboard and the community on the progress of ongoing projects the town is undertaking with the goal of improving equity in mind.

Romboletti briefed Selectboard members on the status of the town's Classification and Compensation Study, which the town contracted the University of Massachusetts Boston Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management to oversee in 2023.

The study is concerned with determining how closely current job descriptions and salaries for town employees do or do not

align with the level of work being done and the prevailing market conditions in similar communities. The study will conclude with a report of recommendations for improvements the town can make in its job descriptions and salary structure, including the implementation of a points system for objectively determining salaries.

Romboletti said that one of

the ultimate goals of the study was "ensuring there's equal pay for equal work" in South Hadley. He also said that he hopes to have reports from UMass Boston soon so as to enable the town to begin working on implementing solutions to shortcomings uncovered through the study.

In response to Romboletti's updates, Selectboard Vice Chair

Please see **EQUITY**, page 9

PVPA students perform two great nights of music

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School proudly hosted the two-night music event, "Imbroglío".

"Imbroglío" is the winter music showcase that is one of two music events of the year for the PVPA's Music Department. The school also hosts a spring music showcase.

The directors of the performances during "Imbroglío" were Rahul Roy, Jeremy Milligan and David Cavallin.

The show involves students of PVPA Charter Public School working all semester since the start of the school year to perform this phenomenal winter showcase. The show features 80-100 students.



"Imbroglío" was a two-night music event made possible by the production team of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School. Jay Winter, center, is the Theater manager and is standing alongside Producer Frank Newton and faithful volunteers who helped with the production.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Please see **PVPA**, page 9

Recreation Commission schedules sports and activities

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Recreation Commission met to discuss news relating to sports, children's programs, and summer activities.

The Jan. 9 meeting was hosted by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers alongside Laura Friesner, Kathy Sharkey, Patrick Dawson, Ray Carillon, David Mendoza, Byron Joy, Kirsten Britton, and Danielle Cooke.

Please see **RECREATION**, page 3

Voices of Resilience

Photo exhibit shines light on opioid crisis

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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BOSTON – State officials and community members gathered in the State House on Tuesday to debut a photography exhibit focused on amplifying the lived experiences of those who have been affected by the ongoing statewide and nationwide opioid crisis.

The exhibit, entitled “Voices of Resilience,” remained on display on the fourth floor of the capitol building through Jan. 12, where it was visible to legislators and visitors alike, and included Ware as one of the Massachusetts communities on which the project focused.

The exhibit marked the culmination of work done through the National Institutes of Health HEALing Communities Study, part of the larger NIH HEAL Initiative, commissioned in 2019. According to the HEALing Communities website, Massachusetts ranked among the top 10 states with the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths in a 2017 National Institute on Drug Abuse report.

Researchers with the study went into communities in four states to connect individuals with helpful resources and with each other, and to learn from participants what additional resources were still needed locally to aid those seeking recovery.

Alyssa Curran, a clinician with the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office and the study’s Community Coordinator for Ware and Belchertown, explained that the images used for the exhibit were chosen and presented through a method known as photovoice, in



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

The “Voices of Resilience” exhibit was on display at the State House in Boston.

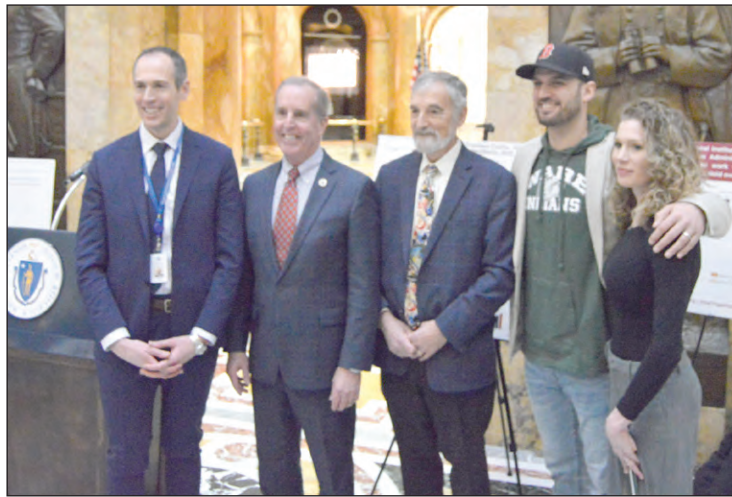
which study participants share reflections about meaningful photographs. Some of these reflections were printed anonymously on the displayed photographs, adding context and poignancy to them.

One evidence-based practice encouraged at the event was that of carrying Narcan, also known by its generic name naloxone. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and can be purchased at many pharmacies without a prescription.

Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli, of the 3rd Berkshire District, emphasized the importance of carrying Narcan in remarks he gave at the event.

He related the tragic story of a young man who passed away as a result of an opioid overdose while his family and a police officer were present as they waited for an ambulance to arrive with Narcan.

Because of this and similar stories, Pignatelli said that he was supporting a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan. The bill, H. 2008, most recently had a joint hearing in October, according to the Massachusetts General



From left are Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Randy Gratton and Alyssa Curran.

Court’s website. “You never know who’s going to show up at your front door,” Pignatelli said, emphasizing that this was especially true in rural communities, and demonstrating that EMTs should not be expected to be the only ones with Narcan available.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein also spoke at the event, sharing the startling news that the 2,359 overdose deaths recorded in 2022

were a record for the Commonwealth.

In addition to further stressing the importance of carrying Narcan, Goldstein laid out the evolution of the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, starting with prescription drugs around 2005, and escalating with the influx of fentanyl, a synthetic opiate, over the last decade.

“The drug supply is poisoned,” he said, referring to the fact that illicit street drugs are

now frequently contaminated with substances like fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, unbeknownst to the user.

Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Boston Medical Center physician and Principal Investigator for the HEALing Communities Study in Massachusetts, said that the Commonwealth had taken on a leadership role in addressing the national opioid crisis, but that there was still a long way to go.

“The essence of the HEALing Communities Study was to see if we can engage community members to come together in coalition within their communities,” Samet said. Specifically, Samet highlighted how the study empowered participants to make decisions about the most helpful ways to allocate resources within their own communities.

Randy Gratton, a fourth generation Ware resident, shared how the HEALing Communities Study had helped him in his own recovery, expressing his gratitude to the Study for “giving the little town of Ware the big help it needed.”

Gratton said that community members in recovery had been having similar ideas about what was needed, but that they “didn’t know how to put them together.” As a result of individuals coming together, Gratton said, the Recovery Center of HOPE was opened on Main Street in Ware, and a van was also commissioned that would be able to connect community members without access to transportation to recovery resources.

Gratton closed by sharing the personal story of how one of his mentors in recovery encourages him every year on the anniversary of his sobriety with the words, “Good start.” In the same way, he said that the efforts undertaken as a result of the HEALing Communities Study were good, but that they were just a start.

“I would encourage you all to continue to work, and more than anything to continue to care,” he said.

pressed their disapproval. Perron asked the fire chief if an officer was available to escort Wozniak from the meeting and Wozniak left, yelling as he departed that the committee members should be voted out.

The committee then took questions and did not warn or threaten any attendees who spoke out of turn.

Correction

Due to an editing error, a quote was misappropriated to Captain Scott Walsh. Also, Walsh joined the department in 1994 and was promoted to captain in 2023.

VIOLATION from page 4

tion, so the date of the election would need to be changed. Several meeting attendees verbally disapproved of this, including Wozniak who said “No way” and “That’s a bunch of baloney.”

Perron then addressed only Wozniak, telling him this was a second warning. Wozniak re-

sponded by saying the budget should have been completed on time and Perron said, “One more time and I’ll remove you.” Wozniak nodded and was quiet.

Flynn’s letter detailed the end of the interaction in the following manner. After Wall completed his presentation, Perron made comments that included he’d served on a public commit-

tee with Wozniak who responded with “Yeah, unfortunately.” Perron asked to have it repeated, which Wozniak did.

Perron called his comment “beyond the level” of what Wozniak had been warned about. Wozniak told him to get on with the meeting and Perron told Wozniak to leave.

As members of the public ex-

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MVP discusses climate change and the community

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Core Team met to discuss the upcoming weather concerns and conditions, with the best ways to combat these concerns.

Many individuals from various boards came together to discuss several issues including heat, flooding, and more with ways to combat each one.

“The challenges of dealing

with heat in everyday life will be our big challenge,” Diane LaRoche said.

They discussed ways they can combat the dangers of high heat, taking into account the many hot summers we have experienced in the past few years.

Climate resilience

A 12-minute video was shown on climate resilience and detailed all of the issues that rising heat levels in New England have brought.

Rising heat levels can affect food production, energy costs,

seasonal economies, the health of people, plants, and wildlife. With the rising heat, towns and governments are being encouraged to look at the

The core team moved to look at what kinds of things they can do, or who to include when it comes to trying to help those who would be most impacted by the heat, like the low income housing and other buildings like the senior center.

The main idea of the video was to present the ways in which the higher temperatures have affected New England and beyond.

They went over a map of the area and discussed certain areas that would need to be addressed first.

Community agreements

The team came up with 10 community agreements so that the group could work together and communicate effectively with the public and one another.

These included: sharing one’s perspectives, listening to understand, participating as peers, disagreeing respectfully, meeting people where they are, explaining acronyms, respecting

differences, experiences, and opinions, sharing the air, opening oneself to learning, and having the courage to ask questions about things that are unclear.

Next steps

The core team is looking forward to the future to work across other boards and committees in order to discuss ways to work with the community to ensure that everyone can stay safe in the coming months and future heat waves.

RECREATION from page 1

Schedule of events

Spring sport registrations are coming up, and more information can be found through the school district. The kindergarten-second lacrosse, second-eighth grade girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, spring soccer, baseball, softball, and T-ball teams are looking for sign-ups and getting ready for the season to begin.

“We’ve been doing winter pickleball at St. Theresa’s,” Rogers said. The pickleball games will be on Fridays and Saturdays.

Preschool “Art-Ventures” will begin at the South Hadley Public Library which will contain a series of art classes, all materials included, for children aged 3-5. The classes will be

held on Saturdays from Feb. 3 to March 16 (excluding March 2).

The committee is also looking into the possibility of a Fitness Court Program, which will create a space of exercise equipment for the public to use. There is a space at the Council of Aging with exercise equipment, and it is well used and loved by the community.

With Easter happening on March 31, the Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Parade is being planned. The Hat Parade will begin the event followed by the egg hunt, as was in the past, and more information will be available.

Summer events

The 2024 summer events are being planned, and fireworks will take place on June 3. The

circus will return early this year on June 25 and 26.

Summer concerts will start in late June featuring various local bands and artists. Cooke is working on various kids summer programs which will be announced.

Old business

The Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program application is finally coming together. All paperwork was approved by the Selectboard.

The committee is holding a goal for the final plan by end of May, and construction to begin in June.

“There shouldn’t be much impact on our programs,” Rogers said.

Rogers said the 413 ELITE basketball game on Dec. 16

against the New York Team, the Herkimer Originals was enjoyed by many.

“The game went well, and the people who were there really seemed to enjoy themselves,” Rogers said. The home team, 413 ELITE, won the game 114-97.

The Recreation Commission is looking at the South Hadley High School’s scoreboard, and its funding was approved at the last town meeting, and they now have \$45,000 for it. They hope to get it put up in the spring.

New business

For the fiscal year 2025 budget, the committee is looking to construct a restroom and concession stand at the field. The school is also pushing to create a handicap-accessible exit onto the turf field from the school.

Third quarter real estate/personal property mailed

SOUTH HADLEY – Fiscal year 2024 third quarter real estate and personal property bills were mailed out to residents on Dec. 29, 2023. The due date for the real estate and personal property bills is Feb. 1.

If you have not received your bills, please email the Treasurer/Collector’s office at collector@southhadleyma.gov or call 413-538-5030, extension 6189 and office staff can mail out a new bill. Bills can be paid online through the Town of South Hadley’s website, southhadleyma.gov, by mail, dropped in the drop box located behind the Police Department on Bridge Street or in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Opinion



Can someone work while collecting Social Security Disability?

Dear Rusty:

If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Actually, the Social Security Administration encourages those collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period, which would allow for nine months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above without risking his SSDI benefits.

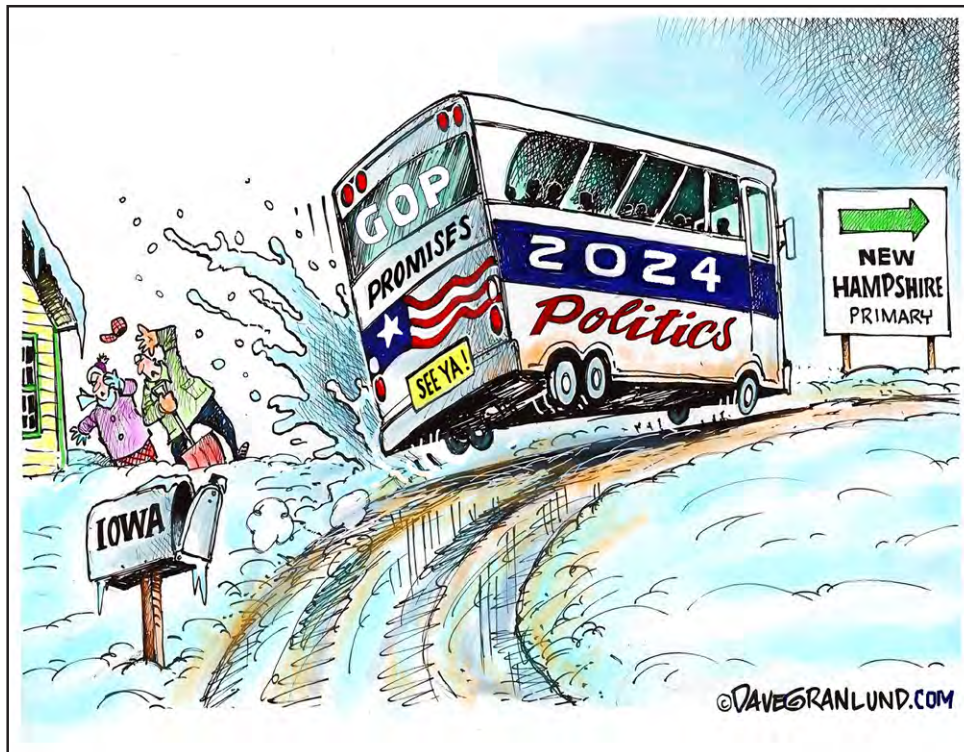
Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit, the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly. He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit.

If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the nine trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can within the five-year Trial Work Period have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lions Club returns charter after 75 years of service

South Hadley Lions Club has given back its Charter to Lions International.

Over the past 75 years, the club has donated thousands of dollars to the town along with purchasing its first ambulance, the town hall flag pole, both pavilions, one at Buttery Park, the other at the golf course. Three to five thousand dollars were allocated each year for Christmas gifts sent to families struggling financially.

Hearing aids and eye glasses were free to anyone, especially school children.

The club thanks those who supported the many activities for every dollar collected went towards South Hadley needs.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is the recipient of the last monies from the Lions

Club. The monies have been placed into the Community Foundation of Western Mass. whereby NHN will receive a generous annual allotment.

School children referred by the school nurse may receive a percentage toward prescription glasses.

Donations to the fund are tax free. Please put "S.H. Lions Club Fund" on the check and mail to: Community Foundation of Western Mass, S. H. Lions Club Fund, 333 Bridge St., Springfield, MA 01103.

Patricia Pooler,
past Lions Club President
South Hadley



Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!

For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it – even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog (www.noursefarms.com or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South Deerfield, this company specializes

in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog (www.fedcoseeds.com). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, scionwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you don't see it listed in print.

It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses (www.highcountryroses.com), and I'm impressed with the variety

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5

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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South Hadley sunrise

Submitted photo

Cotton candy sunrise in South Hadley on a frosty January morning.

Growing Wild South Hadley presents 'Growing Wild for Birds'

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Conservation Commission is hosting the fourth lecture of the Growing Wild initiative on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Library.

Have you ever seen a strange colorful bird singing in your back yard in the spring? Have you wondered where that bird came from or maybe where it might be headed? Did you wonder why you were so lucky to have it in your backyard?

Bill DeLuca, PhD is a Senior Migration Ecologist with the National Audubon Society where he provides a migratory bird perspective to Audubon's Conservation Science across the Western Hemisphere.

In this presentation, DeLuca will tell the story, using examples of hundreds of tracked migratory birds, of how South Hadley birds travel across hemispheres and what you can do in your own yard to

help them on their journeys.

He will talk about the science behind growing your yard wild to benefit birds throughout the year. Regardless of how big or small your yard might be, there are things we can all do, from turning off our lights at night, to maintaining brush piles and keeping sources of water available.

There will be plenty of time for questions and answers on these and other related topics. This event will be informative whether you are a beginner or expert birder, home gardener, property manager, urban landscape designer or just someone looking for something different to do on a Wednesday night in the middle of the New England winter.

The Conservation Commission will have all sorts of fun prizes to give away including bird houses, field guides and books about bird migration. No registration is required.

GARDEN from page 4

of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officinalis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglan-teria and more.

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.

Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is

something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.

Yes, it is the middle of winter and all should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

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.

Tower Theater offers free popcorn with ticket purchase

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley's Tower Theaters and The Cinema Foundation announce the arrival of National Popcorn Day, coming to a theater near you on Friday, Jan. 19.

This beloved date celebrates the joy of snacking America's favorite movie concession with discounted prices and special promotions at theaters across the country.

More than 30,000 screens across the country will participate in the one-day event featuring discounts on popcorn and other concessions only in theaters. Movies playing at Tower Theaters on Friday, Jan. 19 are "Mean Girls" and "Boys in the Boat".

Tower Theaters will offer a free small popcorn with every ticket purchase.

"Popcorn at the movies was first introduced 95 years ago, and it's been an inseparable part of the moviegoing experience ever since," says Bryan Braulich, Executive Director of The Cinema Foundation in a press release. "National Popcorn Day will bring together millions of film fans of all ages to watch new movies on the big screen while enjoying their favorite theater snacks at discounted prices."

According to the National Association of Concessionaires, popcorn is American moviegoers' favorite snack food and represents more than 60% of snack food sales at the nation's theaters. 4.5 billion quarts of popcorn are consumed at U.S. movie theaters and other live venues every year.



The Cinema Foundation is a charitable non-profit dedicated to promoting and enhancing the cinema exhibition industry through activities such as training and education, career development, diversity and inclusion, moviegoing promotion, and data and research efforts.

Since March 2022, the Cinema Foundation's mission is dedicated to shaping the future of the great collective experience of moviegoing and the cinema industry. It works to support and impact the health of the cinema sector both in the short term and for years to come, while continuously expanding its contributions to the magic of moviegoing.

The Cinema Foundation builds on the National Association of Theatre Owners' mission and relationships and expands NATO's impact in ways that help individual employees and companies as well as the industry as a whole. For more info, visit www.thecinematheatre.org.



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Education

State awards HCC \$1.46 million to build nursing workforce training program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College and its partners have been awarded a state grant worth nearly \$1.46 million to create a certified nursing assistant to licensed practical nurse training program to help area hospitals meet their workforce needs.

Earlier this month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced a total of \$3.9 million in Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success grants for six initiatives representing employers and collaborative organizations across the Commonwealth.

The lion's share of that money - \$1,457,143 - will go to an HCC-led training program to assist 86 unemployed or underemployed individuals transition from jobs as nursing aides to positions as licensed practical nurses.

The grants, funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and distributed by the Commonwealth Corporation, aim to increase sustainable wage career pathways for Massachusetts residents facing employment barriers and improve the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses by enhancing worker skills and productivity.

HCC's partners in the grant include Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Wing Hospital, MassHire Hampden County, Springfield Works, and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

"We are delighted about the Commonwealth Corporation's award to HCC and our many partners in this unique and innovative career pathway in nursing," said HCC President George Timmons in a press release. "Healthcare is one of the largest industry sectors in our region, and it continues to grow. We hope that this pathway for licensed practical nurses will help create



Submitted Photo

A nursing student works on a "patient" during a training exercise at the Holyoke Community College's Center for Health Education & Simulation.

more family sustainable incomes for nursing assistants looking to advance in this exciting and rewarding career."

The multi-stage program will first train individuals as nursing aides, then help them obtain jobs at area hospitals while they continue their training in HCC's LPN program, all the while providing them with wrap-around support services. HCC already has an existing framework for CNA training through its Jump Start program, which is designed for individuals receiving public assistance.

"Every individual in Massachusetts should have access to quality job training, and our employers should have access to the skilled talent they need to do business," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our workforce is our greatest competitive strength. The latest round of Workforce Success Grants is another example of our administration's

commitment to expanding opportunities and expanding our lead."

The grants were announced Dec. 18 by Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones during a graduation event at the Boston-area African Bridge Network, which received \$498,655.

To help leverage the state grant for the HCC-led project, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions invested \$200,000 to incorporate the voices and lived experiences of participants in the design of the program to advance equitable employment outcomes.

"This is an amazing achievement," said Anne Kandilis, director of Springfield WORKS/Working Cities Challenge. "Sometimes we focus on the grant itself, but the 18 months of hard collaborative work that goes into proposing something this big is important to lift up too."

Please see **HCC**, page 9

CAMPUS NOTES

HCC announces Dean's list for fall 2023 semester

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's list.

A student is placed on the Dean's list if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's list honors for the Fall 2023 semester.

South Hadley

Yinia Maria Arce, Angela Rose Bessone, Elise M. Brumer, Daniel Michael Conway, Isaac James Crouch, Kelsey Alison Dearborn, Maxim Gwydion Ferdman-Hayden, Alexandra Mieg Gates, Onix Omar Gonzalez, Martin Fabian Gonzalez-Meyer, Dylan Graveline, Mariangelis Guzman, Cayden Jeffrey Henriques, Reese Melissa Mackenzie, Brady Kyle Nestor, Jacob Ryan Palmer, Mickayla Patruno, Camden M. Pete, Theodore Ferris Reilly, Jessica Yamileth Saravia, Jordyn Cade Sicard, Megan Judith Squire, Dominick Michael Valentine, Stephanie Marie Willemain and Emily Grace Wojczak.

Lasell University announces fall 2023 Dean's List

NEWTON – The fall 2023 Dean's List at Lasell University includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students made the list: Antonio Centracchio of Granby; and Teagan Anz and Robin Mullin, both of South Hadley.

Fall Dean's List announced at Stonehill College

EASTON – More than 1,000 students have been recognized for academic excellence at Stonehill College, including Sarah Fitts and Paige Marjanski, both of South Hadley.

To qualify for this honor, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

SNHU announces fall 2023 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulated the following students on being named to the fall 2023 President's List: Emma Pouliot of South Hadley; and Dylan Moore and Michael Collins, both of Granby.

The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Roger Williams University announces Dean's List

BRISTOL, RI – Select students have been named to the fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Local students include Olivia Marion and Allie Sowers, both of South Hadley.

Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Kayla Simon earns Dean's List at Bridgewater State

BRIDGEWATER - Kayla Simon of South Hadley was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University.

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Cianna Gurek maintains control as she bounce passes to a teammate.



Drew Alley cuts to the middle.

Maddie Soderbaum lunges to dislodge the ball.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Knights split swim meet with Chicopee

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Holyoke swimming, which co-ops with South Hadley and Granby, scored a split with Chicopee High. The boys were defeated in their matchup 54-31. Brady Pjar had two wins representing Holyoke in the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. Jared Lapite also had two wins, taking the 50 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.

The girls had a convincing 93-60 win over Chicopee, improving to 4-1 on the season. Scarlett LaRose won the 50 freestyle and the 100 flystroke. Adaline Woods won the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle. Trinity Roy also won two events.

Tigers take down Quaboag Cougars

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN – Paul Dubuc, longtime girls' varsity basketball coach at South Hadley High School, is familiar with all the high school gyms throughout Western Massachusetts.

Dubuc and his players traveled to Central Massachusetts last Wednesday night where they played a regular season game at the Quaboag Regional gymnasium for the first time.

The Lady Tigers, who held a 21-2 lead at the end of the first quarter, cruised to a 62-32 non-league road victory over the Lady Cougars.

"We've never been to this gym before, but we came out and played very well in the first quarter," Dubuc said. "This gym is bigger than our own gym. We enjoy playing in bigger gyms because it gives us more space to operate. My players played very hard and I'm very proud of them."

The Lady Tigers had a 5-3 over-

all record following their only visit to Central Massachusetts during the 2023-24 regular season. When the first MIAA Division 4 state power rankings of the season were released, the Lady Tigers were ranked 13th.

"We've been improving in every game that we've played this season," Dubuc added. "We put the ball in the basket and played good defense in tonight's game."

Junior Maddie Soderbaum led the way offensively for the Lady Tigers with 14 points.

Junior Caitlin Dean and freshman Cara Dean both contributed with 10 points each.

Rounding out the scoring column for the visiting team were junior Ava Asselin (8 points), freshman Taylor Bullough (7 points), senior Drew Alley (6 points), junior CC Gurek (5 points), and junior Sophia Butler (2 points).

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



Caitlin Dean drives towards the paint.



Sophia Butler corral the loose ball.



Mylin Laliberte prepares to pass on the run.



Kaitlyn Curran holds back before making a pass.



Cassie Flaherty fights for possession.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Ludlow girls suffer loss to Granby

LUDLOW – Last Monday night, Granby got the momentum early and kept going with it as the handily defeated Ludlow girls basketball 59-33. In the victory for Granby, Kalli White had 23 points while Aubrey Parent and

Autumn Sicard had 13 points each. Ludlow did have two scorers in double-digits as Aneysha Donais and Kayliana Moret had 10 points each. Ludlow fell to 1-8 while Granby is holding steady at 5-3 on the season.



Sophia Gagnon makes her way toward the arc.



Autumn Sicard gets ready to send a long pass.

Sports

Divisional win streak ends in Utica

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-13-3-2) saw their five-game win streak against North Division opponents come to an end on Saturday in a 6-3 loss to the Utica Comets (12-13-3-3) at Adirondack Bank Center.

The T-Birds quieted the notoriously noisy "Aud" just 49 seconds into the first period. In his first shift back with the T-Birds since being returned from St. Louis, Jakub Vrana gathered in a puck near the top of the right circle and whipped a pass toward the crease. Nikita Alexandrov deflected the first attempt off the pads of Utica goalie Isaac Poulter, but Alexandrov jammed his own rebound into the twine, giving Springfield a 1-0 lead for a second straight night.

After shutting out the Comets on Nov. 24, Vadim Zherenko had tougher sledding in the first period on this night, as the Comets evened the score, 1-1, at 9:50 on a well-placed wrister from Filip Engaras under the crossbar.

With time winding down,

Comet defenseman Michael Vučkojevic crept up into the high slot and was given room to slap one along the ice past Zherenko at 17:51 to give Utica a 2-1 advantage.

With less than a minute to play in the period, the Comets added insurance after a lengthy stretch of zone pressure.

It culminated in a funky goal at the 19:29 mark. Ryan Schmelzer arrived for a one-timer from the high slot. The Comets captain muffed the shot, as it badly missed wide of the goal, but glanced off a defender and careened behind Zherenko to give Utica a 3-1 lead into the intermission.

Things took another turn in Utica's favor when Chase Stillman drew a penalty shot when he was hooked on a breakaway chance just 1:21 into the second period. The rookie winger made no mistake from there, as he bested Zherenko with a backhand-to-forehand deke, giving the Comets a 4-1 advantage.

Springfield stopped the four-goal run at 9:25 shortly after the

first of three power-play chances that eluded the visitors. After winning puck control in the left corner, Alexandrov sauced a pass into the middle of the ice for Will Bitten. Bitten's backhand caromed off Poulter's chest and, in turn, found Zach Bolduc, who one-timed the rebound through the Comets goalie to cut the Utica lead down to 4-2, a score that stood to the end of the period.

Dylan Coghlan made things even more interesting when he one-timed his league-leading 11th goal from the blue line at 7:13 of the final period to cut the deficit down to 4-3. However, this time around, the T-Birds ran out of comeback magic. Graeme Clarke scored a momentum-killing goal at 10:02, using a screen to beat Zherenko over the glove from the left-wing circle.

Springfield's power play scuffled on the evening against the AHL's top PK unit, going 0-for-4 and leaving another chance on the table in the final period while trailing 5-3. In the end, the T-Birds ran out of time in this comeback try, and Justin Dowling rounded out the scoring with a tally into an empty net in the final minute.

Railers falls at home to Admirals

WORCESTER -- It wasn't about the Railers ran out gas Sunday afternoon so much as they never had any in their 3-0 loss to the Norfolk Admirals.

Both teams were on the last leg of one of those dreaded 3 in 3 weekends, but the Admirals played it smarter than Worcester. Norfolk followed the script by jumping out to an early lead and keeping things under control the rest of the way.

It helped that the Admirals got admirable goaltending from Kristian Stead. He made 25 saves to record his first career ECHL shutout in his 11th ECHL game. It was Norfolk's second shutout of the season over Worcester. Thomas Milic beat the Railers, 4-0, on October 29. The game marked the third time this season Worcester has been whitewashed.

Brandon Osmundson, Denis Smirnov and Andrew McLean scored the game's goals. McLean's went into an empty net at 19:15 of the third period.

It was a very good goaltending game overall as Josh Boyko was excellent in the Railers net. He stopped 32 of 34 shots and kept it winnable.

"I thought he played really well," coach Jordan Smotherman said. "He made some great saves...I was really happy with his game."

"Playing from behind three nights in a row; you just can't do that to yourself," Smotherman said.

Although Norfolk had 34-25 edge in shots, the teams had

about the same number of great chances. Worcester had two breakaways in the first period.

Railers players hit iron twice later on. John Copeland hit a post, Anthony Callin a crossbar.

The breakaways were by Worcester's two top scorers, Ashton Calder and Anthony Repaci. Both players made good moves. Stead made two good saves.

In contrast, when Norfolk scored at 4:57 of the first period to go ahead, 1-0, Osmundson's shot went post to post and in, hitting the right one first.

"Over the course of a three-game weekend," Smotherman said, "you're not always gonna get the bounces and you can't rely on them."

The Admirals finished that period with a 14-4 edge in shots on goal. For the weekend, Worcester was outshot by 38-17 in the three first periods.

Smirnov doubled his team's lead early in the second period, scoring at 2:29. Danny Katic set up his teammate with a great pass from the right boards. Smirnov was just outside left post and had an easy re-direct from there.

The Railers lineup included familiar face Blake Jenkins, back from his brief time on the Hartford roster, and unfamiliar face Ryan Dickinson. The rookie defenseman made his professional debut as Zsombar Garat got a break. He had played in 32 of the season's first 34 games.

Bonsignore to do pre-season 'test' at Daytona

WADING RIVER, N.Y. -- Three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore will compete in the ARCA Menards Series pre-season test at Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

Bonsignore will drive a car prepared by Andy Hilenburg, the 1995 ARCA champion, who also has two Daytona ARCA wins to his credit. The cars are prepared by Fast Track High Performance Racing.

The pre-race test is in preparation for the upcoming ARCA Menards Series opener at Daytona during Speedweeks on Saturday, February 17. The weekend will also include the opener for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the NASCAR Cup Series Dayto-

na 500.

Seven different drivers have earned the right to take laps around Daytona via the "Road to Daytona" program. Invites include the two regional series that are part of the ARCA Menards Series platform - the three ASA-branded touring super late model series, the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion and the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series frontrunners. Although current 2023 champion for the Whelen Modified Tour Ron Silk isn't making the trip, Bonsignore is filling the seat to take laps around one of the fastest and iconic tracks in the world.

The trip will be his first laps on the Daytona high-banks of his career.

"Taking laps at Daytona is definitely something every race car driver dreams of when you start racing," Bonsignore said. "Appreciate the opportunity given by NASCAR, ARCA, Andy and his entire team to be able to get behind the wheel. Looking forward to soaking in the experience and showcasing the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on this stage."

For more information on the ARCA Menards Series, visit ARCARacing.com. For the latest updates surrounding Justin Bonsignore, fans are encouraged to visit JustinBonsignore.com and also follow Bonsignore's Athlete page on Facebook for updates, including from the track on race day.

TIGERS from page 7

Alley, who was the starting goalie for the Lady Tigers soccer team, which lost to Sutton in the Division 4 state finals last fall, is the only senior listed on the South Hadley varsity basketball roster.

"Drew can dominate a game without even scoring a point," Dubuc said. "She defends, rebounds, and passes the ball very well. I really don't remember the last time that we only had one senior on the varsity team. Our

future looks very bright."

The only double figure scorer for the Lady Cougars (3-5) was senior Evelyn Doe, who scored 12 of her 14 points after half-time.

"Evelyn is an outstanding basketball player," said Quabog head coach Bill Beaugard. "She only took a couple of shots in the first half. For us to be successful, she needs to shoot the ball more than 20 times in a game."

Junior Juliette Boos chipped in with eight points and junior Parker Tunley added seven

points.

The trio of Doe, Boos, and Tunley, who scored her team's only points of the first quarter, combined to score 29 points.

Quabog, who played in the Division 5 state tournament a year ago, were moved up to Division 4 before the start of this season. The Lady Cougars were ranked 41st in the Division 4 power rankings.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. The other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record also qualify for the state tournament.

Beaugard wasn't very happy with his team's first half performance.

"We weren't aggressive either offensively or defensively in the first half. We also allowed them to make too many three-point-

ers, which was probably the biggest difference in the game," he said. "We seem to get off to slow starts against very good teams. I thought we played much better in the second half."

The Lady Tigers made four of their nine 3-pointers during the first eight minutes of the contest.

A little more than a minute into the game, Soderbaum hit a 3-pointer from the right side which was followed by a Gurek lay-up which gave South Hadley a 5-0 lead.

With three minutes remaining in the first quarter, Cara Dean stole the ball at midcourt before scoring an inside hoop pushing the Lady Tigers lead into double digits (12-2) for the first time.

The opening quarter ended with back-to-back 3-pointers from Bullough and Cara Dean, who scored all her points during

the first half.

South Hadley, who outscored Quabog, 14-7, in the second quarter, headed into the locker room holding a 35-9 advantage.

Just like they did at the end of the first quarter, the Lady Tigers ended the first half with a pair of 3-pointers from Asselin and Cara Dean. Caitlin Dean also made another 3-pointer in the second stanza.

Doe scored 11 points during the third quarter, but the Lady Cougars were trailing by 26 points (49-23) entering the final quarter of the game.

Quabog reeled off six unanswered points early in the fourth quarter on an inside hoop by Doe, which were followed by two baskets from Tunley, which closed the gap to 51-29. The home team didn't get any closer than that the rest of the way.



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Library offers programs for adults and teens

SOUTH HADLEY – The Gaylord Memorial Library is partnering with The Mount Holyoke College Williston Observatory to invite the community to “Observe the Full Moon” through telescopes on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Participants should meet at the observatory on Jewett Lane, or meet up in the Gaylord parking lot (47 College St.) to walk over together.

Workshops for teens

In February, the library will have two workshops for teens (ages 12 and up) and adults at the main library (2 Canal St.) with Homeslice Puppetry, supported in part by the South Hadley Cultural Council.

On Thursday, Feb. 8 from 5:45-7:45 p.m., participants will be learning to make a deluxe sock puppet. On Thursday, Feb. 15 from 5:45-7:45 p.m., they will be learning to make a sculpted foam puppet.

Pre-registration is required for both workshops, and can be found on the library calendar and you can register for one or both sessions.



PVPA from page 1

Theater Manager Jay Winter worked alongside a great team of staff and student volunteers who learned the tech and lighting behind the scenes of theater. Winter is proud to be a support system that helps make productions of great shows at the PVPA possible.

From what Winter has witnessed, the biggest benefit is seeing the students experience the world of music.

“As a viewer, I see how much the students are just living in the music,” said Winter. “They poured their hearts and souls into this event.”

Winter has been working as the theater manager at PVPA for two years. Alongside Winter is Producer and Sound Engineer Frank Newton, Sound Board Shadow Iggy Grabowski, Light Board Operator Makena Ananda Holesovsky and stage-hand Cadence Maldonado.

The program cover for “Imbroglio” was done by Tessa Roy; online marketing and outreach by Sandra Courtney; photography and videography by Julian Parker-Burns; and artwork displayed on stage during “Imbroglio” by Martin Bridge and his Stagecraft 1 Class.

The performances on Day 1 began with the PVPA 78 String Ensemble. The group performed the songs “Early Morning”, “Zelda’s Lullaby”, “Home Sweet Home”, “Don’t Drive Angry” and “Pipeline”.

The next performance was by the PVPA 78 Concert Band. The band performed “The Journey Home”, “Dragon Dance”, “Over the Mountain and Tabor”, followed by the PVPA Orchestra (directed by Jeremy Milligan) performing “Defenders of the Realm”, “The Mandalorian” and “Into the Clouds”.

After an intermission, the PVPA 78 Chorus performed “Take on Me” and “I Wanna Dance with Somebody”. Next performance was by the group Limelight, performing “Quartermaster” by Snarky



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts’s 78 String Ensemble started off day one of “Imbroglio” at the PVPA’s Main Stage Theater.

Puppy, “Frankenstein” by Edgar Winter Group and “Bring it on Home by” Sam Cooke as performed by Roy Hargrove.

To conclude the first show of “Imbroglio” was Adagio. Songs performed by Adagio were “Lean On Me”, “Me & Julio Down by the Schoolyard”, “Venus”, “Don’t let me Be Misunderstood” and “Man in the Mirror”.

The second night of “Imbroglio” featured A Cappella Ensemble. The group performed “Where Have All the Cowboys Gone”, “Kiss Me”, “Bette Davis Eyes” and “Wannabe”. All arrangements were by David Cavallin.

Next on stage was Gig Band performing “Signed, Sealed, Delivered”, “Get Lucky”, “When Doves Cry”, “Midnight Train to Georgia”, “Rather Be”, “Le Freak”, “Let’s Groove”, “September”, “Got to Be Real”, “Funkytown” and “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me”.

After the intermission, Razz Da Roof Ensemble was next to perform during the second show of “Imbroglio” with “Stolen Moments”, “The Eternal Child”, “Whis-

per Not”, “Beneath the Waves”, “Brilliant Corners”, “James” and “Bambu Forest”. All arrangements were by Ahimsa Rahul Roy.

The final performance of “Imbroglio” was the Pop/R&B Ensemble. The songs performed by the ensemble were “How Deep is Your Love”, “I Don’t Need No Doctor”, “Mr. Harris”, “If I Ever Lose My Faith in You”, “Won’t Get Fooled Again”, “Helplessly Hoping”, “Black Cow” and “Strawberry Fields/Within You Without You”. Ahimsa Rahul Roy did all the arrangements and the violin arrangements for the performance of “Mr. Harris” was by Jeremy Milligan.

PVPA has grades seven-12 and is accepting applications for enrollment until Feb. 11. Visit www.pvpa.org/admissions to register.

The next show at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Main Stage Theater is a production of “Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812” on Feb. 2 and 3 and 4-7 p.m.

HCC from page 6

According to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the grants are part of a strategic investment in the Massachusetts workforce to develop programs that support individuals facing barriers to employment, such as lack of formal schooling, language literacy, or past involvement with the criminal justice system.

“Investing in our workforce and our businesses is investing in the Massachusetts economy and puts the state in a position to succeed,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “These grants help organizations attract workers who may be unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing barriers to employment and provide the necessary skills they need to thrive. These grants will help

us achieve our workforce development goals, expand our skilled talent pool, and strengthen our competitiveness.”

The six grant-funded initiatives aim to train and hire 384 individuals over three years.

The Springfield-based Entrepreneurial & Business Collaborative also received a grant worth \$630,998 to prepare 90 individuals for jobs in the hospitality industry. The group is partnering with the Northampton Brewery, Granny’s Baking Table, River Valley Market, Tandem Bagel Company, and Puerto Rico Bakery II.

Other grant recipients include the Training and Upgrading Fund in Quincy (\$717,220), Cambridge College, Inc., in Boston (\$436,062), and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District in Harwich (\$225,425).

EQUITY from page 1

Carol Constant asked if salary levels for town employees should be expected to increase as a result of this study. Town Administrator Wong recognized her requirement to operate within a balanced budget but expressed her commitment to aligning town employees’ salaries with the recommendations that come out of this study as best as she is able.

“We acknowledge that it’s probably too expensive to do in one year,” Wong said. She also laid out her intent to prioritize increasing salaries for employees who are found to be furthest behind recommended levels, stating that she felt this was the most equitable strategy given the anticipated need to address shortcomings over a number of budget cycles.

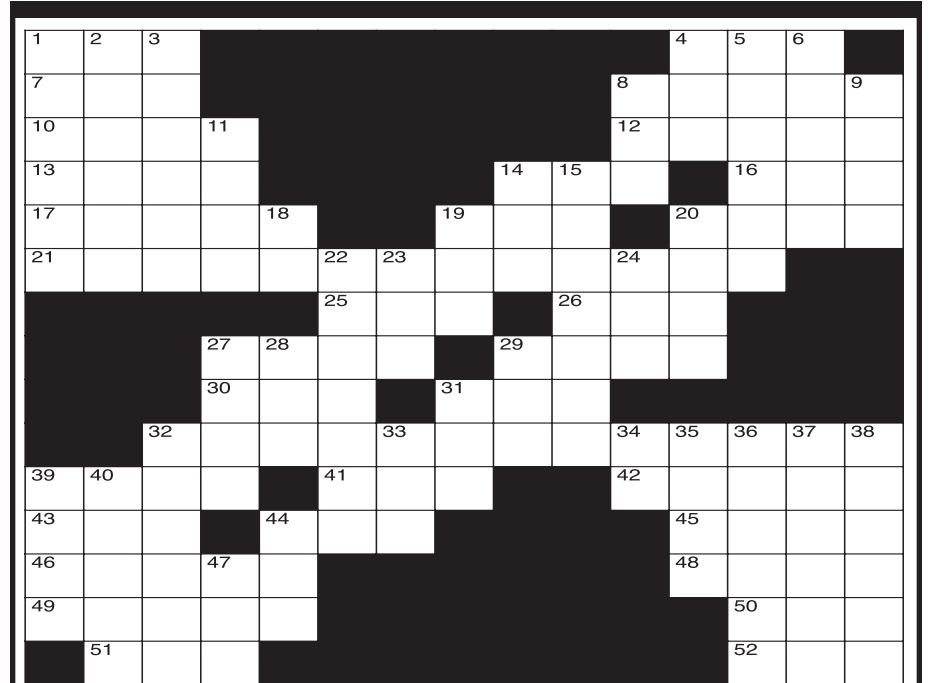
The meeting also addressed a draft request for quotes from vendors to put together a comprehensive series of trainings for town department heads and board members on the subject of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Funding for the creation of these Diversity, Equity,

Inclusion and Belonging trainings would come from a \$15,000 Community Compact grant from the Commonwealth, according to the draft document and Wong.

Wong said that these trainings were being created pursuant to a number of goals in the town’s Master Plan relating to racial and DEIB issues. She also expressed her hope that an outcome of these trainings would be “to gain a common language and understanding between staff, boards and committee members” around the subject of DEIB.

Wong said she would like to see these trainings impact not only department heads, but all members of the town government and the entire community, and hoped that it would ultimately help shape the town’s next Master Plan Implementation Forum later this year. She provided the tentative timeline of securing a vendor by the end of February and having work on developing these trainings start in March.

After discussion, the Selectboard unanimously approved the draft request for quotes as presented.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. Where golfers begin
7. Each
8. Warm weather metropolis
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Girl’s given name
13. Myth (Spanish)
14. Ultrahigh frequency
16. Former NBAer Jeremy
17. Where rockers work
19. Your consciousness of your own identity
20. Soft-finned fishes
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Union
27. Member of religious community
29. Small shrill flute
30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
31. They ___
32. College kid on vacation
39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
41. Part of the human body
42. A progressive grading
43. Sound unit
44. Noise some birds make
45. Abba ___, Israeli politician
46. Portuguese city
48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
49. Resembling old Norse poems
50. Ask for out of extreme need
51. Sino-Soviet

CLUES DOWN

1. An insane person
2. ___ Boothe Luce, American author
3. Buttock muscles
4. Men’s fashion accessory
5. “Hotel California” rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
9. Hostleries
11. A way to resound
14. Exclamation: yuck!
15. A resident of Indiana
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Boundary
22. Antilles island
23. It’s used to make furniture
24. Clod
27. They indicate where places are
28. Bobby ___, NHL champ
29. Prints money
31. Honorable title (Turkish)
32. Appetizers
33. Midway between north and northwest
34. Spanish be
35. Breezed through
36. Grilled dishes
37. In a way, excites
38. Change mind
39. A French abbot
40. Popular candy
44. Partner to cheese
47. Wood or metal bolt

Consider becoming an organ donor in the new year

SPRINGFIELD – Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year’s resolutions.

“Every nine minutes a new person is added to the national transplant wait list, which is already overcrowded with more than 100,000 men, women and children waiting for a lifesaving organ. Over 40,000 transplants were performed in 2022, a record year for transplants in the United States, but many more people could benefit from a lifesaving organ transplant,” said Dr. Kenneth McPartland, Medical Director, Transplant Division, Baystate Health, in a press release.

Making your wishes known is easy. If you would like to become a donor, your wishes can be indicated on your driver’s license, or you can register online at www.donatelife.net/register.

While doing so, let your family know about your decision to become an organ donor so that they along with friends know and understand your wishes in advance.

There are many common misconceptions about donation that persist today.

Donate Life America offers the following facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save

your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or social status.

An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it.

“Deceased donors leave a legacy by giving the gift of life after they pass, but did you know that this gift can be given during your lifetime? As a living kidney donor, an individual can live a long and healthy life with one kidney while giving someone else a second chance at life,” said Nancy Dias, BSN, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Baystate Medical Center.

Baystate Medical Center offers many options in living kidney donation. The transplant program works closely with the National Kidney Registry as a Donor Care Center of Excellence to facilitate national exchanges or kidney swaps, as well as voucher donations.

Compatible and incompatible pairs can donate and receive kidneys with one of the many options available. Visit the NKR website for more information <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/>.

Baystate Transplant Pro-

gram offers the only Transplant Services in western Massachusetts for adult patients requiring kidney transplantation. In 2023, Baystate has performed close to 70 kidney transplants, the most ever performed in a single year since the program started over 30 years ago.

The program has over 150 patients on the national transplant waiting list and is continuing to find ways to increase access to kidney transplantation.

Today, more and more people are making a difference in someone’s life by becoming a living kidney donor to a patient on the Baystate Health waiting list, an alternative to waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor. More information about the process of living donation is available on the Baystate Health Transplant Program website at baystatehealth.org/transplant.

Transplant surgeons use the latest techniques, including minimally invasive surgery, so that patients experience a faster recovery and spend less time in the hospital. In addition to experienced surgeons, the Baystate Transplant Team includes nephrologists, nurse transplant coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, financial counselors, as well as administrative and clinical assistants to help guide patients through the process.

Living or deceased donor renal transplants are offered as treatment of end-stage renal disease.

Life is meant to be shared. It takes only five minutes to sign up as an organ donor at www.organdonor.gov/sign-up.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center’s Transplant Program at 413-794-2321 Option 2 and speak with the living donor coordinator or sign on to the Baystate Transplant website at baystatehealth.org/transplant for a confidential screening process.



Submitted Photo

Dr. Kenneth McPartland, Medical Director, Transplant Division at Baystate Health.

Lisa Wong’s

• WEEKLY WRAP UP •

Income survey for Center Street Neighborhood

SOUTH HADLEY – The Town is working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to make infrastructure improvements to the Center Street Neighborhood (Warner, Graves, and Center), which may involve new water mains, improved storm water drainage, sewer repairs, and street and sidewalk improvements.

One of the first steps in getting these types of projects started is to obtain general income and household information from residents who live in the service area being considered for improvements. PVPC will survey the area to collect this information and determine funding eligibility in accordance with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities CDBG program regulations solely to determine eligibility for future grant funding.

Individual survey responses are confidential information and will not be shared and are not subject to public review. Surveys will be sent to the project neighborhood households.

Any questions about this process can be directed to Town Administrator Lisa Wong by calling 413-538-5030, extension 6136 or emailing lwong@south-hadley.ma.gov or the town’s consultant at PVPC, John O’Leary by calling 413-781-6045 or emailing joleary@pvpc.org.

Upcoming meetings

The next Tri-Board meeting with the full Selectboard, School Committee and Appropriations Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 6.

The Selectboard’s next hybrid meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Senior Center. Details will be posted on the website’s (www.south-hadley.org) agenda center

Town census

2024 Annual Town Census has been mailed to residents. Review both sides carefully, sign and return to the Town Clerk’s office even if there are no changes to ensure you are on the active voter list.

Dog licenses are also part of the form.



Open Swim in Chicopee

CHICOPEE – Open Swim in Chicopee occurs on Sundays from Noon to 2 p.m. at Chicopee Compressive High School at 617 Montgomery St.

The swim season began Jan. 14 and goes through March 10.

Please bring ID or Proof of Residence. The cost for Chicopee residents is \$3 and the cost for non-residents is \$5.

Questions? Email Jamey Mercer at jmercer@chicopee-ma.gov.

Scholarship/fellowship funds available for Hampden County students

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools.

Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for scholarships of \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for fellow-

ships of \$15,000.

Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$316,000 was awarded to 30 individuals. Scholarships were given to 22 graduating seniors from nine Hampden County high schools.

Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Five fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from

Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund

in 1950.

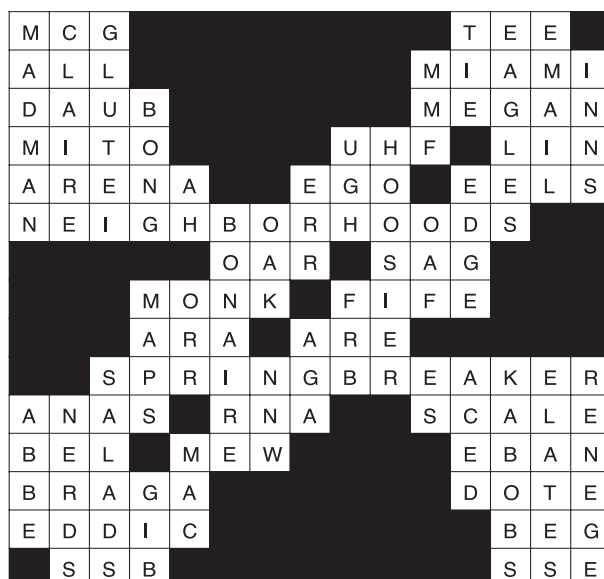
Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling 413-739-4222.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 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



Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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The Town of Huntington is seeking an **INTERIM TOWN CLERK**. This is a salaried position for approximately 18 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Applications are due by January 26, 2024. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Nolan Adams, age 2, treks through the snow.



Juliana Tarrats and Ilana Colon enjoyed the snow.



Julius Tarrats plays in the snow.



Ava Diroma, age 10, plays in the snow with her dog.

Children enjoy first snowstorm of the year

SOUTH HADLEY – Children enjoyed the first snowstorm of the new year, which piled close to a foot of snow in communities across the region.

Many took to sleds and skis, while others grabbed their shovels and got to work clearing driveways and walkways. Some were even joined by their four-legged friends.

Turley Photos compiled by Tina Lesniak



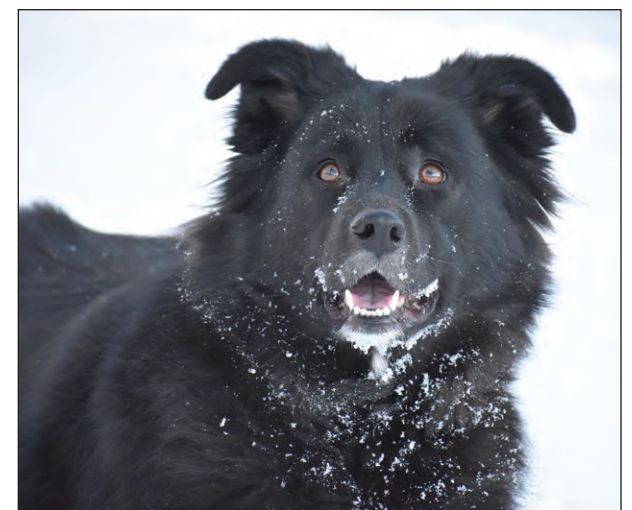
Nina Levreault, age 12, and Anni Levreault, age 10, go backyard skiing with dog Louie.



The Ferguson siblings throw snowballs at their parents.



Zoe Ferguson, 8, pulls her brother Caleb, age 10, while the snow flies around them.



Kiwi loves playing in the snow and burying her face. Submitted photo

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