

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Quabbin Art Association to host mixed media artist *Donna Roy*

By Anna Jackie
Publicity chair
Quabbin Art Association

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association will host South Hadley artist Donna Roy at its next meeting. Roy will give a presentation on her unique “eco prints,” currently on exhibit and for sale at the Mill District Local Art Gallery in Amherst.

“I take the fresh-air experiences of my outdoor painting sessions back to my studio for further exploration,” Roy said. “Using botanical materials found in my garden, gathered on neighborhood walks, and while painting en plein air, I create a fusion between art and nature with eco printing. These natural botanical prints are then further enhanced with ink illustrations, watercolor washes or creative manipulations done in layers with mixed media techniques using collage, photographic im-

ages, acrylic paints and sprays, and sometimes hand lettering. The resulting work comes to life as an image that is inspired by nature, with an artistic twist.”

What exactly is an eco-print? Roy explained.

“It is the process of making direct contact botanical prints from natural pigments found in plants,” she said. “Bundles of paper, layered with plant material, are steamed to release and transfer the pigment to the paper. No synthetic inks or dyes are used. These are the images that are then enhanced with my drawings, collages and watercolor washes.”

Roy began her love of painting while studying privately with a local oil painter when she was 10 years old. During weekly studio sessions, she learned traditional foundations of composition, perspective, color theory

Please see **ARTIST**, page 8



Artist Donna Roy

Photo courtesy of the Quabbin Art Association

Planning Board considers bylaw changes

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY — The Planning Board discussed proposed amendments and additions to the town’s zoning bylaws at their meeting on Monday, Jan. 22, with Planning and Conservation Director Anne Capra expressing hope that the proposed changes would motivate developers to pursue residential projects with the preservation of open space in mind.

The discussion revolved around the town’s Flexible Development Bylaw, which is intended to encourage, among other things, the “development of diverse and affordable housing types while

Please see **BYLAW**, page 5



Turley Photo by Nick Boonstra.

Sister Catherine Ormond gives committal honors with a naval detail present.

Local hero returns home

Sailor laid to rest
decades after Pearl
Harbor attack

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

HOLYOKE — Pharmacist’s Mate Second Class Merle Hillman received the long overdue hero’s welcome he deserved on Saturday, a homecoming that

was over 80 years in the making.

Hillman’s life was taken on Dec. 7, 1941, aboard USS California when she was torpedoed and bombed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. His remains, however, were only identified within the last year, as part of forensic efforts undertaken by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to identify the remains of Unknowns from the California and other ships attacked at Pearl Harbor.

Merle Chester Joseph Hillman was born in Chicopee on Feb. 7, 1916. He grew up in Holyoke, and listed the Paper City as his hometown when he enlisted in 1937.

Hillman was in the process of preparing the California for an inspection scheduled for the following day when the attack commenced. He served his comrades and his country with honor aboard the California,

Please see **HERO**, page 6

Funds being raised to rename Plains School

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – As of Wednesday, Jan. 31, supporters of renaming Plains School in memory of Hank Skala have raised almost two-thirds of the money needed to do so.

The late principal passed away almost two years ago, leaving a legacy of love, kindness, and support for his teachers, the community, and, most of all, his students.

“Hank was truly one of a kind. He was genuine, compassionate and kind-hearted,” recalled Ashley Macey, a first-

grade teacher at Plains. “He truly cared about his staff members and more importantly cared for the kids. Hank always wanted what was best for Plains School and everyone involved.”

Shortly after Skala’s passing, Danielle Cooke, a member of the South Hadley School Committee began thinking about a way to honor him. She remembered that the middle school had been renamed for a similar reason when she was a student there and wondered if that might be a possibility.

The plan hit a bit of a road-

Please see **PLAINS**, page 6



Photo courtesy of Plains School

A contingent of residents are raising money to rename Plains School in memory of Hank Skala, the late principal, who passed way almost two years ago.

► South Hadley

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity embraces energy-savings initiatives

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Energy savings and green products are all the rage right now. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, or GSHFH, is working tirelessly to provide their homeowners and prospective partner families with environmentally-friendly products that help them save on utility costs, while keeping expenses low. That's not an easy feat considering inflation and limited resources. Yet, the nonprofit organization is able to accomplish this achievement through



Dean student working with rebar at Chestnut.

fundraisers, donations and grants.

Sometimes, it's the small changes that make the biggest difference. GSHFH is now incorporating electric mini split heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to avoid using fossil fuels. In some instances, based on location and home design, tankless water heaters or air-sourced water heaters are installed.

"Our goal is to provide our partner families with an energy-friendly home that will allow them to save money, while protecting their investment for many years to come," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "We want them to pass their home to the next generation of family members and provide them with a solid foundation for a better, more stable future."

Energy-friendly products range from solar panel installation, the use of Low-E glass windows, to a plant-based fiber insulation called HempWool; light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures, and the affiliate's first-ever insulated concrete form (ICF) home.

Solar panel installation can help a family significantly cut their electric bill and the use of Low-E glass windows lets in natural light while reflecting inside heat back into the home during the winter months. During the summer, outside heat is reflected away from the home.

LED fixtures reduce energy usage and programmable thermostats provide heating and cooling only during the times it was most needed. Plus, Energy-Star appliances, which are rated for maximum energy efficiency and cost savings, are used.

HempWool is a US Department of Agriculture-certified bio-based insulation that is naturally mold and pest resistant. It's also resistant of volatile organic compounds and toxins. It's easy to install, doesn't sag, and like the Low-E glass,

lowers the energy bills for heat in the winter, cooling in the summer, and general comfort.

"It's a lot less itchy to handle," said Tom Eisenman, GSHFH volunteer.

Additionally, new construction projects are built to meet the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code of Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code. The code sets significantly higher requirements for heating and cooling loads, which can be responsible for 60% of a building's energy use.

In November 2022, GSHFH began its most notable energy-efficient project yet: an ICF home. A dedication ceremony celebrating the completion of construction will be held at 11am on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 360 Chestnut St. in Holyoke. The project is a collaboration between the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and Habitat for Humanity International to build 50 ICF homes across the country.

The insulated concrete forms are hollow foam blocks that are stacked into the shape of exterior walls of a building, reinforced with steel rebar, and filled with concrete.

"Doing something different in construction is not easy," said Gregg Lewis, chief communications officer at NRMCA. "Construction is hard enough when you're doing the same thing day in and day out. Try to take on a new way of building and it's really a huge deal."

ICF combines one of the finest insulating materials – expanded polystyrene (EPS) with one of the strongest structural building materials – steel reinforced concrete. The result is a wall system of unmatched comfort, energy efficiency and noise reduction.

"The house will be quiet, even when it's windy and stormy outside and it'll stay nice and toasty inside," said Steve Bogle, an Integraspec local distributor.

Integraspec is the brand name of the



Submitted photos

WNEU Pharm Club putting in HempWool at Holyoke.

foam blocks. Steve and his wife Cheryl, also an Integraspec distributor, worked with GSHFH in the early stages.

Unlike a traditional wood frame house with sheathing, an ICF home offers several additional benefits to the builder and homeowner. The foam panels are made from recycled material. ICF walls do not off-gas, whereas conventional walls sheathed with oriented strand board (OSB) off-gas through glues and resin. ICF walls are resistant to mold and rot, which provides a better living environment for those suffering from allergens or asthma. Also, due to the rising cost of lumber, this method significantly reduces the need for wood for framing and sheathing the exterior and less trees are cut down.

"We're excited to have built a more energy-efficient, affordable home for one of our Habitat families," Aimee said.

To see pictures from the construction phase of the ICF build, visit habitatspringfield.org/Holyoke.

Flashback FRIDAY
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Alphabet Soup Preschool Plus of Granby
55 Taylor Street, Granby

Alphabet Soup Preschool Plus of South Hadley
5 Ferry Street, South Hadley

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February 14, 2020



CrossFit Team Strength, Valor, Grit (SVG) of South Hadley were among 10 CrossFit groups appearing from local communities to turn out in Holyoke, helping to collect and raise valuable funds to be gifted to the National Brain Tumor Society.

Historic Gaylord Memorial Library announces February programming

SOUTH HADLEY – Gaylord Memorial Library has a busy February planned for all ages. January's Full Moon Observation with Mount Holyoke College Observatory was rained out, but we're hoping for better weather for our new date: Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. (open to all ages). We'll close out the month with a winter Nature Walk led by staff from Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary on Feb. 29 at 2 p.m.

Both libraries in town will be hosting a new series: Creative Writing Hour for Teens. We will kick off with a Fiction Workshop at Gaylord on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 4 p.m. The next session will be Poetry

at SHPL will take place on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.

For younger kids, we have our usual story times, LEGO Club, drop-in crafts and two Saturday morning special events. On Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10:15 a.m. Miss Janet will be celebrating Lunar New Year with a paper dragon craft, and on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m. we'll have Family Playtime with trucks and trains!

Other regular weekly and monthly programming can be found on the Gaylord website or on the SHPL calendar.

Friday Fish Fry returns to Swift River Sportsman's Club

BELCHERTOWN – The Swift River Sportsman's Club at 350 Cold Spring Road is pleased to announce that its Friday Fish Fry is returning on Fridays, start-

ing Feb. 16 and running through April 5.

Prices range from \$14 for fish and chips to \$18 for a fish, shrimp and chip combo. Clam chowder will also be available.

For more information, please call the club at 413-323-9387.

MEMORARE TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

E.R.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Voters to be surveyed about town meeting format

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Voters at the upcoming town election on March 5 will get a say in more than just the election.

Throughout the day, members of the Town Meeting Review Committee will be at South Hadley High School to survey them about how they feel the town meeting format works for the town of South Hadley.

At its Jan. 18 meeting, the committee discussed what it expects the survey will look like and what it hopes to learn from it. The committee plans to work on the survey itself at its Feb. 1 meeting but agreed to limit its length to fewer than

half a dozen questions and to base those questions on the survey it sent out to town meeting members recently.

The general gist of the survey for votes would be asking if voters think the town meeting format is running well and, if not, what could be done to improve it. For voters who may not have time to take the survey on election day, there would probably be a QR code that they could scan to take it later, up to a few days after election day.

The survey is part of the broader work of the committee as it reviews the work of town meeting and how it fits the needs of the town. The committee recently received the completed surveys from town meeting members asking them similar questions, as well as about their experi-

ences as town meeting members.

Those results will be presented at a Know Your Town presentation and public forum at the end of February. After the presentation, the committee will open up the floor to a public forum so people can share their experiences and understandings of the town meeting format.

The committee made it very clear that there would be no spin put on any of the data received. It will present raw data.

“We want to get their thoughts,” said Nicole Casolari, a committee and select-board member.

Member Carlene Hamlin, the former clerk for the town, noted that she wondered if they would have to explain what the town meeting format is. Casolari

agreed that they may need to explain the mechanics.

“I don’t know if I asked my neighbors if they know what a town meeting is,” said Hamlin.

Although Chair John Hine said that he wanted to make sure audience members stayed on the topic of discussing how effective the town meeting format is, Casolari noted that they might have to extend some grace as people explain how their experiences relate to town meeting policies and workings.

The committee also mulled over the idea of creating a program explaining its work for the local community television channel.

Lisa Wong's • WEEKLY WRAP UP •

SOUTH HADLEY – Town Administrator Lisa Wong submitted the following as part of her Weekly Wrap Up.

Chamber Annual Meeting



President Danielle R. Holley was the keynote speaker at the annual South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce meeting. Selectboard Chair Andrea Miles, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), State Rep. Dan Carey (D-Easthampton) and Chamber Board Chair Regina Zebrowski gave a warm welcome.

Honoring Frank DeToma

The Town of South Hadley is sad to share the news of Frank DeToma’s passing. Frank retired from Mount Holyoke College and went on to serve as a Selectboard member, chair of the Redevelopment Authority and member of the Historical Commission.

Selectboard

The Selectboard’s next hybrid meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the senior center. Details will be posted on the town website’s agenda center.



Keep up with South Hadley’s latest news

The state awarded Way Finders funding for The Plaza Apartments in South Hadley on Jan. 22. The Plaza Apartments will bring 60 mixed-income residences to the three-acre site that was formerly part of the Woodlawn Shopping Plaza in South Hadley.

The four-story apartment building will be developed by Way Finders in partnership with South Hadley Plaza LLC. The L-shaped building will be oriented around a central courtyard and include one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. Five units will be accessible for people with physical disabilities, and two will be equipped for people with sensory impairments.

There will also be three units reserved for clients of the state’s Department of Mental Health. A community room with a kitchenette will also be available. The courtyard will have tables, benches and bicycle racks. There will be both on-site and off-street parking for 75 vehicles. Construction of The Plaza Apartments is

slated to start in fall 2024 and will take approximately 16 months to complete.

Bike-Walk

The Bike-Walk Committee will host a guided trek at the Ledges Golf Club, 18 Mulligan Drive, on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. Any cancellation will be posted at www.southhadley.org/bikewalk by 10 a.m.

Town website

Preview the town’s new website at: www.southhadley.org. Feedback is welcome at selectboard@southhadleyma.gov.

Audition for ‘Mary Poppins’ on Feb. 9

Open to all ages from
4-7 p.m. at SHHS

SOUTH HADLEY – Brand new South Hadley theater group South Hadley Players will be presenting their first production- “Mary Poppins” from April 12-14. Auditions will be held at the South Hadley High School Feb. 9 from 4-7 p.m. Director Cyn Strycharz and Music Director Dan Mashia have over 30 years of experience that they will be bringing to this production. Please come and support this new community theater.

Plains School Kindergarten packet pickup

SOUTH HADLEY – Plains School will be having Kindergarten and Grade One students new to South Hadley pick up packets from March 1 – 29.

Please stop by the school between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to pick up your packet. Any questions please call the main office at 538-5068.



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Small Grants Available to South Hadley Falls Businesses

The Town of South Hadley is offering Falls Business Improvement Grants to provide commercial businesses, nonprofits, and commercial property owners in South Hadley Falls with financial support for the enhancement of small businesses through reimbursable grants of up to \$1,500.

The grant is structured as a reimbursement of a property or business owner’s investment in eligible storefront façade enhancements or other eligible business improvements.

The Town of South Hadley anticipates funding 8 to 10 projects of up to \$1,500 each.

Grant application and more information online here:

<https://www.southhadley.org/1299/>
South-Hadley-Falls-Business-Improvement-

Opinion



Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working three days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.

Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking:

We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here's what you need to know:

Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(K) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 – or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000 – then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap:

Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 5



TO THE EDITOR

Water District 1 civil suit filed

After over 18 months of persistent frustration with the Commissioners of South Hadley Water District 1, I have officially filed a complaint in Hampshire Superior Court (Docket #24 009) along with a motion seeking an Emergency Order to compel compliance with a Secretary of State's Determination (SPR22/1997).

A hearing has been scheduled for Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at 2 p.m. in Hampshire Superior Court.

The Civil Action seeks to determine if Water District 1 Superintendent, Jeffrey Cyr, has engaged in deceptive practices and misappropriation of district funds.

This legal action aims to ascertain the full extent of any impropriety on his part and to investigate why the Water District #1 Commissioners opted to conceal his actions rather than address them.

Key Events Leading to the Lawsuit:

-Aug. 22, 2022: Filed FOIA Request for Cell Phone Records for SH Water District #1

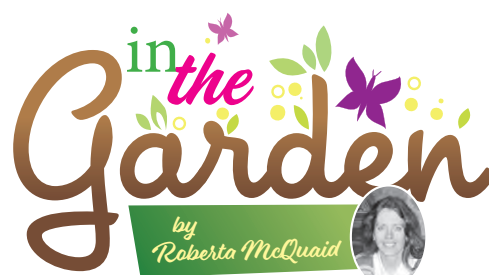
-Nov. 28, 2022: Attended South Hadley District 1 Prudential Meeting (video available)

-April 25, 2023: Attended South Hadley Water District 1 monthly meeting; board refused to honor Secretary of State's Determination

-In August, I submitted a LETTER TO THE EDITOR, urging the South Hadley Water District 1 Board members to honor the Secretary of State's Determination.

This legal action is pursued in the interest of upholding transparency, accountability and the integrity of public institutions. The lawsuit seeks judicial intervention to ensure the proper administration of the Water District and to address any potential misconduct.

Bruce Forcier,
South Hadley



Re-blooming paper whites

I purchased some paper white bulbs early in December, figuring I'd need some flower power come January.

Four bulbs were planted in potting soil in an old tureen bowl that I found at the local recycling center swap shed. I covered the soil in moss I saved from my yard and honest to goodness when those bulbs burst into bloom about a month after planting, I felt pretty proud of myself for creating such a chic display.

Now what to do with it? Usually, when paper whites are forced in pebbles, or just plain water, they are a once and done kind of experiment. But because I planted them in decent potting soil, there may be hope for re-bloom.

Read on to see how it's done.

First, it's important to think about how bulbs work. They are a self-contained unit that has everything in that unit to bloom the first time no matter what, as long as basic environmental needs are met.

Pretty impressive.

For bulbs to bloom again, we have to make sure that unit gets re-charged. I read once to think of the bulb as a solar battery – that's not far off!

For typical daffodil bulbs that are plant-

ed in the ground that means removing spent flowers, keeping the foliage intact until it yellows, and giving the plant a little fertilizer or a compost top dressing if the soil isn't fertile. Now that we understand, we can use this information to re charge our hyacinth bulbs.

The flowers are still on my chic display, but they are definitely gone by. I will snip off the spent blooms.

Next, I will put the tureen in a sunny window. To be honest, I had placed it in my pantry when it was in bloom.

My husband found the fragrance a little too overpowering and not to his liking. Over the years I have found that people either love it or hate it and sadly he leans toward the latter of the two.

But, because it was placed in the window of a cool room, it grew upright without falling over, and the flowers lasted close to three weeks! Now that I have the pot of foliage in a sunny window, I will sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer on the soil surface and water it in.

Choose one that has both nitrogen for the leaves and phosphorus for the bulb. The numbers on the fertilizer indicate NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

We want to encourage those leaves to photosynthesize and make energy to build up the reserves in the bulb. Fertilization will happen monthly as long as the leaves are green.

The leaves will grow for longer than you might think, maybe even into late spring and summer. I'll put the pot outside in the sunshine once the weather warms up enough.

Eventually, though, the leaves will yellow and brown. Once they do it's time to cut them back and let the soil dry out completely, after which the bulbs can be removed.

Give them a couple of days in the sun to

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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SHPL announces upcoming adult February programming

SOUTH HADLEY – Happy Leap Year! There are 29 days in February this year and the big question is: What will you do with your extra day? With so many wonderful programs happening at your library, we suggest starting here to make the most of those extra 24 hours.

Workshops and presentations

Local history will be featured with a talk about “The Six Navigational Canals of the Connecticut River” with Robert Comeau on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. How did people get up and down the river in past years? Join us to learn more about the importance of the Connecticut River to our history.

We’ve got not one, but two upcoming Puppet Workshops with Homeslice Puppetry, supported in part by the South Hadley Cultural Council! On Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5:45 p.m. we’ll be making Deluxe Sock Puppets and on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 5:45 p.m., patrons will make Sculpted Foam Puppets. These programs run until 7:45 p.m. and are open to everyone age 12 and up.

In a timely program that reflects today’s headlines, on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m., Prof. Sohail Hashmi of Mt. Holyoke College will give a talk on “Understanding the Israel-Hamas Conflict”. The Is-

rael-Hamas conflict has a complicated history that is long and nuanced. This program will help you understand past & recent events from a professor of International Relations and Middle Eastern Politics.

Have you ever wanted to attend a TED Talk? David Bonanno will practice his talk “Trauma Is Not Logical, So Here’s How to Beat It” on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. Psychological trauma is hard to understand, and everyone suffers from it to some degree. While people can recover from some traumas, others are too severe. Traumatized people may suffer from emotional dysregulation and our speaker has developed a technique to address this problem, allowing people to feel better in a matter of hours. This lecture will teach attendees the basics of a simple yet efficient method for resolving trauma once and for all. Bonanno is a clinical psychologist, author, and speaker.

Online Author Programs

“Spice, Spirit, and Swoon-A Guaranteed Happily Ever After” with Rom-Com Author Tessa Bailey, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *It Happened One Summer* and *Hook, Line, and Sinker*. Thursday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

“Exploring Identity, Love, and Being Black in America in Fiction Writing: A Conversa-

tion” with Award-Winning Author Jason Mott, New York Times Bestselling Author and National Book Award Winner. Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.

“Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity: An Author Talk” with Kim Scott, New York Times Bestselling Author of “Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity” and “Radical Respect: How to Work Together Better”. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

Teen Programs at SHPL

Teen author talk alert! This month we are featuring an Author Talk with Jennifer Rudnick where she’ll read from her new novel “Swarm” and take questions. We’re excited to host her on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

New! Creative Writing Hour for Teens being held at both the Gaylord and South Hadley Public libraries. We will kick off with a Fiction Workshop at the Gaylord Library on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 4 p.m. The next session will be Poetry taking place at SHPL on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.

We continue our regular monthly programs with Crafternoon, Snackernoon and Xbox1. Our Crafternoon on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. will feature button making and our Snackter-

noon on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. will feature Brownie Batter Dip! Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackernoon. We have brand new games for this month’s Xbox1 gaming sessions on Tuesday, Feb. 6 & Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 3:30 p.m. Reach out to Bethany through email or see the Teen Room door for more information.

We are featuring a new Afternoon Craft making DIY Fortune Cookies on Monday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. and an Evening Craft making DIY Clay on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Manga Readers! Come to our monthly Manga Club meeting being held on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. Meet other Manga readers and check out some of the newest books.

Children’s Programs at SHPL

February is Black History Month, plus Groundhog Day (will we get six more weeks of winter? It’s Massachusetts, so... probably!), Valentine’s Day, Presidents’ Day and school vacation week. Mark your calendar now for our special School Vacation Week programs, including:

Rhyme Time with special guest Michelle Kostek on Tuesday, February 20 at 10:30

A paper airplane extravaganza on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

Toddler Dance Party on

Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m.

LEGO Club on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Storytime and a craft on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Playful Engineers Traveling Makerspace on Friday, Feb. 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Family movie: Inside Out (rated PG) on Friday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.

Did you know the library has a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) collection of things you can borrow? Come to the STEM Petting Zoo in the Storytime Room on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to Noon for some hands-on exploration of our STEM collection (and games!).

‘Gotta catch them all! We’re starting up a Pokémon Club on Fridays from 3:45-4:45 p.m. - email Jenny if you’re interested! Our first meeting will be Friday, Feb. 9.

Plus... all of our regular programs such as Rhyme Time, Storytime, Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Comics Club, LEGO Club and Pajama Storytime - continue as usual, with special guest Little Roots joining us for Rhyme Time on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m. (rescheduled from January).

Please note that South Hadley Public Library will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

BYLAW from page 1

preserving natural open space,” according to the text of the bylaw.

Proposed changes to this bylaw were brought up in response to separate changes to the town’s subdivision regulations that had applied to developments such as condominiums, which have multiple dwellings, but which are ultimately not subdivided in the intended sense of the regulation.

Since these types of developments would no longer fall under the town’s subdivision regulations, new regulations became necessary, bringing about these discussions around the Flexible Development Bylaw.

Early on in the meeting, Capra reassured the Planning Board and the public that if anyone found these bylaws and the proposed changes to them to be difficult to grasp, they were not alone.

“I personally find this confusing, so if you’re having a hard time following along... we are all in this boat together,” Capra said with a laugh.

The Flexible Development Bylaw is aimed at addressing



Turley photo by Nick Boonstra

South Hadley Town Hall

housing shortages while also preserving open space.

Under the bylaw, developers who commit to preserving at least 30% of a parcel’s open space are given the benefit of being able to cluster residential units into a denser area on the parcel than would have been normally permitted otherwise.

The total number of units allowed on a development would

generally be capped according to density standards that apply to the underlying parcel as a whole. However, additional “bonus” units may be granted to developers who meet certain conditions such as the preservation of additional open space on the parcel.

The proposed changes to this bylaw revolve around making the flexible development application process simpler for developers

interested in taking advantage of it. In the 14 years that South Hadley has had the Flexible Development Bylaw on the books, developers have only utilized it three times, Capra said.

Currently, any application for a flexible development would require a developer to undergo a cumbersome process to obtain a special permit. The proposed changes, Capra explained to the board, would provide for a smoother review process under proposed new bylaws that would apply to developments such as condominiums.

At one point during the meeting, discussions among board members turned to focus on some of the preexisting standards in the bylaw, such as the minimum tract size of five acres for a flexible development, as well as the density standards for zoning districts. Some members questioned the efficacy of continuing to use seemingly arbitrary figures that had been decided upon as long ago as the 1950s.

Board member Brad Hutchison commented on the dominance of single-family units in South Hadley and identified the

Flexible Development Bylaw as having the potential to contribute toward the development of diverse housing types if underlying density standards were more closely scrutinized.

“I could see this being potentially a compromise bylaw where there’s some meeting in the middle somewhere, where we’re finding some ways to keep the aggregate density of the town what it is but allowing some pockets of greater density,” he said.

Given the complex nature of these bylaws and in the interest of time, Capra postponed further discussion of proposed new bylaws for the next meeting, to be held on Feb. 12. She and the board also felt that this could potentially allow time for research to be done on existing density levels in town.

Any proposed changes, once finalized by the Planning Board, would need to be approved at town meeting to take effect. The board expressed hope to have these amendments and new bylaws all ready for consideration at the town meeting to be held this coming spring.

SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 4

payments may be impacted by Medicare’s IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to in-

come tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

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.

GARDEN from page 4

dry out further. The outer skin of the bulbs will get papery.

Now it is time to store them in a brown paper bag until planting. Old panty hose or onion bags would also work.

I will replant my paper white bulbs during Advent, and with any luck, all of my work will pay off with blooms when I need it

the most – this time next year! And maybe every year thereafter!

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.



Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Merle Hillman was laid to rest this past Saturday.

HERO from page 1

and was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart medal.

Community members, local leaders and representatives of veterans' organizations gathered at the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home Saturday morning for a moving memorial service that celebrated the life, service, sacrifice and return of Hillman.

Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia said in remarks given during the service that Hillman's decision to list Holyoke as his hometown upon enlistment "brought honor, not only to the city of Holyoke, but to the region, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to the United States of America."

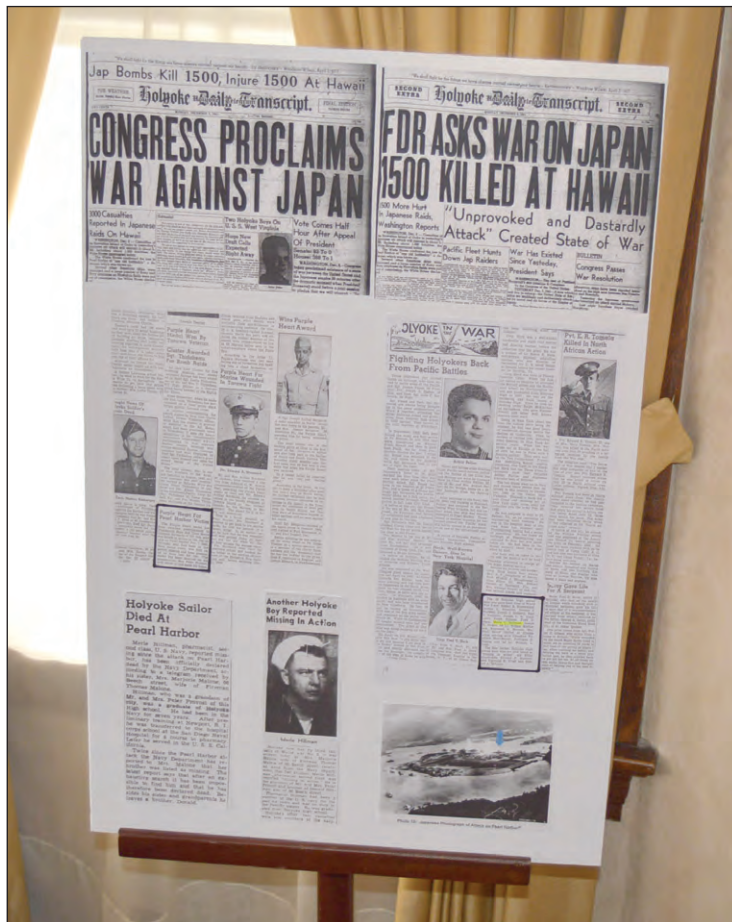
State Representative Patricia Duffy also spoke at the service. "As the daughter of a World War II vet, I know how gratified I was, when my father passed away, [for] the opportunity we had to honor him," she said. Addressing Hillman's family, she said, "I am so gratified that you had that opportunity, and that you chose to bring him back to Holyoke — to our home, to his home, to your home."

U.S. Representative Richard Neal remarked that Hillman's story was "also the story of the Valley, and of those men and women who answered the call in the aftermath of that horrific moment in Pearl Harbor."

"The manner in which they transformed the world — Tom Brokaw called it the greatest generation, and indeed it was," Neal said.

Sister Catherine Ormond of the Sisters of St. Joseph read the service at the funeral home and later delivered the committal prayers at St. Jerome's Cemetery, where Hillman was laid to rest with his older brother Donald.

Before she began with the



Newspaper clippings about Pearl Harbor and Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Merle Hillman.

services, Ormond took a moment to reflect on the day. "What a tribute," she said. "Not being a native of Holyoke, I rejoice that this is exactly what Holyoke represents and will continue to represent."

A heartfelt eulogy was given by Brendan Quinn, grand-nephew to Hillman, whom Quinn identified as his "very first hero" and an inspiration for his own service to the nation.

"Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage are values every service member lives by, and my uncle Merle encompasses every one of those values," he said.

At different points in the service, songs were played in the chapel in memory of Hillman, including a recording of Maurice Chevalier's "Louise," Hillman's favorite song. "Anchors Aweigh" and "Taps" were also among the songs played.

Local residents and members of the Holyoke Police and Fire Departments lined Northampton Street to pay their respects to the returning sailor during the short trip from the funeral home to St. Jerome's Cemetery. Military honors were rendered at the cemetery, including a flag folding and a firing squad salute.



A tribute to Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Merle Hillman and his family.



Representative Richard Neal speaks in honor of Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Merle Hillman, alongside Representative Pat Duffy and Mayor Joshua Garcia.



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra.

Many people gathered at the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home for Pharmacist's Mate Second Class Merle Hillman's memorial



Brendan Quinn is handed a folded flag in honor of his uncle.

PLAINS from page 1

block when Cooke found out that the school committee and town had conflicting policies, with the school committee's saying it just needed to vote on the change and the town saying it needed a petition, a vote by the selectboard and, if the building is more than 25 years old, a town meeting vote.

"Because of the conflicting policies, town administration wanted to review with legal counsel, but let me know I could contact the family in the meantime for their blessing," explained Cooke. "I wrote my letter to the

family the next day. The Skala family has been incredibly gracious and looking forward to the recognition for Hank throughout this entire process."

Finally, in November 2022, town counsel decided that because the building had changed addresses when the new building opened in 2015 and because the school committee had a preexisting policy only a school committee vote would be needed. The school committee voted for the change on Nov. 17, 2022, and sought out quotes to change the signage.

"Unfortunately, the initial cost

quotes were astronomical and not something that the committee could support being rolled into the budget at that time," recalled Cooke, so the committee decided to revisit it later on.

After Scott Moore took over the job of facilities manager, he was able to get a new quote that was significantly less. That, combined with the Mosier rebuilding project being accepted into the MSBA process, made now a better time to move forward.

"Thinking ahead that the new Mosier would be a true elementary school of grades one through five, we wanted to confirm that

any combination of names with early education or early learning would suffice for the new Plains renaming," explained Cooke. "Given that those titles are for any combinations of the pre-K to two population, we were finally set to move forward with a new name for Plains."

The school committee approved the fundraising project at its Jan. 18 meeting for \$7,500 in expected materials and labor for the project. Cooke, and Plains School PTA President Megan Bartlett who started the GoFundMe, are hopeful that the funds will be raised rather quickly.

Cooke notes that it would probably make the most sense to rename the building for next school year, but she is still hopeful that it might come together this spring.

"There is no greater honor than to have this building named for Hank. He advocated for us and made sure if there was anything that we needed or to be done, he was there to do it," praised Macey. "He made this a fun and comfortable place to work, truly made it feel like a second home and not like going to work. He truly is missed each and every day."

► In the Classroom

Horace Smith Scholarship and Fellowship funds available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, 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 Fellowships 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 stu-

dents 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, 2024. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

ASSE seeks host families for exchanges students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a nonprofit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan and Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc.

Students also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad should call Alina at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusasouth@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.

Seniors ◀

Senior Center announces next week's programming

SOUTH HADLEY – The Council on Aging has announced the following programs that will occur at the senior center, located at 45 Dayton St., from Feb. 5-9 and beyond.

Monday, Feb. 5

12:30 p.m. – Pet therapy with Duchess!

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Foot nurse by Appointment – Call the Welcome Desk for appointments.

10 a.m. – Card Making with Joanne. COST: \$5 for four cards

All supplies are included. 11:30 a.m. – Big Y Shopping – Call the SHCOA and sign up for a ride.

3 p.m. – Mystery Book Club The book club will discuss “Killers of a Certain Age” by Deanne Rayborn. The club will meet on

March 5 to discuss “The Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency” by Alexander McCall Smith

Dinner and Poetry reading with Wally Swist

Join us for a dinner of Billy’s famous macaroni and cheese, salad, bread desert and drink. Following dinner, we will be treated to a poetry reading by Wally Swist. Swist, (born 1953) is an American poet and writer who lives in South Hadley. He is best known for his poetry about nature and spirituality.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Tech Time with Sandy – Call the Welcome Desk to schedule an appointment. 12:30 p.m. – Fitness (Orientation 12:20 p.m.)

You must complete your application and your fitness room orientation before using the Fitness Center.

Applications are at the Welcome Desk. 1:30 p.m. – Flower Arranging - Cost \$10

Brighten your day with the beauty of a floral arrangement for Valentine’s Day. Limit of 10 participants.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Tech Time with Sandy – Call the Welcome desk to schedule an appointment.

11 a.m. – Pet Therapy with Riley!
1 p.m. – No Chair Volleyball!
1 p.m. – Hip Hop Line Dancing
Rondae Drafts, Ph.D. from Misc Dance in Randolph will teach a Line Dance class with smooth R&R and Hip-Hop music.

2 p.m. – Art Reception – The Loom is Village Reunion Project

The goal of the Project was to give the subjects an opportunity to look back on their lives, to have a reunion with their teenage selves, while giving them voice to share decades of acquired wisdom with younger generations.

Friday, Feb. 9

10:30 a.m. – African Drumming Presented in partnership with the Community Music School of Springfield, Jason Arnold offers a series on African Drumming. Jason has been playing since he was six years old. Jason performs with rhythm and blues and rock groups throughout the Northeast. In 2010, he was the recipient of a Key Player Ambassador Award.

1:30 p.m. - Shopping trip to PriceRite. Call the center to schedule a ride.

And finally...

Our community members are invited to come to the COA for snacks, tours and programs. Our van will be at the follow locations to pick people up and bring them to the Senior Center – and return them home.

Feb. 8 - Pick up at Huber Place 12:45 p.m. return 3:15 p.m.

Feb. 15 – Pick up at Newton Manor 12:45 p.m. return 3:15 p.m.

Feb. 29 – Pick up at Lathrop Village 12:45 p.m. return 3:15 p.m.

Feb. 22 – Birthday Party (free refreshments and entertainment at 2 p.m.) pick up at Lathrop Village 12:45 p.m., Hubert Place 1:15 p.m. and Newton Manor 1:45 p.m. return 2:15, 2:45 Hubert and 3:15 Newton.

— CAMPUS NOTES —

South Hadley resident named to Dean College President's List

FRANKLIN – Hannah King, of South Hadley, has earned a place on the President’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students named to the President’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Dawson named to Seton Hall University Dean's List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. – Seton Hall University is pleased to announce Farrell Dawson, of South Hadley, has qualified for the Fall 2023 Dean’s List.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than “C”, qualify for the Dean’s List.

Kihara named to Pacific University Dean's List

FOREST GROVE, Ore. – Rylie Kihara, of South Hadley, has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Pacific University in Oregon. The Dean’s List recognizes undergraduate students in Pacific’s

colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business and Education who earn a grade-point average of at least 3.70 and complete 12 or more graded credit hours.

Rotary District 7890 invites applications for \$30,000 scholarship

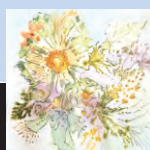
Rotary District 7890 (Northern CT and Western MA) is inviting applications from qualified candidates for a \$30,000 scholarship to study at the master’s level outside the USA in a Rotary country in one of Rotary’s Areas of Focus. Candidates must have permanent residency in one of the towns covered by the Rotary District 7890. Eligibility criteria and the Application are available at RotaryDistrict7890.Org under DUNN Endowed Scholarship.

Rotary District 7890 is also inviting applications for a two-year fully paid graduate level Peace Scholarship

program by the Rotary Foundation for candidates who are working preferably in the humanitarian service-related areas for at least three years. The Rotary Foundation will place the selected candidates in one of the seven designated Universities in different parts of the world including the United States. Details are available at www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships.

Family members of current and former Rotarians are not eligible to apply.

Questions may be directed to heathergoetz@me.com or menon7890@gmail.com.



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ARTIST from page 1

and design. This foundation cemented her love for painting and her creative journey. She has continued a lifelong painting journey working in pastel, gouache, acrylic, oil, decorative painting and glass painting.

A graduate of UMASS with a BFA, Roy continued her exploration of art through several mediums, including glass fusing and enamel painting. During the last 10 years, she developed a line of post-consumer glass and copper garden sculptures. The play of light through colored glass has greatly influenced her current paintings and given her a fearless attitude about color.

Learning to thrive in a pandemic, she pushed her passion for color full circle and found her home with soft pastels. Addicted to vibrant color and energetic marks, her paintings center on New England landscapes and local natural beauty. Her award-winning paintings have been exhibited in local, national and international juried shows, and in 2022 she began licensing her designs for instillation in commercial facilities.

These days, you will find her visiting local farms, rivers and trails with her trusty camera in search of inspiration, painting Plein Air, or in her small home studio creating pastel paintings inspired by beautiful New England character. Roy is a juried member of the Pastel Society of America and other societies including the Central Massachusetts Pastel Society, Pastel Society of New Hampshire and the Southeastern Pastel Society. She is also affiliated with the Amherst Plein Air Society, Agawam Community Artists, the Monson Arts Council and the Quabbin Art Association. For more information about her work, please visit www.donnaroy.com.

The next meeting will be held on



Photos courtesy of the Quabbin Art Association
Donna Roy's Eco prints.



Thursday, Feb. 15, at St. Francis Parish Hall, Lower Level at 12 Park St., Belchertown. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for socializing and light refreshments. A brief business meeting starts at 7 p.m. followed by Roy's presentation. With the rise in COVID and other flu viruses, attendees are asked to wear a face covering if you have been exposed or consider joining us at another time if you feel unwell.

Funding for this program is support-

ed in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information visit www.quabbinartassociation.com or email: info@quabbinartassociation.com.



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Owen Dawson passes the ball away before hitting the baseline.



Jack Loughrey lays one in.



Isiah James goes for a floater shot.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Noah Hambley makes his way down the court.

Tigers take loss to B-Town

BELCHERTOWN – Last Tuesday evening, Belchertown handed South Hadley a 71-59 loss after the Tigers beat the Orioles earlier this season. The Orioles had a big second quarter to build a commanding lead, and a big comeback from South Hadley fell short in the second half. Shea MacLean led Belchertown with 25 points while Cal Orzech had 11 points. Jack Loughrey had 23 points for the Tigers while Noah Hambley added 10 points.

Pacers co-op falls against Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—Agawam senior Peyton Buffum netted five goals during a 7-3 win against Southwick on January 13. Junior A.J. Robbins nearly scored that many goals eleven days later.

Robbins, who's a defenseman, netted a career-high four goals leading the Brownies to a 10-1 victory over Fay Division rival Chicopee at the Fitzpatrick Skating Rink in Holyoke, last Wednesday afternoon.

"Peyton scored five goals against Southwick, and I think A.J. was trying to match him," said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. "Not only is A.J. a great defenseman, but he's also an all-around outstanding hockey player. He can do it all. Everything that we shot, went into the net."

It was the second time this season that the Brownies (9-5) have scored at least ten goals in a game. They scored 12 goals at McCann Tech in December.

"We're here to play hockey for 45 minutes and you

don't want to keep passing the puck around when you have a big lead," Rowley said. "We played all of our players and some of them haven't played a lot of minutes this season."

Despite winning almost ten games this season, the Brownies were ranked 38th out of 40 teams in the MIAA Division 2 state tournament power rankings. They can clinch a berth in the state tournament with one more victory.

"They use a couple of different things to determine the power rankings," Rowley said. "The PVIAC makes our league schedule. We can schedule our non-league opponents. We still have non-league games left with Hudson, Longmeadow, and West Springfield. Those games should help improve our power rankings. We just need to continue playing well."

The Brownies probably won't be one of the four teams playing in this year's Western Mass. Class A tournament.

Robbins gave his thoughts about his memorable performance.

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Mason Peters angles around to pick up the loose puck.

Fast start for Mustangs hurts Rams

MONSON – Despite a lot of success this season, Granby boys basketball ran into a fast-moving Monson team, which jumped out to a big lead and lost on the road 60-37. Granby defeated Monson earlier this season. Monson got great performances from their starters, with Austin Meacham scoring 21 points, Colin Beaupre getting 17 points and Trey Dillahunt turning in 14 points. Granby was led by Cody White with 10 points. Granby is 9-3 this season while Monson is at a solid 9-4 this year.

LEFT: Colin Murdock gets ready to make a long pass up the court.

RIGHT: Cody White makes his way up the right side.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Raymond Colon goes for a hook shot.

Sports

Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame announces new class

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame has announced the 11th annual class to be inducted on March 7, 2024 at Twin Hills Country Club:

Jeff Reardon: Reardon is a 16-year MLB relief pitcher, four-time All-Star, and 1987 World Series champion (Twins). He notched 367 saves over the course of his career, ranking 12th on the MLB all-time saves list. He pitched for five different teams during his big league career (Mets, Expos, Twins, Red Sox, and Yankees). Reardon grew up in Western Massachusetts, graduating from Wahconah High School in Dalton.

Mark Simeone: Entering his 28th season as Head Coach of Springfield College's baseball team, Simeone has compiled 484 victories during his tenure. He grew up in Northampton, graduating from Northampton High School in 1982. In addition to coaching at Springfield College, Simeone played outfield from 1982-87 under Charles Roys (Class of 2022 Western Massa-

chusetts Baseball Hall of Fame inductee).

Bob Taylor: A current and longtime resident of Springfield, Taylor played 16 professional baseball seasons. He reached the major leagues in 1970, where he appeared in 63 games for the San Francisco Giants alongside Willie Mays and Willie McCovey. Taylor played for San Francisco's Double-A affiliate, the Springfield Giants, in 1965.

Don Strange: Strange, a Springfield native, played college baseball at UMass Amherst from 1987-89. He then enjoyed an eight-year professional baseball career, reaching Triple-A while with the Atlanta Braves system. Don joins his brother, Pat (Class of 2021) in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame.

Earl Lorden: Lorden served as Head Coach at Turners Falls before taking the helm as Head Coach at UMass Amherst from 1948-1966. He won 189 games during this span, ranking third on UMass's all-time wins list. Lorden was a continuous sup-

porter of UMass baseball until his passing in 1984 at the age of 87.

1942 Turners Falls State Championship Team: A true underdog team of 15 players that won the 1942 Massachusetts State Championship well before population-based divisions were instituted. Their undefeated regular season was shortened by gas rationing during World War II before defeating Arlington in the championship game at Fenway Park by a score of 5-4. The team induction coincides with the individual induction of their head coach, Earl Lorden.

Ron Chimelis (Garry Brown Sports Media Award): A long time columnist and sports reporter for the Springfield Republican, Chimelis served as Red Sox beat reporter during their 2004, 2007, and 2013 World Series championship seasons. He will be the second recipient of the Garry Brown Award, the first of which was posthumously awarded to Garry Brown in 2023.

Loss puts Worcester Railers in fifth place

WORCESTER – The Railers fell 4-2 to the Trois-Rivieres Lions to wrap up a home three-in-three weekend.

The Railers found themselves in an early hole. They were behind, 1-0, less than four minutes after the opening faceoff and never led.

Lions goaltender Zachary Emond, facing Worcester for the first time in his career, was excellent in net with 34 stops. Several were very timely, too. But, the Railers just did not finish well.

"It was a combination of

both," is how coach Jordan Smotherman described his team's lack of goals. "He made some good saves but often times we don't find those pucks laying around the net. There were a lot of rebounds and the drive has not been there this year to put those in the back of the net."

The two pucks that did find the back of the net were shot by Jack Quinlivan and Blade Jenkins. The Lions got goals from Nolan Yaremko, Nicolas Guay, Jakov Novak — his 19th of the season — and Cedric Montminy into an empty net.

Ken Appleby stopped 31 of 34 shots on the night for Worcester.

Yaremko scored at 3:43 of the first period. Quinlivan tied it at 7:12 of the second on a rebound of a play he set up with hard work down the left wing. It was his first goal of the season, third as a pro and first at the DCU Center.

Guay converted a 4 on 3 power play at 1:33 of the third then Jenkins tied it again with a wraparound at 4:53. Novak

Please see **RAILERS**, page 11

T-Birds offense scores big over Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sell-out crowd of 6,793 at the Mass-Mutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waeber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power plays, including 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waeber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kiersted penalty

sent Springfield's power play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waeber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waeber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakub Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waeber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot from Bolduc bounced off Waeber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

HOCKEY from page 9

"Getting my first hat-trick of the season just feels wonderful. It's the first time that I've scored four goals in a varsity game," Robbins said. "We just played very well as a team in today's game."

The Brownies took a quick 1-0 lead a little more than a minute into the opening period when Robbins fired a shot into the net past Chicopee junior goalie Damian Loinaz (10 saves).

Freshman Camden Saltmarsh was credited with the assist.

Senior Devin Carleton (9 saves) and freshman Gabe Loinaz (8 saves) also saw playing time in goal for the Pacers (0-14-1).

Down at the other end of the ice, freshman Dmitri Huey (12 saves) made his third start in goal for the Brownies. Sophomore Frankie DiSanti, who's normally the Brownies starting goalie, posted shutouts in the first two meetings against Chicopee.

"Frankie wasn't here today because he was sick, but we were planning on starting Dmitri anyways," Rowley said. "He's a solid goalie and we have a lot of trust in him. He played a great



Tyler Denison dekes then shoots.

game."

Robbins second goal came at the 3:41 mark, which was assisted by senior Anthony Buoniconti.

The Pacers did cut the deficit in half when senior Connor McDonell, who's from Granby, scored a power-play goal with 8:30 left in the first period. Caleb Lundgren, who lives in South Hadley, was credited with the assist.

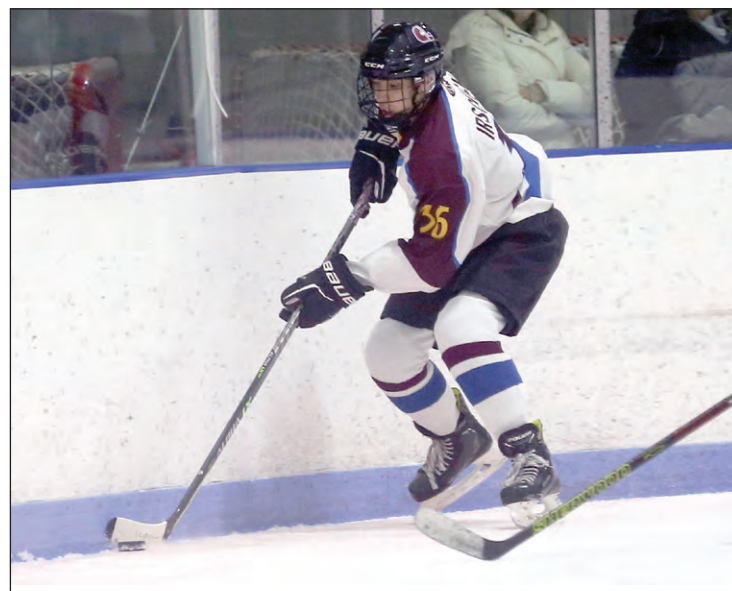


Chris Walczak heads toward the opposing goal.

The final goal of the first period was scored two minutes later by Peyton Buffum. Sophomore Thomas Connery was given the assist.

Robbins scored two more goals during the first five minutes of the second period, which gave Agawam a commanding 5-1 lead.

With 5:21 left in the second period, Saltmarsh scored an un-



Darwin Irschick plays the puck near the boards.

assisted goal, which was the first goal of his varsity career.

"Cam has had a couple of assists this season, but he hadn't been able to find the back of the net before today," Rowley said. "Hopefully, he'll be able to score a lot more goals for us now. He has a very bright future."

Junior Trevor Del Barba, who's also a defenseman, netted his first varsity goal in the third

period.

"All of the kids wanted Trevor to score a goal," Rowley said. "We moved him forward, and he scored a rebound goal during the third period, which was awesome."

The Brownies, who had a week off between games, other two third period goals were scored by junior Landon Ashford and Peyton Buffum.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mental Health Association is moving HQ to Chicopee

MHA is guided by core values: Respect, integrity, compassion

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Mental Health Association is relocating its headquarters from Springfield to the former MassMutual Learning Center on Memorial Drive.

MassDevelopment, the state’s land bank and development finance agency, helped MHA secure \$6.5 million in financing to complete the purchase. MHA is scheduled to move from its current headquarters on Worthington Street in Springfield to Chicopee at the end of March.

“We’re very, very excited,” Jen Ducharme, vice president of Development & Community Relations for MHA, said. “Right now, construction is currently taking place at the building on Memorial Drive. There were a lot of conference rooms that we have to convert into private offices and smaller conference rooms for our purposes and areas to set up workstations.”

Guided by its core values of respect, integrity and compassion, MHA provides residential and support services that promote independence, community engagement, wellness and recovery for people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals.

MHA also helps people navigate the challenges of substance use recovery through a wide range of services and residential programming. Since the 1960s, it has positively impacted people throughout region.

Ducharme said the facility on Worthington Street has served



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

The Mental Health Association is moving its headquarters to the former MassMutual building on Memorial Drive.

MHA well but no longer has enough space. Making the move was based solely on operational need.

Searching for a new building, MHA explored options in Springfield, West Springfield and Holyoke but didn’t identify a perfect fit until it came across the former conference center on Memorial Drive.

“The space in Chicopee, when it presented itself, it was highly desirable because it, first of all, has the amount of room that we need. It’s approximately 80,000 square feet. So that building, in the location where it is on Memorial Drive, it just provides MHA with an optimal balance of scalability, talent supply and general operation,” Ducharme said, adding that it also sits along a bus route.

Across all its programs, MHA employs approximately 700 people and is experiencing expo-



A Mental Health Association van sits in the parking lot of MHA’s new facility on Memorial Drive.

mental growth, as it opens new programs throughout the Pioneer Valley. The move to Chicopee will allow MHA to bring all its teams together under one roof, adding an element of efficiency while promoting collaboration.

Currently, MHA operates over 40 residential programs throughout the Pioneer Valley and has four program homes in Chicopee, so a collaborative relationship already exists with the city.

“It just made sense for us to

move our headquarters there in a community where we’re already serving the needs of people in residential programs. We’re just now going to have our administrative offices there as well,” Ducharme said.

MHA anticipates that renovations to the Memorial Drive facility will be completed in mid-March. In Springfield, MHA employees are consolidating before the move and will work with A to Z Movers at the end of March to transfer items to the new building.

Ducharme anticipates little interruption to day-to-day operations. She said morale is high as employees prepare for the move.

“It’s incredible,” she said. “When our staff team realizes that we’re making such a sizable investment in the work that we do, people can’t help but be thrilled. We’ve taken staff on tours to see the space, we’ve held a couple of meetings there organizationally before construction started, and everybody is so excited. So, morale is great.”

Ducharme is confident that the new space will allow MHA to help more people regardless of circumstance. She said MHA meets people where they are and explained why it is important to take action to better your mental health.

“What we really like people to know is that if you have a physical ailment, you have no problem going to the doctor and getting it addressed and getting help. Mental health, those are the ailments that you can’t see, and we really need to be treating those sort of ailments just as we would treat a broken arm or an ailment that people can actually see,” Ducharme said.

To learn more about the programs and services provided by MHA, one can visit MHAinc.org.

RAILERS from page 8

scored a scrambly goal for what proved to be the winner at 11:10.

The opposition seems to be getting more scrambly goals than Worcester these days.

“Those are earned over time,” Smotherman said, “when you dissect them you realize they’re self-inflicted.”

The game was a lively one that featured 51 minutes worth of penalties including a fighting major to Artyom Kulakov and a game misconduct for abuse of officials to Zach White.

The loss dropped Worcester into fifth place in the North Division, at least in terms of points. The Railers are fourth in winning percentage but can’t see to find the traction to get themselves a little breathing room.

MassDOT recommends Palmer as future West-East Rail stop

PALMER – After years of advocating for the inclusion of a Palmer stop in the plans for the West-East Rail Project (now titled Compass Rail), state Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was delighted and relieved to see the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) officially recommend the town as a future stop on the upcoming West-East Rail.

The announcement was made on Jan. 17 during the MassDOT Board of Directors Meeting. Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger was on hand to make the announcement.

“I’m grateful for the commitment made by the Governor and the admin-

istration for this pivotal development for not only the West-East Rail but for Palmer and Western Mass” Oliveira said in a press release. “The West-East Rail represents a monumental infrastructure project that will connect the greater Commonwealth, bridging the geographical and economic gaps between Western Mass and Boston. The promise of this railway network is immense, with the potential to catalyze economic growth, promote regional development, and bolster social cohesion. I’m thrilled to see MassDOT take the next step in this generational project, and I’m glad they realized what we’ve known for some time. Palmer is the ideal location as a gateway

to Western Mass.”

MassDOT came to the decision to recommend Palmer for a future stop on the rail following studies they conducted last year and will be allocating \$4 million for Planning and Design through their Capital Investment Program.

Consulting firm RTD was selected in December for Planning and Conceptual Design. This will include key components such as public outreach, site selection, identification of station amenities and access, conceptual design, and environmental scoping.

The project is expected to follow an estimated 18-month schedule.

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Business

Belden named resident member of board at Loomis Village Since 2018

SOUTH HADLEY – The Loomis Communities, the longest-serving provider of senior living in the Pioneer Valley, has announced a new Resident Member of its Board of Directors, Sanford Belden.

Belden has resided at Loomis Village in South Hadley with this wife since 2018.

Belden retired in 2006 as the CEO of Community Bank System, a large-scale regional financial institution headquartered in Syracuse, New York with 225 bank branches and a variety of other financial service businesses in four states. He has previously served as a senior executive in New York City at a large international bank; at a major national bank headquartered in Minneapolis; and with the Farm Credit Banks, one of the government-sponsored entities.

Belden has served on more than 30 governance boards for both for-profit and not-for-profit entities throughout the U.S., including on the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. Locally, Belden has served as a board member of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra; Smith College; Kestrel Land Trust; and Center for Eco-Technology. Additionally, Belden has served as Chair of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity.



Sanford Belden

In addition to his career working at financial institutions, Belden held a faculty position at Cornell University and earned a mid-career certification from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. Belden has bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in economics.

According to Margaret Mantoni, President and CEO of The Loomis Communities, "We are fortunate to have so many people living in our communities with years of business, organizational and philanthropic experience. Sandy Belden is one of those with a wealth of knowledge in so many areas and we welcome his perspective as a Resident Member of The Loomis Community's Board."

Belden was born and raised on a farm in Hatfield, which has remained in his family since 1690. He and his wife, Betsy, moved to Loomis Village in South Hadley in 2018. The couple have three children and nine grandchildren.

The Loomis Communities is the longest serving, most experienced provider of senior living in the Pioneer Valley. As a not-for-profit organization, Loomis' mission is to open doors to worlds of positive aging on three campuses: Applewood in Amherst, Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing in Springfield, and Loomis Village in South Hadley.

Freedom Credit Union holding 'Month of Giving' campaign to benefit animal shelters

Donations to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals and Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter

SPRINGFIELD – Through Feb. 29, Freedom Credit Union is inviting its members, employees and community to "Paws for a Cause" and make cash donations to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals in Springfield and Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Greenfield.

"These amazing institutions provide food, water, shelter and a variety of critical services for thousands of animals in our region every year," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "They rely on donations to help fund everything from veterinary care to toys and

bedding for the animals' comfort and enrichment as they wait to find their forever homes."

The Thomas J. O'Connor Adoption Center provides animal shelter and adoption services for the cities of Springfield, Chicopee and Holyoke. The Foundation for TJO Animals was formed to allow the group to better serve the shelter animals in their care through medical treatments and rehabilitation. This veterinary care allows pets to be brought to the adoption floor to hopefully find their forever homes.

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter is a volunteer-led group serving the communities of Franklin County. Its mission is to protect and improve the lives of stray, lost and unwanted dogs by offering a welcoming facility, providing care and finding good homes for each animal.

"We encourage you to donate directly to these organizations or at any of our branches through Thursday, Feb. 29," Welch said. "Let's make those tails wag!"

The Big Broadcast returns for 19th Year

Mount Holyoke College Students recreate 1940s radio show

SOUTH HADLEY – If it's March, it must be time for The Big Broadcast, the popular annual event that, this year, will be held Saturday, March 9 in Chapin Auditorium on the campus of Mount Holyoke College. There will be two performances - at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Big Broadcast is a unique recreation of a 1940s-style radio show, complete with news, commercials, popular songs and a radio play in the detective serial style. Mount Holyoke has designated the yearly concert as a Signature Event.

Sponsors are Mount Holyoke College, 22News, Loomis Communities, NEPM, PRIME magazine, NEPM 88.5 and The Republican

22News meteorologist Brian Lapis returns to The Big Broadcast in his role as the show's emcee "Fred Kelley." Mark Gionfriddo, director of the Jazz Ensembles of MHC, is the show's creative director.

Gionfriddo noted that this year marks

the 25th anniversary season of the jazz program at Mount Holyoke. The Big Broadcast is a production of the college's Big Band, Jazz Vocal and Chamber Jazz ensembles.

"There's really nothing else like it," Gionfriddo said, about The Big Broadcast. Part concert, part theater, the show is produced by students with Gionfriddo playing the role of "Matt Morgan," who conducts the fictional WJAZ Big Band and is Fred Kelley's musical sidekick.

This year's selections include "The American Patrol" from the Glenn Miller Orchestra; Rodgers & Hart's "This Can't Be Love"; "Romberg & Hammerstein's "Lover, Come Back to Me"; the iconic Gene Krupa drum feature "Sing Sing Sing;" and Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In" as popularized by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters.

Tickets are available locally at the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-broadcast-2024-2pm-show-tickets-800425964607>. More information is available on the Facebook page of the Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College and on their web page at www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/music/big-broadcast.

Mass Humanities announces new grant for climate change projects

NORTHAMPTON – Mass Humanities, the Commonwealth's leading funder of humanities programs, announced upcoming opportunities for its 2024 grant season.

Application materials for Expand Massachusetts Stories grants are available now on the website, with the application window opening on Feb. 5.

EMS grants support projects that collect, interpret, and share stories about the Commonwealth. Special consideration is given to humanities programming, events, and creative works that emphasize the voices and experiences of residents that too often go unrecognized, or have been excluded from public conversation and public history.

This year, Mass Humanities is offering a new grant track for projects that explore different aspects of climate change. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 for projects that illuminate community knowledge, experiences, and values in response to the climate crisis.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant can now choose between the Climate Change Track, Advancing Equity Track, and Open Track.

"We believe that the humanities are crucial to confronting the complex challenges facing every human and every community," said Brian Boyles, executive director of Mass Humanities in a press release. "At this pivotal time in our nation, Mass Humanities supports story-

tellers and changemakers who bring people together to listen, share and imagine a better future. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2024, we look forward to hearing their ideas and celebrating their work."

Mass Humanities launched the EMS initiative in 2021 with the support of Mass Cultural Council and the Barr Foundation. Since then, Mass Humanities has distributed more than \$1.8 million to projects across the state that included audio tours, documentary films, oral histories, public events, and archival research.

"Every creative community has a compelling story to tell," said Michael J. Bobbitt, executive director of the Mass Cultural Council. "Today's EMS grant recipients are about to inspire us all through these conversations. I cannot wait to experience, learn and engage with them. Mass Cultural Council is proud to partner with and support Mass Humanities in this effort, which ensures these types of important dialogue happen in Massachusetts."

In 2023, Mass Humanities awarded \$751,357 in EMS grants to 42 cultural nonprofit organizations from Cape Cod to the Berkshires. The majority of funds went to organizations receiving their first Mass Humanities grant, while people of color lead 67% of the supported projects, and 65% of the organizations had annual

Please see **CLIMATE**, page 16

New task force aims to strengthen animal welfare efforts

GREENFIELD – The Northwestern District Attorney's Office is leading an effort to strengthen and better coordinate the work of animal welfare professionals in Hampshire and Franklin counties by launching a task force to share information and provide training. First convened in the fall, the Animal Protection Task Force brings together local animal control officers, animal welfare agencies, representatives of private animal shelters and county sheriffs' offices, police, mental health professionals and prosecutors to prevent animal abuse and create response protocols sensitive to the needs of animals.

Assistant Northwestern District Attorney Erin Aiello, who is heading up the initiative on behalf of the office, said a primary goal of the task force is to provide more support and free training to municipal animal control officers around

the district. She notes that as a prosecutor specializing in animal welfare cases, she receives five to 10 calls weekly from animal control officers or local police seeking help with animal cruelty investigations.

"The dedicated animal welfare people are just not receiving the help and support and resources they need, and I don't think the public knows this," said Aiello, who has prosecuted animal cruelty matters since 2010. "Considering how much people love animals, there does not seem to be much light shown on the actual day-to-day role of animal protection in our communities."

The Northwestern DA's office covers 47 communities, many of which do not have fulltime animal control officers, which means animal welfare cases sometimes don't receive the attention they need, said Aiello. There is only one

dog shelter for the entire district and no cat shelters at all. Another problem the task force hopes to address is the issue of animal caregivers who find themselves unable to properly care for their pets for financial or other reasons.

"We as an animal welfare community need to educate the general public about the resources available to them so that they are not charged with neglect. There are organizations that can help and vouchers that can be offered in some cases," Aiello said. "We want to find ways to help people who are having trouble properly caring for their animals – the last thing we want is to punish poverty."

Aiello, who handles high risk domestic violence cases as a prosecutor in the domestic violence and sexual assault unit at the Northwestern DA's office, is a trainer for the Law Enforcement Training Center of the Humane Society of the United

States, which works with 10,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and animal control professionals throughout the U.S. annually.

Aiello and Sergeant William Loiselle, an animal cruelty investigator with the Law Enforcement Division of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, will provide a training on the basics of animal cruelty investigations and report writing at an Animal Cruelty Task Force meeting on Feb. 8 at the Sunderland Police Department, 105 River Road.

Loiselle has over three decades in law enforcement, at the Northampton Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police. He continues to be a mentor in policing, particularly around providing guidance and support to law enforcement and animal control officers in animal cruelty investigations.

Public Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.I. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction with bids due **Monday, February 19, 2024 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed Mon- Friday 9am-4pm **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Call **413-534-5373** to make appointment

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- 2009 Hyundai SANTA FE NMSH73E69H276665 Angela Levesque 11 Governor St., Apt 11 Springfield, MA 01104
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- 2003 Honda Pilot 2HKYF18593H561831 Enid Ortiz Vega 9 Wolcott St., Apt 1L Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2012 Toyota Tundra 5TFUY5F15CX245847 Mark Brooks 549 E. Main St. #2 North Adams, MA 01247
- 2006 Volvo S60 YV1RH592962526345 Nancy Willsey 89 Royal St., Bldg 89 Chicopee, MA 01020
- 2006 Acura MDX 2HNYD18836H526841 Jordan Stevenson 159 Essex St. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2007 Nissan Maxima 1N4BA41E37C853918 Emily Maysonet-Mateo 22 Saint Jermoe Ave. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2005 Honda Accord 1HGCM56855A187251 Trevone Allen 470 Memorial Dr., Apt 220 Chicopee, MA 01020
- 2005 Chevrolet TrailBlazer 1GNDT13S652372859 Julio Izquierdo 66 Pine St. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 1983 Harley Davidson XLX 1HD1CCH11DY122494 Keith Durand 66 Brayton Ave. Warwick, RI 02886
- 2005 Toyota Sienna 5TDZA23C15S312287 Angel Berrios 790 Shaker Rd. Longmeadow MA 01106
- 2007 Toyota Camry 4T1BK46K37U505757 Robson Gomes Bacelar 2 Evelyn St., Apt 2 Amsterdam, NY 12010
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- 2010 Hyundai ELANTRA KMHDU4AD0AU977613 Gianna Szafranski 30 Coolidge Ave. Westfield ,MA 01085
- 2014 Honda Accord 1HGCR2F38EA121264 Jennifer Perez 197 Oak St., Apt 2R Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2000 Mazda Protege JM1BJ2231Y0260105 Shaun Haynes 60 Linden St., Apt 3 Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2007 BMW 3 Series WBAVC93537KX56717 Sonia Carrasquillo Rivera

- 19 Dianna Dr. Springfield, MA 01104
- 2000 Ford Explorer 1FMDU72X3YZB97421 Andrew Hubert 123 Agassiz St. Bethlehem, NH 03574
- 2008 Audi Q7 WA1BY74L28D053795 Robin Condino 161 Oak Grove Ave. Springfield, MA 01109
- 2000 Ford Taurus 1FAPP56S8YA137453 Gerardo Gutierrez 843 Dwight St. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2011 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB6AP5BL694142 Justin Carlotta 51 Hamilton St. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 2007 Dodge Magnum 2D4FV47T97H867277 Vernon Miller 502 Sardis Church Rd. Branchville, SC 29432
- 192 Classic Well Craft NO VIN (Boat & Trailer) Rolando Reyes 52 Sycamore St. Springfield, MA 01109
- 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J4GR48K26C204527 Shamaris Canovas 802 Newbury St. Springfield, MA 01104

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Commission will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw to consider a Request for Determination filed by Kestrel Land Trust to construct a wooden bridge with handrails over a small intermittent stream on the Robert Frost Trail. The project location is in the Mount Holyoke Range (Map 62, Parcel 19).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00pm virtually**. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website.

A copy of the Request for Determination is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30 - 4:00 P.M. Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Neva Tolopko
Conservation Chair
02/02/2024

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Commission will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw to consider a Request for Determination filed by the Town to complete parking lot improvements and install a seating area at Leaping Well Nature Trail adjacent an intermittent stream. The project location is 101 Mosier St (Map 38, Parcel 19).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00pm virtually**. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website.

A copy of the Request for Determination is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30 - 4:00 P.M. Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Neva Tolopko
Conservation Chair
02/02/2024

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Removal of Public Shade Trees Town of South Hadley, Department of Public Works

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 & 4, a public Hearing will be held on **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024 at 4:00pm at the DPW Office: 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley, MA.**

To consider the removal of the following public tree(s):

- 1. 84 Bardwell Street (2): **29"DBH MAPLE TREE**; and **32.5"DBH MAPLE TREE**: reason for removal: tree in decline and proximity to the road(plow trucks hitting them).
- 2. 3 Pleasant Street (1): **31.8" DBH MAPLE TREE**: reason for removal: half of tree dead, tree in decline.
- 3. 27 Pershing Avenue (1): triple leader: **24.8"DBH/20.1"DBH/23.9"DBH MAPLE TREE**; reason for removal: 2 leaders in decline, rot at base.
- 4. 55 Prospect Street (1): **41.7" DBH MAPLE TREE**: reason for removal: Crown removed previous; tree in decline.
- 5. Lot 121 (assessor's map) Hadley Street (5): **20. 1 "DBH ASH TREE,**

25.8"DBH OAK TREE, 22.3"DBH OAK TREE, 23.9" DBH OAK TREE, 26. 1" DBH MAPLE TREE, 14.6" DBH OAK TREE: reason for removal: driveway access for new home being built.

The tree(s) identified above have been posted for public inspection. Any objections to their removal must be submitted in writing to the Town Tree Wardens, prior to or during the hearing. The mailing address for the Town Tree Wardens is: Department of Public Works, Town of South Hadley, 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley MA 01075: Phone: 413-538-5033. Email: treewarden@south-hadley.ma.gov 02/02, 02/09/2024

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to consider an application for Site Plan Review filed by the Georgia Malcolm to establish an owner-occupied Short Term Rental at 22 Hollywood Street Assessor's Map 7 Parcel 58, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw 255-X (5-10-2023 ATM, Art. 21, Residential Short-term Rental Units); Article XII (site plan review); and the Zoning Dimensional Regulation Schedule.

The public hearing will be conducted virtually on Zoom. Persons may join as follows: URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83187880238?pwd=OCszZzZkxNzc2b0xjUzUzI0GdnU2o0Zz09>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 Webinar ID: 831 8788 0238 Passcode: 625346

The property is located within the Residential A-1 zoning district and is an existing single-family home.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Site Plan Review' under section 'Hollywood Street (22) - Short Term Rental' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of

the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
01/26, 02/02/2024

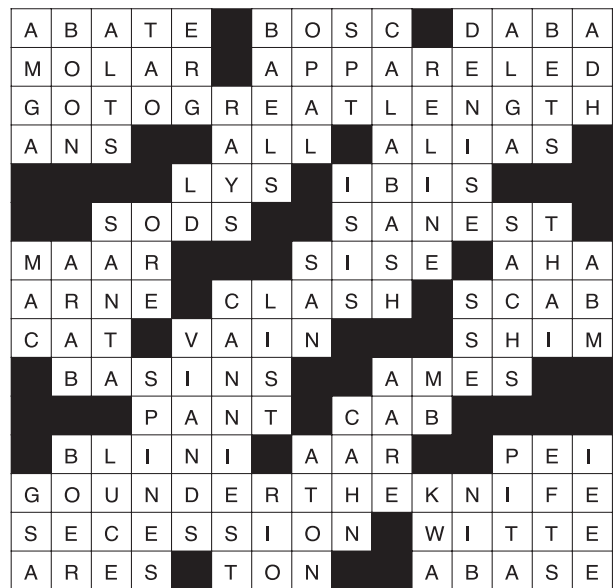
TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY Public Hearing Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:00 PM Senior Center 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley Proposed FY 2024 CDBG Application

The Town of South Hadley, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a public hearing regarding the FY24 Community Development Block Grant Program. The hearing will take place at **7:00pm on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024**, in person at the Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 and virtually through Zoom meeting. Call in: 646 931 3860. Webinar ID: 827 9098 6885: Passcode: 572293. If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the hearing will take place during the next rescheduled Selectboard meeting.

The public is encouraged to attend this hearing to discuss the town's FY24 application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for up to \$950,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the South Hadley Selectboard, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, MA 01075, Attn: Lisa Wong.

The Town is encouraging input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. Projects currently being considered include the construction of the Center Street Neighborhood Improvement Project. Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application.

The South Hadley Selectboard's Meeting Room is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 538-5030 x.6181. For further information contact John O'Leary at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or joleary@pvpc.org. 02/02/2024



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Life is meant to be shared

Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions

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.

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:

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

Fact: 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.

Fact: 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.

Fact: 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.

Fact: 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.

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

Fact: 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 Program 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 transplant is 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.



Photo courtesy of Baystate Health
Kenneth McPartland

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The Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales is looking for a part-time (16 hours/week) **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to assist with operations and office management duties. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org.

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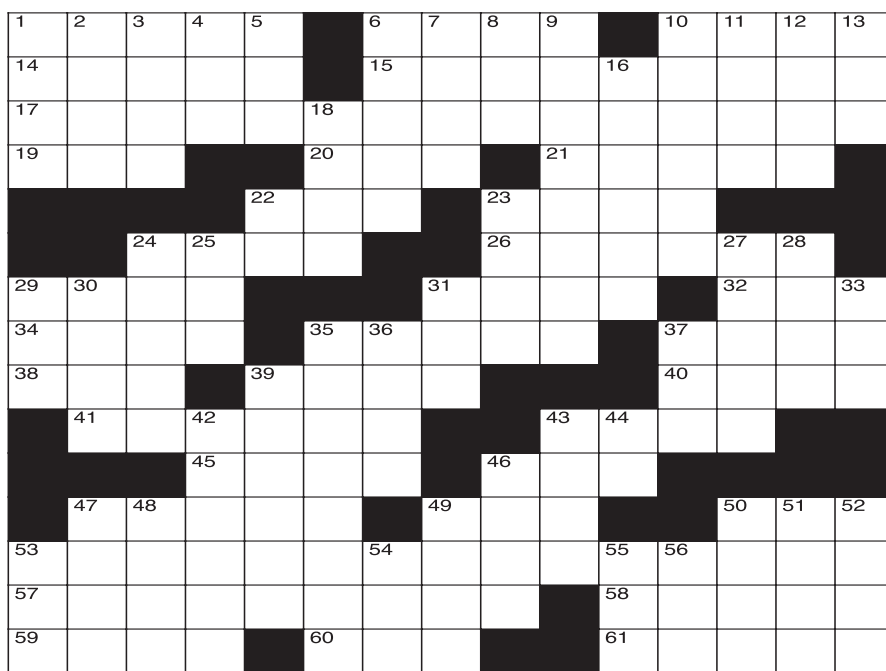
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- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. ____, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. ____, Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy ____, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth ____, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen



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MVP board looks to plant trees in the community

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program has been working together to create tools and programs to reach those in need and to increase climate change resilience within the community.

The Jan. 23 meeting was facilitated by Lisa Raghelli of the Public Health Institute. She was joined by Anne Capra, Mike Adelman, Rebekah Cornell, Dottie Caron, Jennie Benford, Diane LaRoche, Louise Croll and Sarah Courtney.

Climate Resilience Training Video Part 3

They moved to watch the third and final training video on Climate Resilience. Raghelli shared her screen to present the video and said that she hoped this training will help to “improve the town of South Hadley.”

The video highlighted the 2011 tornado in Springfield and how badly it affected the town, especially those in lower income housing.

The video detailed the importance of the role of government during disasters like these and how important it is that the government – both state and town governments – need to be able to reliably respond to these catastrophes.

The video featured other members of

towns around central and western Massachusetts that talked about the ways in which climate changes and weather anomalies can affect the towns in different ways.

Discussion of Community Engagement and the Vision for South Hadley

They began discussion of the video by going around to share what impacted them the most when it came to “I think that it is very important to get the young people a part of our community,” Caron said.

“We want to create a community that will address climate vulnerability, while creating a stronger and healthier community at the same time,” Raghelli said before asking the panel for ways to address it.

Rebekah Cornell spoke up and said, “Trees can be a huge benefit. If we can plant more of them, they’ll last a long time. As the trees grow, the benefits will grow because they take CO2 out of the air and can provide shade to keep us cool.”

“Some of the things that non-homeowners can do, is go out in the community and help with tree planting,” Louise Croll said. “We can work on saving and protecting the trees that we have.”

They discussed how the community can come together- no matter what age or demographic- in order to help fight climate change and make equitable changes to benefit the community.



Turley Photo by Samuel Gelinias

Neil Broome, (bottom left) is shown seated with participants of the LGBTQA+ Rainbow Coffee Social.

LGBTQA+ support for the aging community at the COA

By Samuel Gelinias
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – “Diversity” was January’s theme at South Hadley’s Council on Aging, but the Council also offers programs oriented toward equity and inclusion that continue throughout the year.

Among those programs is a supportive LGBTQA+ network.

On March 13, there will be a viewing of a TBA LGBTQA+ movie, starting at 1 p.m., and will feature a speaker from Western Mass Elder Affairs, as well as a therapy dog.

On a more consistent basis, the LGBTQA+ Rainbow Coffee Social meets on the third Tuesday of each month. En-

tering its sixth month, the group has steadily drawn 10-13 members, which the president of the meetings Neil Broome has called, “very encouraging.”

Broome, an active volunteer both at the COA and the South Hadley Library, leads the meetings by facilitating conversations aimed at building support and community. He invites anyone from the community to participate.

Broome describes the meetings as, “participant driven,” giving the community the opportunity to, “share our thoughts, experiences and observations.”

Most recently the topic concerned coping strategies in the present day climate of anti-LGBTQA+ legislation and social policy.

Walsh achieves Eagle Scout award, earns Dean’s List honors at WNEU

GRANBY – South Hadley resident Robert Walsh recently achieved his Eagle Scout award with Granby Troop 306. His Eagle project consisted of repairing and repainting the sign at Brown Ellison Park in Granby, as well as replacing and painting the bleacher boards at the park.

Pictured is State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) presenting Walsh with a certificate for his Eagle Scout achievement.

Walsh also earned a spot on the Dean’s List in the College of Business at Western New England University for Fall 2023. The recognition celebrates that he achieved a semester grade point average of 3.300 or higher.



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operating budgets of less than \$300,000.

Eligibility requirements and grant guidelines can be viewed on the Mass Humanities grants website. Resources are available in both English and Spanish.

For more information regarding Expanding Massachusetts Stories grants, contact Katherine Stevens, Director of Grants and Programs, by emailing grants@masshumanities.org.

About Mass Humanities

Mass Humanities, a non-profit foundation based in Northampton, creates opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable commonwealth through the

humanities.

Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars to support thousands of humanities projects across the Commonwealth. Established as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mass Humanities is an independent programming and grant-making organization that receives

support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and private sources.

For more information, visit www.masshumanities.org or connect on social media at Facebook.com/masshumanities, Twitter.com/masshumanities, or Instagram.com/masshumanities.

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