

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Chamber impacts community as a whole

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – Representing multiple communities, the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce exists to promote and grow the business of its members.

The chamber was launched in South Hadley in 1959 and grew to include Granby due to the geographical proximity of the two towns. Today, the chamber continues to impact local business, including nonprofits and the community as a whole.

Chamber President Regina Zebrowski, a sales and design executive with Chap de Laine's Interiors, reflected on recent chamber events that aligned with its mission.

"Last November, we held our Celebrity Bartender event, and in December we held our 35th Annual Holiday Stroll as well as our Chamber Holiday party to benefit Toys for Tots. The bartender event raised enough proceeds so that we could present Neighbors Helping Neighbors with a check in excess of \$4,000," Zebrowski said.

At the chamber's annual din-



Photos courtesy of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce

Community members, state officials and members of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce pose during the chamber's annual dinner in January.

ner in January, members welcomed new Mount Holyoke College President Danielle Holley, who served as the guest speaker. She shared her vision of how the college would impact the local community and leverage its re-

lationship with the chamber, Zebrowski said.

Throughout the year, the chamber facilitates Business After 5 events, which are held at a local member venue with an event sponsor and a nonprofit.

"Members attend the event to network and socialize with a fundraiser taking place with proceeds being donated to the nonprofit. The events are well attended by members who look forward to connecting with each

other," Zebrowski said.

The chamber does not rely on grants as part of its daily operations and instead funds its annual budget through the events it

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 8

High school principal addresses absenteeism

By Nick Boonstra
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SOUTH HADLEY — During the meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, Feb. 1, South Hadley High School Principal Elizabeth Wood addressed the problem of chronic absenteeism in town and across the state.

The discussion came partly in response to the Massachusetts

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education releasing information on their website last month regarding chronic absenteeism across the Commonwealth. This included a report that identified SHHS as one of a number of "Attendance Priority Schools."

A student in Massachusetts is considered chronically absent if they miss at least 10% of days enrolled, according to the DESE website. This would mean missing 18 or more days in a full 180-day school year, for example.

DESE considers an Attendance Priority School to be one that had a higher rate of chronic absenteeism in the 2022-2023 school year than they did in the 2018-2019 school year, the last full year before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and whose rate did not decrease by more than half from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year. Schools that were exclusively pre-kindergarten were excluded from consideration.

Of the 279 high schools detailed in the DESE report, 141 met the criteria for Attendance Priority Schools, or just over 50% of high schools.

Please see **ABSENTEEISM**, page 10



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

The Feb. 1 School Committee meeting revealed that there have been many absent tigers in recent years. SHHS's absenteeism rate in the 2022-2023 school year was 36.3%.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

The Town of South Hadley presented an update on the current state of its budget and previewed the budget for the next fiscal year on Feb. 6.

Budget information presented

Feb. 6 presentation took place of Selectboard meeting

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Instead of its regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on Feb. 6, the town presented an update on the current state of its fiscal year 2024 budget and previewed its upcoming FY 25 budget.

Town Administrator Lisa Wong described the panel as the opportunity to try some-

thing new with the budget process that would hopefully invite the public to better understand and be more involved with the budget. Wong emphasized her desire for the process and the budget to be transparent and open many times throughout the night.

Town Accountant Bill Sutton began the evening with a brief overview of where the FY 24 budget stands roughly halfway through the year.

"Things appear to be on track," said Sutton, as he went through the details.

As of Dec. 31, 2023, expected revenues were at just about 50% for the year, invest-

ment income was up 870% and planned expenditures were at about 45% for the year. Sutton described all these as normal, except for the investment income which is exceptionally high thanks to increased rates of return over the last year or so.

Several town employees gave updates about different areas of the budgets to explain what they entail and what they are seeing this year. Updates from Missy Couture Rimbold, associate assessor, and Donna Whiteley, town collector/treasurer, discussed the nature

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► South Hadley

Exciting library programming awaits children during Feb. break

By Dalton Zbierski
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SOUTH HADLEY – Children's Librarian Jenny Arch is anxiously awaiting February Vacation for local students, as she has a creative slate of programming lined up.

The children's space will surely be abuzz from Feb. 20-23. On top of regular activities, several special programs have been added to the mix to captivate the library's youngest patrons.

"We love to see families during February vacation. We definitely have higher traffic during school vacation weeks," Arch said. "It's a great place for families to come together. There's really something for everyone and kids of all ages."

The sky is the limit for the paper plane extravaganza scheduled for 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20. In school, students aren't allowed to fly paper planes, so Arch wanted to create an environment where they are encouraged.

"We will have lots of instructions, but kids pretty much already know how to make paper planes. They have a lot of preferences," Arch said. "They'll do their own, and we'll have a number of longest flight and highest flight (competitions). We'll put some hula-hoops out and we can

try to do it dart style. We'll decorate the planes, of course."

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the toddler dance party will occur in the Community Room at 10:30 a.m.

"We'll have music, bring out pool noodles and the bubble machine, and they do all kinds of toddler stuff. It's a lot of fun," Arch said.

That same day, the Lego Club will meet for a "Build Your Own LEGO" activity. On Friday, Feb. 23, the Playful Engineers' Traveling Makerspace will commence.

"(Playful Engineers) bring a whole bunch of stuff and they give some instructions, but, really, kids are able to let their imaginations run free and build whatever they want, very cool things, with the few strategies that they teach right up front," Arch said.

When Arch arrived at the library, following in the footsteps of Meg Clancy, who retired after 37 years there, she said there were great programs existing for babies, toddlers and preschool kids.

"I'm really working to bring in the elementary age as well with afterschool programs like LEGO and chess, comics club, and all of that again continues through vacation week," Arch said.

Over the past five months, Arch has made the children's

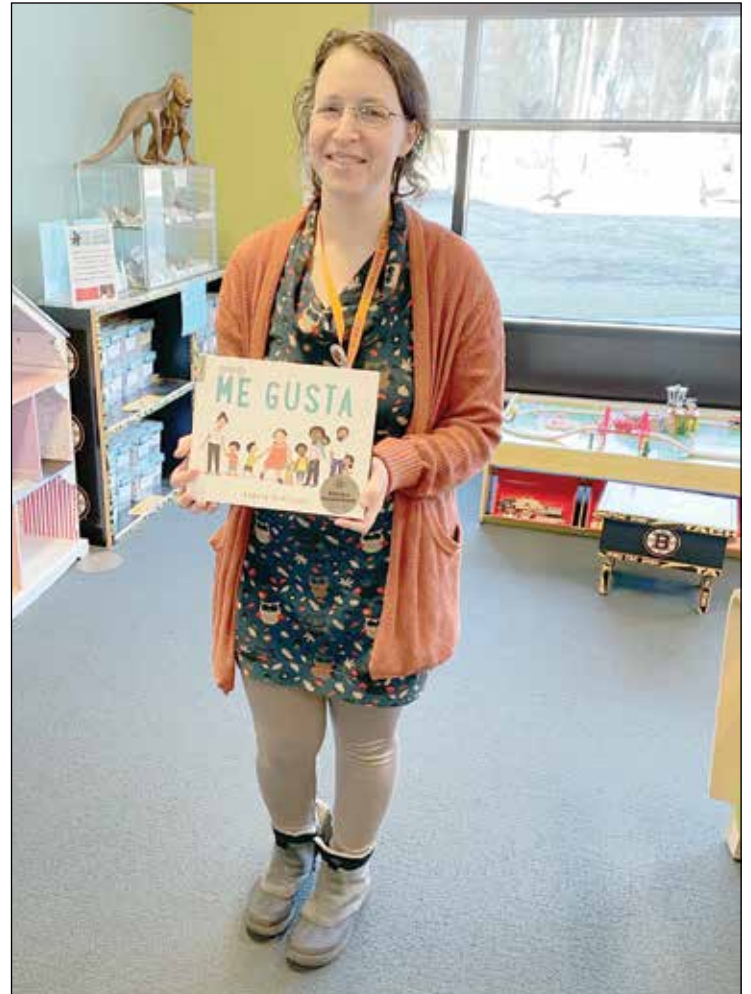
section her own, as she adds to the space and brings new resources to the forefront. She said she has felt empowered and supported to make changes that made sense to her.

"I love connecting people with resources," Arch said. "I actually just launched a new book bundle service so people can say, 'Hey, I'm looking for this, this and this,' and I put some things together for them. I love books obviously. I think most people get into libraries because they love books and reading stories."

Arch explained the "Mirrors and Windows" concept, noting that everybody should be able to see themselves in literature and media, which function as windows into other people's experiences.

Books and movies can be one's window into another world, allowing them to see how other people live and glimpse what they experience.

"That's a huge motivator for the books I read at story time, the books I put on display, the books I buy for the library, really thinking that everybody, no matter your ability or race or religion or anything, you should be able to see yourself and you should be able to see other people because that representation is so important, giving kids the idea that they can do this or be that instead of limiting them," Arch said.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

Children's Librarian Jenny Arch joined the library last September.

Arch noted that the library is often called the "third space," complimenting home and work or school. Essentially, one can be at any of the three places without having to buy anything.

"We encourage loitering; we want people to hang out here," Arch said. "It's important to

have that space and make everybody feel welcome. Depending on where people come from, they might not know that you don't need a card to walk in the door. Anybody can get a card, and it's free; there's no payment involved."

LGBTQA+ support for the aging community at the South Hadley COA



Photo courtesy of South Hadley COA.

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

By Samuel Gelinas
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 these 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 Thursday of each month, with its next meeting gathering on Feb. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Entering its sixth month, the group has steadily drawn 10 to 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 Public Library, leads the meetings by facilitating conversations aimed at building support and community. He invites anyone from the community to par-

ticipate.

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.

Sandy Farnsworth, Program Coordinator at the COA, shared that as recently as in the past 10 or 15 years, she has witnessed

Please see **LGBTQA+**, page 3

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-

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of their respective jobs and trends they're seeing in town.

Couture Rimbold noted that there hasn't been a lot of new growth this year as construction has slowed, and Whiteley explained the types of investments the town has made and that she expects those rates of return to start coming down.

Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti also walked residents through the Senior Tax Write-Off Program that will begin shortly, allowing senior citizens to cancel some of their tax obligations, and the possible impacts of the town's wage and classification study, which may involve salary adjustments in the coming years to better reflect what employees do.

"A lot of this work is quite extensive," said Wong. "This is incredibly important work that they do."

The attention then shifted to the FY 25 budget and possible concerns from

possible decreases in state aid. According to Wong, the governor's budget, which was released in late January, had only a \$26,000 increase in state aid from FY 24. To put this in perspective, last year the town received an increase of \$1.2 million and received an increase of \$1.5 million for FY 23. These numbers could increase after the budget goes through the State House and the state Senate, but Wong will do most of her budget work with the governor's projections.

Both Wong and Interim Superintendent of Schools Mark McLaughlin noted that they are looking at making sure the town and schools are both efficient and effective while offering the best services to residents and students.

The budget season begins now and goes through various phases over the coming months as the town meets with departments to discuss their needs and wants, ending with approval of the budget at the town meeting in May.

School Committee weighs accreditation

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY — The School Committee discussed the possibility of allowing South Hadley High School’s accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges to lapse, with Principal Elizabeth Wood and Interim Superintendent Mark McLaughlin both lobbying against renewal.

During the committee’s meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, Wood made the case that the commonwealth’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education already held the school to more stringent standards than NEASC, making the high cost of their accreditation renewal process one that the district could no longer justify.

NEASC is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1885 that accredits over 1,500 public, independent and international Pre-K-12 schools in New England and around the world, according to the organization’s website. NEASC participation is voluntary for member schools,

and there are no state or federal requirements that a public school be independently accredited.

During what was a lengthy meeting, Wood and McLaughlin portrayed NEASC and their accreditation as antiquated and expensive.

Wood said that for a long time, schools in the region used NEASC accreditation as “a feather in their cap” and an independent demonstration of the quality of the education they offered to students.

However, since 2010, the state has had its own monitoring and review system in place for public schools, one that Wood argued was superior to that of NEASC.

“The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education actually comes through with an audit that is much more strict and much more of a deep dive into a school’s programming abilities than a NEASC audit would be,” she said.

Wood explained to committee members that the most recent decennial audit cost the district \$26,000, and that this cost included the accommodations of

the incoming reviewers and thus would be subject to the effects of inflation. She also said that the district paid \$4,000 annually to NEASC for membership.

She added, “There’s nothing additional that we gain from being a NEASC-membered school.”

Interim Superintendent Mark McLaughlin stressed that DESE monitoring was not only more stringent, but also more responsive, saying, “Our accountability is daily.” He also related a story from a previous position he held of a NEASC evaluation “making a big point” of a smelly locker room, an issue that he and other staff had already been aware of and were working to rectify with budgetary constraints.

Wood cited Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Granby Junior Senior High School, Hampshire Regional High School and Northampton High School as other schools in the Pioneer Valley that have withdrawn from NEASC accreditation. Wood also mentioned Hopkins Academy in Hadley as a school that had left NEASC, but Hadley Public Schools Superinten-

dent Anne McKenzie confirmed via email that Hopkins was still a current participant in NEASC accreditation.

Wood also addressed the effect of withdrawal from NEASC on students’ competitiveness in college admissions, which was a primary concern of the School Committee when the issue was first raised in the fall.

Wood said that surveys were conducted of local community colleges as well as public and private post-secondary institutions to understand how a potential withdrawal from NEASC would impact their perceptions of applicants.

“Interestingly enough, a lot of the admissions reps were like, ‘Oh, you’re still NEASC? We didn’t even know,’” Wood said. “It was a zero-factor for every school that we surveyed.”

With this being the case, Wood reiterated that the dollar amount was the biggest factor in her desire to decline to renew NEASC accreditation for SHHS.

“I just really honestly feel that the money that we spend to become part of an organization could be better spent on our own

cycle of inquiries, our own cycles of evaluating teaching and learning at the high school and on curriculum materials for teachers and students,” she said.

Committee member Lynda Pickbourn-Smith expressed her surprise that a public school such as SHHS would have been subject to evaluation from a private organization in the first place. She subsequently voiced her support for Wood’s proposal to forgo renewing NEASC accreditation.

Committee member Lawrence Dixon asked Wood to detail the potential risks of taking such a step and also wanted to know what the process would be if the town was to decide to pursue accreditation for the high school again in the future.

In response, Wood reiterated that NEASC was an organization that was, as she put it, “steeped in tradition,” and one that she felt embodied an old-school mindset that she wanted South Hadley to move beyond. She again highlighted the apparent lack of influence that NEASC withdrawal would have on admissions

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 11

SHELD Commissioners go over 2024 plans

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The SHELD Commissioners met to discuss and plan the 2024 year, as well as establish plans and goals for new and improved technologies to assist and support the community.

The Jan. 25 meeting was facilitated by Chair John Hine and included Denise Presley, Paul Dobosh, Kurt Schenker and Ron Coutu. Others included Kim Mendoza, Sean Fitzgerald, Matt DelMonte and Michael Conchieri.

Fiberspring Project Construction Update

SHELD General Manager Sean Fitzgerald announced with pride that “all 32 Fiberhoods have been completed. Fiberspring has also gained 2,400 customers who have taken on the service.

“I want them to know that without them (the customers) this project would have not been as successful as it is,” Fitzgerald said.

He announced that a “huge milestone achievement” occurred because the goal of 2,400 customers was reached before the five-year mark.

They also discussed Multi-Dwelling Units and issues of insulation and how they will address the concerns of people living in MDU’s. Each homeowner’s association or condo association has its own rules and regulations and will be handled appropriately.

Manager’s Report and Goals

Sean Fitzgerald reported there was only one outage affecting customers for 14 minutes, but there were no further problems. As seen on the website, www.sheld.org/ami-deployment, updates are on their way.

A new program is being developed to replace all electric meters in homes that are old and outdated, which is set to begin officially in the summer.

“It’s adding accessibility to what we already have,” Fitzgerald said.

Matt DelMonte, an engineer, ensured that meters are running

properly and said a new application to track these meters will be available through a cellphone app or online through a website.

Fitzgerald shared his goals for the year to the group to get feedback on from the board. Other than the AMI project, he shared reliability, finance, workforce and customer service goals.

He also hopes to improve upon old goals and create new ones to be completed as part of the 2024 goal list.

New Building Forum Summary

Hine discussed the success of the new senior center building forum and how well it was received at the hybrid forum. They planned to continue with another forum to discuss with the public about the process and when a building or property is acquired.

October 2023 Financial Report

Conchieri provided an update and report on the purchases, revenues and budget of the committee and how it fluctuated as well as the reasons.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.

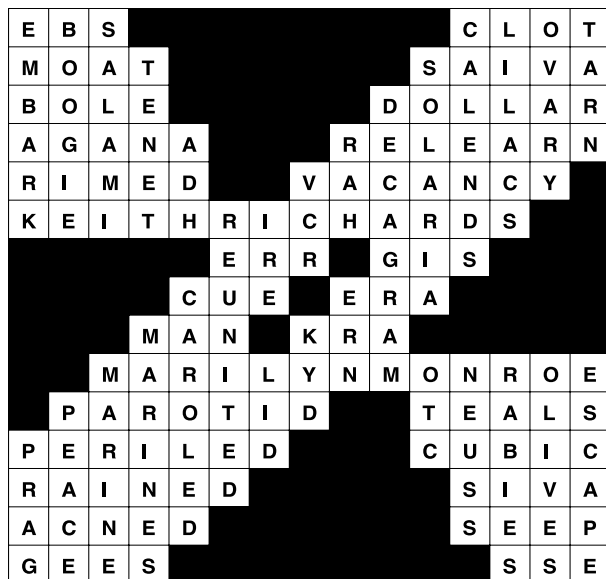

The SHELD Commissioners met on Jan. 25.

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colleagues and friends masquerade their lives for fear of being judged or fired for their sexual orientation.

“This group allows older generations of the LGBTQA+ community to enjoy the freedom and affirmation many have never had throughout their lives,” Farnsworth said.

Editor’s note: This article ran initially in the Feb. 2 edition of the Town Reminder. This version features corrected information regarding the Feb. 15 gathering at 10:30 a.m., noting that the LGBTQA+ Rainbow Coffee Social meets every third Thursday of the month.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

Dawn Piechota
Clerk of the Corporation

Opinion



Spare the vase this Valentine's Day

My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together.

They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to preorder your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in springtime, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dew foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

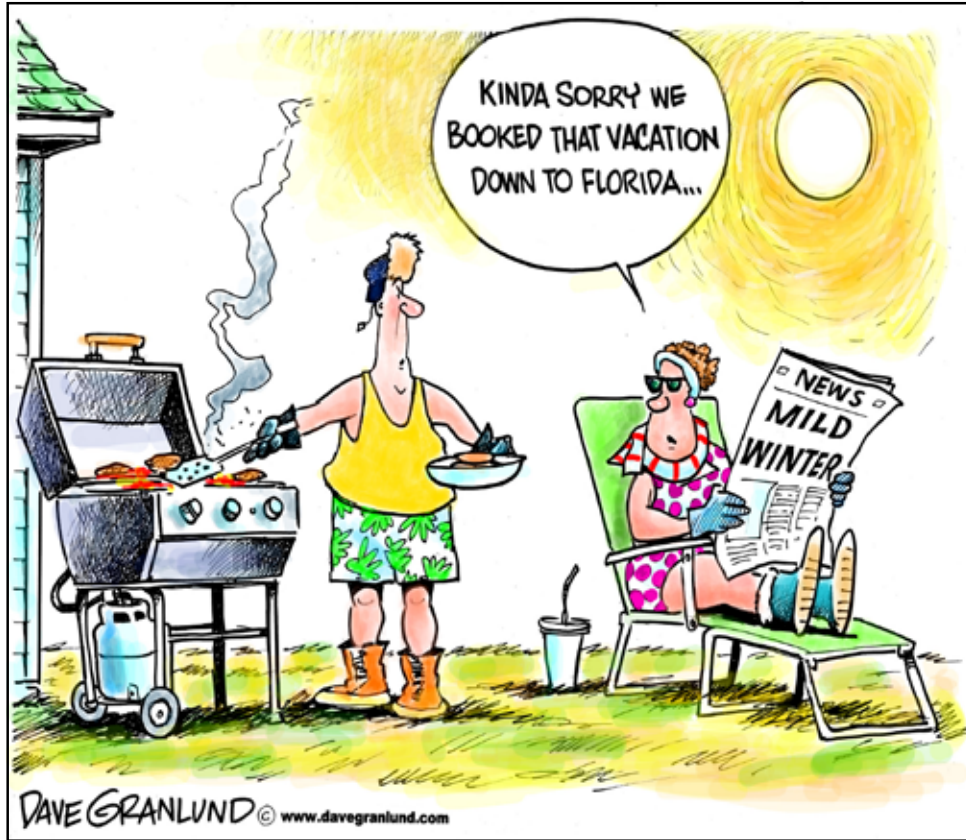
In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



GUEST COLUMN

Reflecting on Bag the Community and the fact donated dollars save lives

By Mary Lou Guarnera
Executive Director,
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

SOUTH HADLEY – For 12 years, on the weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, South Hadley saw an amazing community-wide food collection called Bag the Community. On Saturday of that weekend, students and parents from South Hadley High School put bags on residents' porches, with a note asking that they be filled with groceries and on Monday the bags were collected.

The first year, 1,500 bags were distributed and 2,000 were collected! The donated food went directly to the pantry, and one young man was heard to say, "Just think, I am only 13 and I can make a difference."

That year, the food collected enabled Neighbors Helping Neighbors to open for the first time. It was Jan. 22, 2011.

A small but dedicated group of people began meeting each October to plan Bag the Community, making it bigger and better each year. Eventually the students were distributing 6,000 bags!

By then, the project had moved to the high school, and hundreds of people came together to process the food. It had become a badge of honor to be involved in any way. Witnessing the community embrace Bag the Community and the pantry was an awe-inspiring experience. To see the high school filled with literally hundreds of people working together in a common goal made one's heart swell with pride.

Each year, Bag the Community collected tens of thousands of pounds of food, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors is grateful for the time, creativity and energy that was put into producing this fabulous festival of food. The people responsible for this event are the heart of BTC, and they worked hard, always trying to improve the many moving parts of the huge project. They did such a fabulous job that Bag the Community grew too big for the pantry to handle.

Through the constraints of the pandemic, we learned that ongoing, smaller food collections are easier for the hard-working volunteers at the pantry. The South Hadley Police Department has food drives, as do the



Photo courtesy of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In this column, Mary Lou Guarnera speaks on the impact South Hadley High School students have had on making sure the entire community is fed.

schools, the Council on Aging has revived a monthly collection, and people are conducting neighborhood food drives. These smaller collections enable us to distribute the food before they reach the 'best by' date.

Monetary donations enable us to purchase items not offered by The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

As members, we are able to leverage each dollar donated into three meals, and we receive most of our food from there. Through monetary donations we are able to purchase nutritionally important foods that are not otherwise available to us, and we make these purchases locally whenever possible. We are exceedingly grateful for all the donations we receive, as are our customers. Their quality of life is improved, as well as their health.

In the summer, the Full Circle Garden, located at the Community Garden, provides fresh, organic produce. Garden volunteers work hard to provide this great addition to the pantry, and customers appreciate having produce that was harvested hours before receiving it.

Inflation is affecting everyone, but some are affected to the point where they must make difficult choices- heat or food, medications or food, pet food or people food, food for all or just for the kids. Imagine being a parent in that situation. Every can, each box, all dollars donated change lives, because a body without food cannot work, play or learn.

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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Library's Teen Room is a welcoming space

By Dalton Zbierski
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SOUTH HADLEY – From Xbox to Manga, the library's Teen Room has much to offer South Hadley youths in middle or high school.

Teen Programming Coordinator Bethany Roberts schedules a variety of activities geared toward entertaining and enriching local teenagers. She explained the importance of providing teens with a safe space where they feel accepted.

"I think in this day and age, it's sometimes hard to find a space where teens are welcomed in, where they don't have to spend money," Roberts said. "Here, we have comfy chairs to just hang out. It's somewhere they can be themselves in a nice little space and not have someone giving them a dirty look just because they're being a teen."

Roberts coordinates programs for teens ages 11 to about 18. She invites them to check out the Teen Room, which fea-

tures a row of computers, restaurant-style booths, videogames, DVDs, graphic novels and more.

The library opened in 2014, and Roberts said the town was wise to build it with a teen space in mind. For teens who don't play sports, do scouting or participate in plays, Roberts said the Teen Room can be another great option for fun.

Hanging out in the Teen Room also allows teens to meet peers in the community. Roberts said teens that come to the Teen Room represent the middle school, the high school, the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School and those who are homeschooled.

Looking ahead several weeks, Roberts is enthusiastic about the programming she has lined up for February Vacation.

"Tuesday, (Feb. 20) we'll have an author talk at 6 p.m. I have Jennifer Lyle coming. She wrote 'Swarm'. It's newly published. On Wednesday, we'll have Xbox at 3:30 p.m., and the kids usually play that for a couple of hours," Roberts said.



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

The library's Teen Room has several comfortable places to get work done.



There is a row of computers in the library's Teen Room.

At 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, Snackternoon will resume. The program occurs on the fourth Thursday of each month, and the February edition will involve Brownie Batter Dip.

"We make a snack. In January, we did breakfast sundaes. The goal is to not need anything more than a microwave so that the kids can make it themselves at home," Roberts said.

There are 12 spaces available. The program is made possible thanks to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, Roberts will be showing the family movie "Inside Out", a 2015 film that chronicles a young girl's struggle to adapt to her family's relocation.

Each month, Roberts said the Teen

Room's Manga collection continues to grow. Manga is a style of Japanese comic books and graphic novels.

The graphic novels section itself continues to grow.

"Graphic novels aren't just all superheroes," Roberts said.

Roberts said she really enjoys working with teenagers as they figure out their place in the world. She said it is important to advocate for teens and make sure they feel as comfortable in the library as a toddler or senior citizen.

"(The Teen Room) is a space that is welcome to all teens to hang out or use. There's something for everybody here," Roberts said.

To view upcoming teen programming at the library, one can visit Shadleylib.org and search for the Calendar of Events.

Police arrest man believed to be selling cocaine from his home

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley Police, working with the Northwestern District's Anti-Crime Task Force arrested a South Hadley man alleged to have run a drug distribution operation out of his Cottage Avenue home, according to Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan.

After executing a search warrant around 6 a.m. on Feb. 1, police arrested Justin Velez, 32, on charges of possession of a firearm without a license; possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, sub-

sequent offense; possession of ammunition without a license; improper storage of a firearm; and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Velez pleaded not guilty to the charges on the afternoon of Feb. 1 in Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown and was ordered held on \$3,000 bail.

Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime. All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Frozen Polish Food Sale set for Feb. 10

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Frozen Polish Food Sale, featuring Pierogi, Golabki and Kapusta, will be held at Immaculate Conception Church Hall

at 25 Parker St. in Indian Orchard on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to come and purchase.

GARDEN from page 4

harden before cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in springtime when the roses start to leaf out.

I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is deadheading.

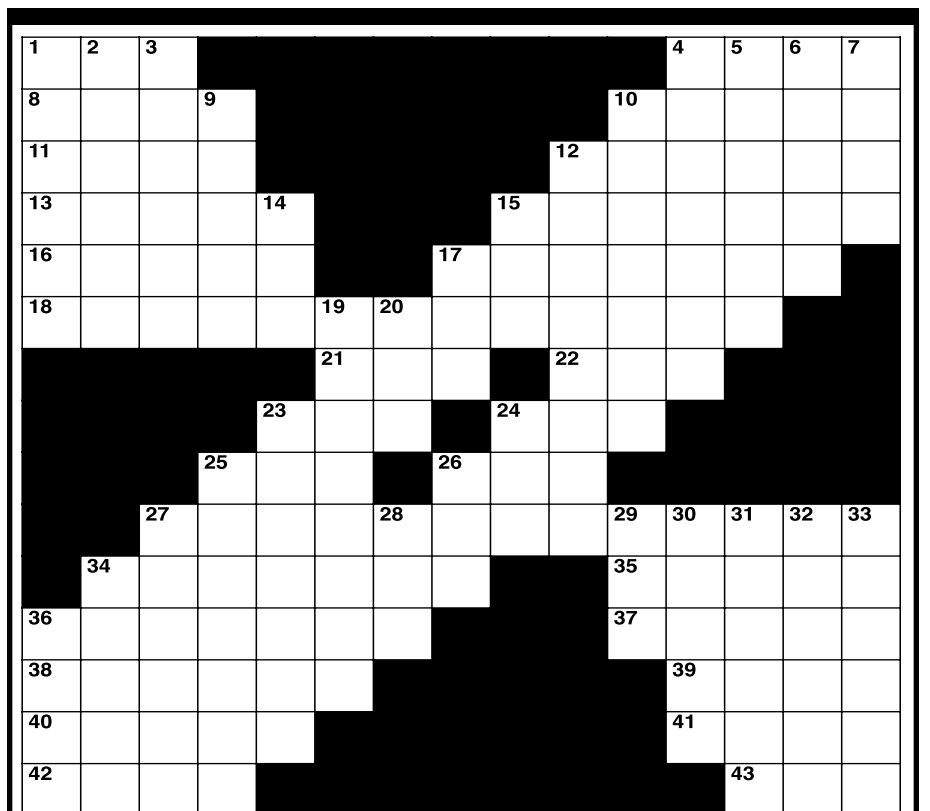
Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous

gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

► South Hadley



All Saints' Episcopal Church

Turley photos by Nick Boonstra



St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

Churches come together for Lenten Lunches

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY — Two local churches will once again be teaming up in the coming weeks to serve Lenten lunches to the community, continuing an effort that spans back “decades,” according to members of both churches.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Main Street will be serving meals on Feb. 16 and March 1 and 15, while All Saints' Episcopal Church will have meals available on Feb. 23 and March 8 and 22. Meals will be available to-go from both churches, and any orders will need to be

placed at least a week in advance.

Laura Marsh of All Saints' said that the church started their Lenten lunch series in 1970 and that it had been a primarily sit-down event before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020.

Since then, meals have been available on a take-away basis, a system that has been popular with community members.

“It worked out really well last year,” Marsh said.

Judi Dorsett of the Ladies Guild of St. Patrick's said that her church joined in on the series sometime after All Saints' started and similarly moved to a limited-contact format after 2020.

The move to take-out did not prove to

be much of a logistical issue, however, with a system arising that involves volunteers in the church parking lot using walkie-talkies to communicate with the kitchen as people come to pick up their orders, according to Dorsett.

Both Marsh and Dorsett said that the lobster roll was a popular offering, with other options including lobster salads and tuna sandwiches. Meals at both churches include sides like a cup of soup or chowder, a bag of chips, and a brownie or other dessert.

“Everything's homemade, and there's a lot that goes into this,” Dorsett said.

Both ladies also said that the volunteer efforts have been increasingly handled by

the older generation of their respective churches as time has gone on, with perhaps less involvement from the younger generation than they might have hoped.

However, both ladies also expressed a gladness to be able to come together and provide this service to the community, particularly at a time when division can seem to be the dominant narrative across the country.

Community members interested in signing up for meals can reach out to the churches directly for more information. St. Patrick's can be found online at www.saintpatrick.cc, and All Saints' at www.allsaintsallwelcome.org.

Town Meeting Review Committee looks towards future elections

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The town meeting review committee met to discuss the upcoming town meeting along with members of other committees to make town meetings better for the community.

The Feb. 1 meeting featured several members of the Town Meeting Committee, including Chair John Hine, Jim Everett, Michael T. Davis, Clerk Nicole

Casolari, Ira Brezinsky, Carlene Hamlin, Meghan Bristol and Rudy Ternbach. Martha Terry was also in attendance.

Know Your Town

Martha Terry with Know Your Town, an organization that encourages residents to familiarize themselves with town politics, as well as other locals, was present to discuss the previous town meeting.

They discussed with Terry how to make the town meeting flow smoothly, as well as how to provide a way for SHEL

Chair John Hine to give updates via presentations and handouts.

Election Day Survey

Town Election Day is coming up on March 5, and the committee discussed an Election Day survey with what kinds of questions and how many, should be included.

“One of our goals is to catch the ear of the South Hadley community,” former Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin said.

Nicole Casolari said, “(I prefer) having

the presidential election as well as the annual town election because we will have more of a mix. I think we have a good mix between the groups.”

They planned the nature of the questions for the survey to send out to the community in order to figure out the effect of and usefulness of town meetings for the community.

The survey will go out closer to election time, so look out for announcements and get ready for this survey, as it will greatly help the committee help you.

Lisa Wong's Weekly Wrap Up

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



Officer Boyle receives Commendation Award

Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen awards the department's Commendation Award to Officer Cindy Boyle for her groundbreaking work in crisis intervention and to mark her new role leading the new CIT training team for all of Western Massachusetts.

Volunteer!

Board and committees include Capital Planning, Council on Aging Board, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Historic District Study Committee, Master Plan Implementation Committee and Veterans Council.

Apply at <https://www.southhadley.org/FormCenter/Selectboard-4/Application-for-Appointment-to-Board-Com-44>.

Municipal Empowerment Act

Find out more about this bill at: <https://www.mma.org/gov-healey-files-municipal-empowerment-act/>.

Biz Grants

The chamber is offering grants for marketing at: <https://www.shgchamber.com/spotlight/2024/1/20/marketing-and-social-media-package-grant>.

News and Announcements

ART-ventures for Kids
Storyland and Rainbows Art-ventures
Held at South Hadley Public Library
Sponsored by South Hadley Recreation Department;
began Feb. 3

“Happiness... it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Storyland and Rainbows Art-ventures for ages 3-5

Our Storytime Art classes offer one-of-a-kind literary adventures for preschool students, promotes read-

ing comprehension and encourages children to unleash their creativity. Most importantly, children simply get to delight in the fun of their own imaginations. Themes include the rainforest, monsters, race cars, rainbows and butterflies. Art explorers experience painting and decorating, collage, decoupage, sculpture and more. Three-dimensional art forms are completed and brought home each week.

Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.

Feb. 3 – March 16 (no class March 2)
Fee: \$125 for six weeks of art fun! All materials included!

Location: South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal St.
Register now: www.SouthHadleyRecreation.org.

*A scholarship may be available for a child whose parent is willing to assist each week. If interested, email afterschool@imagineartventures.com.

With a dash of whimsy and a dollop of fun, we help art explorers think creatively about art and the amazing role it plays in our wonderful world!

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-Talented instructors encourage children's creative spirit and imagination

-Inspires children to create art that uniquely their own

-Fosters creativity through exposure to a variety of art tools, techniques and materials

-Includes wicked cool, sometimes kooky, art activities kids love to do

Burns Night was celebrated on Jan. 25

This year marks 264th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth

By Dr. Roger Farnsworth
South Hadley

An event at the First Presbyterian Church (home church in Edinburgh, Scotland) opened eyes, minds and stomachs during the evening of Jan. 25. It was an evening of Scottish food, drink, poetry, jokes, songs and the music of the bagpipe with a Burns supper. It was a celebration of Scottish culture, and music with an emphasis on the life and poetry of Scotland's most beloved poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796).

"Rabbie" Burns penned more than 550 poems and songs before his death in 1796. A massive source of inspiration to the founders of Liberalism and Socialism, the 18th-century writer is known for his astute social commentary and focus on all things political. Scotland's national poet is considered a revolutionary figure, both in his homeland and beyond.

Dubbed the "greatest Scot of all time" by STV in 2009, the writer from Ayrshire died of rheumatic fever at the age of just 37. His funeral was held on the same day his son Maxwell was born. Burns' body was later transferred from a churchyard grave to a mausoleum in Dumfries, where his wife Jean Armour was also laid to rest after her death in 1834.

Burns Night falls on Jan. 25 every year. The Church's event was chosen to coincide with the poet's birthday, who was born on Jan. 25, 1759. The first Burns supper hosted by the Burns Club was held on Jan. 29, 1802, on what was thought to be Burns' birthday.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Roger Farnsworth, South Hadley

From the left, Shirley Peltier – Sue Perkins, Anne Farnsworth along with the rest of crowd in attendance await the arrival of the ceremonial presentation of the Haggis.

Stephanie Fesko, Jeff Keck and Micheil Smith, friends of the Church, were the chief greeting hosts serving traditional Scottish libations, toasts and hor-d'oeuvres. They also provided the decorations and Scottish favors which included fudge, toffee and teas.

The main attraction of any Burns Night is the Burns Supper. One of the many highlights of this "Burns Supper" was the marching of the haggis into the dining room, lead by bagpiper Ron Zissell and carried by Matthew Peterson. The haggis, a Scottish dish made of ground sheep parts, oatmeal and onions, was then ceremoniously addressed and praised by Matthew Peterson. The Haggis was made by W.A. Bean's & Sons, Bangor, M.E. and the Scottish meat pies by Cameron's Scottish Foods, Brick, N.J.

Traditional Scottish foods included Cock-a-Leekie (chicken) soup, Cullen Skink (haddock chowder), beef meat pies, neeps (turnips), tatties (mashed potatoes), mushy peas, Brodies teas and coffee,



Piper Ron Zissell performing welcoming music for the Burns' Night Haggis Celebration.

Cranachan (raspberry dessert) and shortbread, which were prepared and donated by Church members Joan Hodgkins, Alice Duval, Lynne Larose, Sharyn Kazunas



Lassie Christine Fesko receiving The Ancient Society for the Lovers of Scottish Customs and People certificate of excellence and appreciation by the power invested in Laddie of the day, Roger Farnsworth.

and Christine Fesko.

After this sumptuous meal came the singing of Loch Lomond, ending with a Immortal memory of Rabbie Burns, an Address to the Lassies by Roger Farnsworth, and a Reply to the Laddies by Christine Fesko followed by a Vote of Thanks, Scottish Blessing and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The second edition of this Burns' remembrance and dinner at The Presbyterian Church was applauded and enjoyed by all. It is hoped and sincerely recommended that it would be held each year as a fitting tribute to the Bard of Scotland.



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The chamber donated \$4,016 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors on Nov. 14, 2023.



The chamber collected toys for Toys for Tots last December.



From left, Mount Holyoke College President Danielle Holley pictured next to Chamber President Regina Zebrowski.



Celebrity bartenders hold down the fort during a chamber event.

CHAMBER from page 1

holds throughout the year. Major events like each edition of Business After 5 allow the chamber to make regular donations to nonprofits and senior centers and award annual scholarships.

Zebrowski said all that is annually accomplished by the chamber would not be possible without both its membership and the community at large.

The chamber has, however, found success landing

grants. It received a \$50,000 grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, funding that was provided to state and local governments for recovery efforts related to COVID-19.

“As part of this process, the chamber completed the application process through the town. We worked very closely with Lisa Wong, South Hadley town administrator, during the process and through her efforts helped to secure the funding for the chamber,” Zebrowski said.

The chamber also received \$100,000 from the Mas-

sachusetts Economic Development Bill Earmark Fund, a \$3.76 billion spending plan that promoted economic development, strengthened health and human services, advanced clean energy, expanded affordable housing and invested in local communities, businesses and workers.

“This funding was secured by State Rep. Dan Carey, and the chamber completed the application process, which was approved by the state,” Zebrowski said, noting that the ARPA funds will benefit the community directly through two packages being offered.

The chamber has been receiving applications with a Feb. 9 deadline. A review of all applicants will take place, and seven qualified recipients will be awarded.

The packages include the creation of a specific commercial or promotional video for the recipient businesses to increase their sales through targeted promotions, building on old audiences and identifying new ones.

“Additionally, the package includes help in managing and promoting the business’ social media platforms for 60 days by driving 100,000 impressions monthly to their social media feeds to help gain additional viewers (and) potential clients,” Zebrowski said.

When asked what the benefits of joining the chamber are, Zebrowski said there are many.

They include an invitation to networking and business education events with other local businesses, being listed on the chamber website membership directory and having the opportunity for ribbon cutting ceremonies and promotion.

“(More benefits are) having the opportunity to be a member of a growing and thriving business community that positively supports each other as well as the local community through the chamber’s major events and the opportunity to participate on the chamber’s Board of Directors and/or committees,” Zebrowski said.

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LINKS \$2.33 lb	WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE	
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.19 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN WHOLE PORK BUTT \$2.09 lb	USDA INSP. WHOLE PEELED BEEF TENDERLOIN \$8.88 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS 5 LB BAG..... \$12.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CHULETA KAN KAN \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IQF CHICKEN PARTY WINGS 4 LB BAG..... \$7.99 lb
Lenten Specials	USDA INSP. FRESH TOP ROUND ROAST or LONDON BROIL \$4.48 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BREADED PRE-BROWNED CHICKEN TENDERS 5 LB BAG \$13.99 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN 16/20 COUNT SHRIMP 1 LB BAG \$6.88 ea	USDA INSP. FRESH HILLSHIRE FARMS BEEF KIELBASA 12 OZ..... \$4.99 lb	12 CT KING'S HAWAIIAN ROLLS \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST \$1.77 lb	USDA INSP. SUPERIOR MINI ECLAIRS 5 CT.. \$2.99 lb
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South Hadley boys look for ninth win

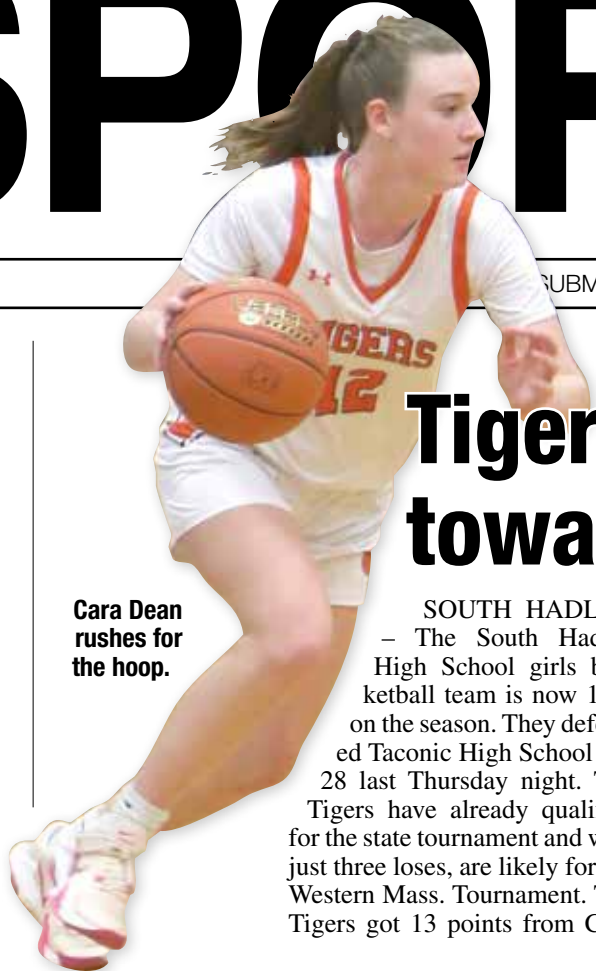
SOUTH HADLEY – After beating the Renaissance School last Tuesday night, South Hadley boys basketball sought their ninth win of the season to automatically qualify for the state tournament. But the Tigers suffered a pair of losses, falling to Hoosac Valley last Wednesday and then Greenfield at home by just two points last Friday night. They Knights were 8-6 heading into this season and a tough matchup with Granby earlier this week. The Tigers hope to grab their ninth win during their final week of play with games scheduled against Longmeadow, Hoosac, and Easthampton.

Disciplined game nets win for T-Birds

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game's opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand's glove at 9:05. Vrana's seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 10



Cara Dean rushes for the hoop.

Tigers cruising toward tourney

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School girls basketball team is now 13-3 on the season. They defeated Taconic High School 49-28 last Thursday night. The Tigers have already qualified for the state tournament and with just three losses, are likely for the Western Mass. Tournament. The Tigers got 13 points from Cara

Dean in the win over the Beavers. South Hadley has just one regular season game remaining against league rival Monson on Monday night at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Caitlin Dean calls out a play and gets things started on offense.



Maddie Soderbaum goes for the free throw.



Kate Phillips shoots on the line for South Hadley.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Kiki Ramos goes for a short-range shot.

Lady Rams clinch tournament spot in win

GRANBY – In the second matchup of the season between Ludlow and Granby girls basketball, Granby picked up the

win once again 68-34. The win was Granby's ninth and clinches a state tournament spot for the Rams. Granby got 22

points from Kalli White while Aubrey Parent scored 11 points and Brenna Moreno scored 10 points. Ludlow, which fell to

3-11 on the season, would get eight points each from Kayliana Moret and Ava Friese.



Aubrey Parent goes for a short-range shot.



Autumn Sicard goes for the three-pointer.



Kalli White shoots ahead of a block.



Sophia Gagnon fights to take the shot.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mabel Carillon drives to the hoop around a Ludlow defender.

Sports

Railers score win over Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (20-18-3-2, 45pts) took down the Trois-Rivières Lions (19-22-2-2, 42pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 6-4 in front of a crowd of 1,819 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Maine Mariners on Friday, February 9th at 7:05pm.

Blade Jenkins (3-2-5) struck first tonight for Worcester, as he put the Railers ahead immediately following the power play. The Railers followed up with three more in the second from Anthony Callin (1-1-2), Trevor Cosgrove (1-2-3), and Jenkins' second of the night. Trois-Rivières were good for two in the second as Justin Ducharme (1-1-2) and Cedric Montminy (1-0-1) each scored goals to make it a 4-2 game heading into the third. There were four goals in the third, including two straight to open the period for Trois-Rivières from Nicolas Guay (1-1-2) and Alex-Olivier Voyer (1-1-2) to tie the game 4-4. Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) scored the game-winner after coming out of the penalty box before Blade Jenkins secured the win with his third goal

of the night and second straight hat trick in as many nights.

Like Friday's game, it was another dominant first period from Worcester. The Railers out-shot the Lions 16-7 through the first 20 minutes, highlighted by Blade Jenkins' (18th) fourth goal of the weekend. Neither team scored the rest of the frame as the Railers went into the second period with a 1-0 lead.

Scoring opened wide in the second period with five goals combined between the two teams. First it was Anthony Callin (8th) with a loose puck in front supplied by Blade Jenkins to grow Worcester's lead to 2-0. The Lions cut back into their deficit with Justin Ducharme's (12th) tally as he swept up a rebound from in front of Muse and tucked it along the far post. The Railers responded midway through the period with a pair of goals back-to-back. Trevor Cosgrove let one go from the blue-line that Vrbetic never saw to make it 3-1 Worcester. Jenkins followed up with his second of the afternoon on a break down the left wing to give Worcester their largest advantage of the night at 4-1. The Lions got one

back just before the end of the period when Cedric Montminy scored to make it 4-2 heading into the third.

The Railers killed off a Jack Quinlivan high-sticking penalty to start the third before Ryan Verrier was sent to the penalty box for a delay-of-game call. From there, Trois-Rivières kept their foot on the pedal. Nicolas Guay (2nd) scored on the power-play followed by Alex-Olivier Voyer (12th) to complete the Lions comeback and tie the game 4-4. With the game tied heading into the final five minutes of the third, Quinlivan (2nd) was sprung out of the penalty box and muscled his way around a Lions defender to beat Vrbetic and put Worcester ahead for good, 5-4. With the net empty and the Lions looking to tie the game, Blade Jenkins (18th) was given the puck in the neutral zone by Anthony Repaci, where he strode into the attacking end and scored his third goal of the game. Jenkins is the first player in Worcester Professional Hockey history to score hat tricks in back-to-back games, scoring one on Friday night, Worcester's first of the season.

T-BIRDS from page 9

Just 1:54 after Vrana's tally, a misplay of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand's blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana's turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in

turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann's fight lit a spark in the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempé rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in not even six minutes of game action.

Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up with his signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toe-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand's glove

at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield's well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds did not allow Hartford's fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game's final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the Mass-Mutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

ABSENTEEISM from page 1

In practice, every high school in the report with a chronic absenteeism rate of 23% or higher for the 2022-2023 school year was identified as an Attendance Priority School, while no schools with a chronic absenteeism rate lower than 23% were so identified.

According to the state's data, SHHS had a chronic absenteeism rate of 22.0% in the 2018-2019 school year. This increased to 39.4% over the 2021-2022 school year, and then fell slightly to 36.3% in the 2022-2023 school year. This drop was not significant enough for SHHS to avoid being classified as an Attendance Priority School.

Principal Elizabeth Wood told the School Committee that she found this rate from the past school year to be alarming, but

that her alarm was tempered by the improvement over the prior year.

She also made a point to factor in the various different reasons for absences at SHHS.

"An absence is an absence," Wood said, explaining that the state did not account for excusal or reason such as mental or physical health issues when considering absenteeism. She went on to say that, for internal purposes, the school considered unexcused absences as opposed to excused absences.

She added that enforced quarantines had been a particular challenge thus far in the post-pandemic era.

"Those absences are absences, so they count as well," she said.

Wood said that, historically, the school's rate of chronic absenteeism had been hovering around 14% in the years leading

up to the pandemic. Remote and hybrid options for the first few years of the pandemic skewed the numbers to be lower for the first few years of the pandemic before the high school's mold issue caused chronic absenteeism to increase to a record high in the 2021-2022 school year, she said.

Wood highlighted that, while chronic absenteeism had been on the rise at SHHS, so had the graduation rate, up from 87.3% to 89.88%. She attributed this success to the high school's work toward flexibility, access and equity for all students.

She said that these same ideas were key to the school's work toward combating chronic absenteeism, which included the creation of an attendance committee and the implementation of a number of "buy-back" initiatives.

She said that this attendance committee had been tasked with monitoring student absences

Seniors

South Hadley Council on Aging highlights for the week of Feb. 12-16

SOUTH HADLEY – The following Council on Aging programming will occur at the senior center located at 45 Dayton St.

Monday, Feb. 12

10 a.m. Healthy Bones and Balance Registration IN PERSON

Our updated registration practice begins on the 12th. Registration is made in person, if you are unable – call Kathy Florence. Registration begins at 10 a.m. – no wait list. FREE Coffee and donuts to registrants.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Hampshire Hearing and Speech Services - by Appointment

10 a.m. – Low Vision hour with Karen Dupuis

10 a.m. – Brown Bag

11 a.m. - Representative Carey -office Hours

11:30 a.m. – Big Y shopping – let us do the driving – call to reserve a seat.

4 p.m. Valentine's Dinner & Entertainment

The SHHS Culinary Dept is back with Chef Popp to serve us a wonderful pasta dinner followed by an evening of music and dancing with Jeff Gavioli's Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra featuring vocalist Cindy Reed. Entertainment sponsored in part by the South Hadley Cultural Council and the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Tech Time with Sandy by Appointment

9 a.m. Veterans Social Hour

Free pastry and coffee provided by VFW Post 3104 and

American Legion Post 260. Visit with Mike

Slater, Veterans' Service Provider - and your fellow veterans.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Tech Time with Sandy by Appointment

11 a.m. - Riley, Pet therapy Dog, visits.

Friday, Feb. 16

8:30 a.m. Gentleman's Breakfast – Join our hosts FD #1 Jason Houle and one other guest.

10:30 a.m. – African Drumming

Presented in partnership with the Community Music School of Springfield, Jason Arnold will be instructing students on the African drums.

12:30 p.m. Trip to Walmart – let us do the driving – call to reserve a seat.

Monday, Feb. 19 – the COA is closed for President's Day

Monday, Feb. 26

The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors will host a FREE Movie at the South Hadley Towner Theaters.

"Something's Gotta Give" You'll receive a free small popcorn and drink. Doors open at 12:15 p.m.

Call or drop by the Senior Center to reserve a seat – seats are limited.

Please note changes:

Sustainable Fashions Upcycling is on hiatus.

Genealogy Research and Discovery will continue through the month of February.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

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and reaching out to students and families once they started to become at risk of reaching chronically absent status. Buy-back initiatives mentioned included community service and remedial coursework.

Ultimately, Wood reiterated the positive nature of the rising graduation rate while fully recognizing the severity and urgency of the rate of chronic absenteeism.

"Our students have different needs right now," she said. "And we have to catch up to what those needs are and how we can implement strategies to mitigate their attendance not being what we would hope it to be."

Committee members had a number of questions for Wood and Interim Superintendent Mark McLaughlin, who assured the committee that chronic absenteeism was an issue the district had already been looking at before

DESE put out their report.

Committee member Daniel Vieu, Jr., asked for clarification on what type of absences were the most common. Wood said that absences related to physical health and quarantine had been dominant since returning from winter break and clarified that quarantines were still required in certain cases.

Vieu also asked about the frequency of students staying back among these reports about absenteeism and graduation rates. Wood responded by saying that staying back and dropping out were "not an option" for her and reiterated that initiatives like the buy-back program were helping to avoid these outcomes.

The discussions were informational in nature and solely for the committee's consideration, without any item being brought forward for a vote from the committee.

Getting from here to there in Western Massachusetts

New RIDE WMA tool maps transportation gaps

CHICOPEE – Affordable and reliable transportation for individuals facing food insecurity is a key concern at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts as it confronts the underlying causes of hunger. A 2019 USDA study found that 46% of individuals living in the United States with low incomes and without cars live more than a half mile from a grocery store.

Reliable and frequent public transportation is crucial, as the alternative is time-consuming treks combining public buses with long walks, bike rides on busy streets and/or costly ride-shares. These transportation challenges extend beyond food access, creating obstacles to employment, medical care, education and more.

To help identify communities with little to no connectivity to public transit, the Food Bank is releasing RIDE WMA, a new mapping tool commissioned by the Food Bank, funded by T4MA, a statewide coalition focused on improving Massachusetts' transportation systems, and Feeding America, the national network of Food Banks, and developed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The tool maps the region's public transportation options in relation to grocery stores, places of employment, higher educa-

tion, and medical care.

Included in the map are all three major RTA's (Regional Transit Authorities) that operate in Western Massachusetts: the PVRTA serving Hampden and Hampshire Counties, the FRTA serving Franklin County, and the BRTA, serving Berkshire County. The tool also includes information about the area's often overlooked micro-transit options that are especially effective in rural towns.

The map can help the public better understand how well their communities are being served by public transit. People can use the tool to ask questions such as,

How well is my neighborhood connected, via public transport, to jobs with second and third shifts throughout the region?

Are people in my community able to access places for food and health care services if they don't own a car?

If I take a bus to my doctor's office near the end of the day, will there be a bus running late enough to take me home?

"Anyone who lives in Western Massachusetts understands how challenging it can be to get from one area to the next if you don't own a car, but RIDE WMA really makes clear that difficulty," said Laura Sylvester, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts' public policy manager. "We hope that the tool will illustrate the need for increased funding for the RTAs and for innovative solutions like

micro transit in rural areas. Better transportation options will lead to better health, education and employment outcomes for our residents. We're grateful to PVPC for their great work and to T4MA and Feeding America for the funding."

Revealing gaps in public transportation is crucial for demonstrating the need for funding. Too often, transportation funding gets stuck in a feedback loop that prevents necessary improvements. People who rely on public transportation are then forced to cobble together increasingly fewer options to get from one place to another. This tool will help us track inefficiencies.

"The RIDE WMA online tool provides a great first step for advocates evaluating potential transit gaps in western Massachusetts" said Jacob Dolinger, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission senior planner/GIS analyst. "It also helps inform the public of transit options in the area and provides an opportunity for contributions to advocacy through the submission of email comments."

The Ride WMA tool aims to break the negative cycle of inadequate services and help make the case for additional funding for public transport in neighborhoods and communities in need across the region.

To access the RIDE WMA transportation tool, visit: <https://www.pvpc.org/RideWMA>.

Researcher finds customer support for companies that cut CEO Pay during COVID

AMHERST – Hospitality businesses that treat employees with care and empathy during times of crisis can activate considerable brand loyalty and generate future business among customers with high ethical idealism, according to a new study co-authored by a researcher in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Photo courtesy of UMass Amherst. **Melissa Baker, associate professor and chair of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at UMass Amherst.**

Melissa Baker, associate professor and chair of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and her co-authors, led by Yeonjung Kang of the University of Kentucky, found that firms confronted with a crisis not of their own making, such as a natural disaster or global pandemic, can unlock significant goodwill among more empathetic customers by supporting employees. These customers put a premium on supporting businesses that prioritize ethics over profits in efforts to stabilize operations following a crisis.

Take for example, the COVID-19 pandemic. The study finds that hospitality companies that cut executive pay rather than laid off or furloughed em-

ployees as an initial response to sharp financial losses caused by the pandemic were more likely to benefit from brand support, positive word-of-mouth and planned future purchases from customers with high ethical idealism - potentially creating a loyal and lucrative customer base for the long term.

"Customers are supporting brands that they believe in," Baker said. "These customers can be the most loyal, which then equates to better positive word-of-mouth, more purchasing and greater overall support for that brand."

The research indicates that more altruistic efforts by companies did not yield the same results among customers with lower ethical idealism. In addition, firms that opted to lay off employees rather than take other cost-cutting measures did not suffer reputational harm for doing so.

"Our findings provide a clear message that hospitality firms need to look at both the short-term and long-term consequences of their actions," Baker said. "You have to save the money so your business can stay afloat, but

Please see **RESEARCH**, page 12

SCHOOL from page 3

decisions and also shared a discontent with what she felt had been a slow uptake on the part of NEASC with regards to issues of diversity in education.

Once a formal motion to withdraw from NEASC was made, Dixon raised a number of further concerns, including how the decision would be presented to families and if withdrawal would discourage SHHS from focusing on things that are already being done well. He also asked if committee members would be able to see an example of a NEASC report before voting.

Ultimately, the motion to withdraw was tabled in a vote that was itself split 3-2, with Chairperson Eric Friesner casting the decisive vote. With the successful motion to table, no vote was taken during the meeting on the issue of withdrawal itself, and consideration of the issue was scheduled to be taken up at the School Committee's next meeting on Feb. 15.

In comments obtained by telephone, Alyson Geary, director for the NEASC Commission on Public Schools, said that she had not been aware of these discussions from the School Committee, but expressed disap-

pointment that South Hadley was considering withdrawal.

When comparing accreditation and DESE monitoring, "the biggest difference with accreditation is it really provides a 360-degree view of the school," Geary said.

She explained that this meant considering not only test scores but also a number of qualitative measures ranging from the quality of a school's facilities and services to the nature of a school's core beliefs and vision for their graduates.

She said that NEASC membership went far beyond an audit once every decade and included

professional development opportunities, webinars and conferences that enable schools and their staff to be "part of a community of learners and schools that want to work together to help each other improve."

She also highlighted that NEASC audits and monitoring were conducted by peer review, with fellow educators coming in to review member schools, as opposed to an external entity. This also meant that member schools are able to send their own staff out for opportunities to peer review other schools, experiences that are often valuable for professional development, she said.

Geary did acknowledge that there had been a recent decline in NEASC membership across the Pioneer Valley but added that she found it was not uncommon for schools that had dropped accreditation to request information or consider rejoining within five to ten years.

She also said that NEASC standards of accreditation had been updated in 2018. This was more recent than the last audit of SHHS, which took place in 2016.

Up-to-date information about these standards can be found online at <https://www.neasc.org/standards-public>.

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Events and announcements

SOUTH HADLEY – The following announcements pertain to events that will be occurring in and around South Hadley.

Auditions 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 for South Hadley residents

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.

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. 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.



BBB warns about scammers posing as friends

If a friend asks for a favor, you do it, no questions asked. Right? Time to rethink that policy.

In this new con, a scammer poses as a friend asking for a simple favor. The email is so convincing that Better Business Bureau staff almost fell for it.

How this scam works

You get an email that appears to be from a friend or family member. The message looks harmless and casual – like something a friend might really write.

For example, one version reads: "Hi, how are things going with you? Are you busy? I need a quick favor." The message even ends with "Sent from my iPhone."

Concerned about your friend, you reply and ask for more details. The "friend" quickly responds that they are trying to buy a gift card for their niece's birthday.

However, they are traveling and having trouble purchasing the card online. "Could you get it from any local grocery store around you?" reads the email. "I'll pay you back as soon as I am back."

The request sounds reasonable. But if you do buy the gift card, your "friend" will ask you to share the card's PIN and/or send a photo of the back of the card.

Unfortunately, by doing this you are essentially handing money to the scammer. It's nearly impossible to get the money back because gift cards do not have the same protections as credit or debit cards.

How to avoid similar scams

Reach out to your friend directly – If you get an unusual request, call or text your friend to confirm their

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, starting 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.

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.



story. No matter how harmless the story sounds, always double-check before sending someone money.

Use gift cards wisely – Never do business with anyone who insists on payment with gift cards. Remember, providing the numbers from the back of a gift card is just like sending cash.

For more information

For more information about this scam and others, visit BBB.org.

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

CAMPUS NOTES

Western New England University names South Hadley students to Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 700 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. The Dean's List acknowledges those who have achieved a semester GPA of 3.30 or higher, showcasing their remarkable scholastic accomplishments. The following Dean's List students are from South Hadley:

Emily Chartier is majoring in Integrated Liberal Studies.

Logan Watts is majoring in Information Technology.

Emma Boryczka is majoring in Business Analytics & Information Management.

Abdul Azeem Chaudhry is majoring in Finance.

Robert Walsh is majoring in General Business.

Kaily Godek is majoring in Sport Management.

Shelby Edwards is majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Western New England University celebrates South Hadley students named to President's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 500 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

The President's List acknowledges those who have achieved a semester GPA of 3.80 or higher, showcasing their remarkable scholastic accomplishments. The following President's List students are from South Hadley.

Eric Cabezudo-Peters is majoring in Construction Management.

Kenny Tran is working toward a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Lions Club offers 'Groundhog Fuel Assistance Fund'

GRANBY – Once again this winter heating season, the Granby Lions Club has established an Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund for Granby residents.

This fund, titled the "Groundhog Fund," will enable residents of Granby to obtain needed assistance for fuel to help them through the next six weeks of winter.

The Lions Club Groundhog Fund will begin helping residents on Feb. 2 and will continue until March 16.

Residents who would like to apply for needed assistance are asked to complete an application and these applications are available in the Senior Center/Council of Aging Office at 10 West State St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday; and at the Office of the Town Clerk at 215B West State St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m.-noon on Friday.

The Granby Lions Club appreciates the continuing support that the community of Granby gives to its projects and activities.

RESEARCH from page 11

also understand that not taking care of your employees, particularly at the expense of keeping CEO pay high, may affect your long-term brand support."

The researchers note that their findings give credence to the old saying "heroes rise in tough times," and that this appears to be a case of consumers evaluating corporate efforts to protect employees more highly because of the hardship companies also face.

"It's harder to quantify employee productivity and emotions, but hospitality is a team sport, and business is a team sport, so you have to have great employees and need to support your employees for your business to be successful," Baker said.

The findings are based on more than 400 responses to experimental design surveys from across the United States using the online crowdsourcing tool MTurk.

The complete study appears in the latest issue of *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly*.

Brothers share Bigfoot encounters in presentation at library

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – About 20 people gathered at the Huntington Public Library on Jan. 30 to consider the possible existence of Bigfoot or Sasquatch—large, hairy animals who walk on two feet.

Brothers Eric and Tim Vogel gave a “Bigfoot 413” presentation, where they shared their investigations and encounters with the shy and elusive creatures.

Encounters often include loud whoops, “wood knocks” and objects such as pebbles, sticks or rocks being thrown at them.

Their interest harkens back to 1976, when the teenage brothers found themselves talking with Bigfoot investigators from around the country, who had come to Western Massachusetts to examine tracks found in Agawam. While the incident was eventually discovered to be a hoax, perpetrated by a child, who fashioned plywood “feet” to create them, the stories shared by the investigators sparked an interest that would be renewed years later.

In the 1990s and again in 2004 the outdoor enthusiasts were leading camping tours with their business, Tekoa Mountain Outdoor Programs. Several times, they experienced odd noises on their trips that they could not explain.

But in 2013, Tim said, they “had an experience and it’s one we can’t un-have.” The two were on a wilderness canoe trip to a remote area in the Adirondacks near Saranac Lake. It was September, they had set up camp on an island and went out fishing for bass.

They had paddled up a stream that fed the lake when two trees on shore started shaking and they heard a scream that vibrated into their chests, described as “like being at a Ted Nugent concert.” They returned to their campsite but slept little that night.

“We didn’t talk about it for a while,” Tim said. Tim, who is a ranger at the Moses Scout Res-



Turley photo by Wendy Long

Tim and Eric Vogel are investigators, who lead excursions to areas where Bigfoot has been spotted or encountered.

ervation in Blandford, said he’s had a number of bear encounters in his work. “Bears just run,” he said. “This thing yelled and screamed and threw sticks and rocks at them for 10-15 minutes.” And the footprint casts that they have since acquired after other encounters are clearly not bear tracks. They not only lack claws, but the big toes on bear prints are the reverse of ours, unlike Bigfoot tracks.

A few years later, they heard a recording that was purportedly of a Bigfoot scream and recognized the sound as the one they’d heard in 2013. While Bigfoot are usually thought to be a phenomenon in the Pacific Northwest, the Vogels report that there have been numerous encounters in the Northeast. The first recorded sighting in Massachusetts dates back to 1765, when a hunter in Great Barrington reported seeing one sleeping by a stream. In 1895, a North Adams newspaper printed a town selectman’s account of seeing one.

And in 1958, the term “Bigfoot” was crafted when Jerry

Crew of Humboldt County, California made a plaster cast of 16” footprints. Journalist Andrew Genzoli reported on the finding and coined the term “Bigfoot.” Native Americans have a number of different terms for the creatures, but the most commonly known is Sasquatch.

The Vogels have since added Bigfoot investigations or “going Squatching” to their expedition business. There are three types of encounters: Class A, which are actual sightings; Class B, which are sounds and physical things like rocks being thrown or footprints being discovered and Class C, which are third party stories.

They say there have been 64 such reports in Western Massachusetts since 2000, including 14 Class A sightings in Hampden, Hampshire and Berkshire Counties. Encounters have also been reported in the

Worcester and Boston areas, on Cape Cod, and in the “Bridgewater Triangle,” a 200 square mile area in Eastern Massachusetts with numerous

reports of paranormal phenomena including Bigfoot sightings. And, of course, many of us have seen the 15 second video footage taken by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in 1967 of a Sasquatch walking; according to the Vogels, still the best proof of a Bigfoot to date as no one has been able to debunk the footage. The Vogels report that there are more sightings in the spring and fall, when the creatures might be foraging and fewer in winter, suggesting that they might even hibernate. Sightings, when they happen, are often very brief and despite loud wood knocks and screams, the creatures can move very quietly through the woods.

The Vogels have become part of Bigfoot Field Research Organization, a network of believers who share data, experiences and connect evidence with experts. There is a linguist, for example, who believes that the vocalizations such as whoops, screams and whistles are a form of communication; that person also rules out recordings of things like owls. There are others who can examine the footprint casts of tracks and determine an estimated height and weight of the creature.

During one rainy encounter, the brothers discovered two solid tracks and covered them with bark to protect them. The next day, they returned with a guy, who had casting equipment. As they approached the track they heard a scream from the top of the mountain. The tracks showed a heel depth of 4 inches prints that are 9 inches wide and 17-½ inches in length and about seven feet between the prints.

According to a BFRO investigator, the Bigfoot that made those tracks would have weighed about 900 pounds. The presenters also played a recording made by a local couple from an encounter in Blandford that was reviewed by the linguist and found to be “in the range.” Although the Vogels admit that the recording was nothing like the scream they heard in the Adirondacks, which they felt was much more aggressive and threatening.

For two hours, participants were spellbound as the Vogels described their additional experiences with Bigfoots. They’ve joined BFRO investigators on seven trips, all of which resulted in Class A or Class B encounters. “We’ve had multiple experiences because we go where they’ve been seen,” Eric said.

One of the odder things reported by witnesses including the Vogels is seeing a blue or white orb, about the size of a softball, hovering near a Bigfoot sighting. “We’ve been told that it’s just energy,” said Eric.

“Weather people call it ball lightning.”

And some of the attendees have had their own encounters with Bigfoot. Lisa Haramut of Westfield said that both she and her father have had run-ins. “When they scream, they can interrupt your internal organs and cause vomiting or blood in your urine,” she said, adding that her father had experienced this. The Vogels had also heard similar reports, but had not experienced it themselves. Haramut also reported being chased by an orb while driving in an area where she believes she had also encountered one or more juvenile Bigfoots and was subjected to them throwing small rocks at her and whooping.

Shared stories had some common denominators. Many happened in steep, rugged terrain and often when it was raining. In addition to screams, wood knocks and thrown objects, sightings can sometimes be accompanied by a terrible “musk” smell.

The brothers feel it is important not to assign human characteristics to Bigfoot. “I try not to humanize Bigfoot because it’s in the animal world,” Tim said. His brother concurred.

If people had a similar experience, the Vogels invite them to contact them by emailing wildguide1@yahoo.com or calling 413-454-1296 or Tim or emailing wildguide2@yahoo.com or calling 413-207-1154 for Eric.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts names new CEO

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER – Following an extensive and thorough search process, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is excited to announce the appointment of Theresa Lynn as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Lynn brings with her a wealth of experience in non-profit leadership, having most recently served as Senior Vice President of the United Way of Central Massachusetts where she focused on fundraising, communications and some large grantmaking opportunities. Her dedication to community engagement is evident through her roles as the executive director for Back on My Feet, addressing homelessness and job insecurity in Boston, and as the executive director for ReadBoston for an impressive 14 years.

She currently serves as a board member for the Worcester Education Collaborative and BioBuilder Education Founda-

tion.

“I’ve long been a fan of Girl Scouts’ legacy experiences – from outdoor adventure to the iconic cookie program – and an admirer of the cutting-edge STEM initiatives that create one-of-a-kind experiences,” Lynn said in a press release. “I’m thrilled for the opportunity to join Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and work alongside the staff, adult volunteers and community supporters who are deeply committed to serving today’s members in exciting, future-focused ways because the need for female leadership has never been greater.”

Lynn holds a master’s degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a master’s degree in business

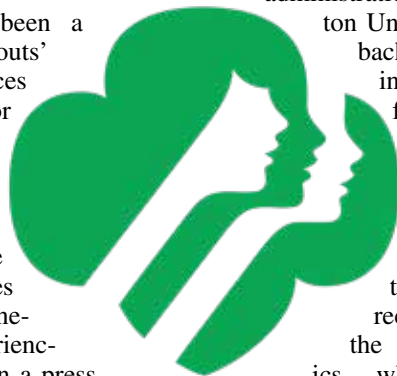
administration from Boston University, and a bachelor’s degree in economics from the College of Holy Cross. Her contributions in the community have been recognized by the Boston Celtics, who presented her with a Heroes Among Us award, and by the Boston Business Journal, which acknowledged her as a Top 40 Under 40

leader in Boston.

Nicole Messier, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Board Chair, expressed the organization’s excitement, stating, “We are so proud to welcome Theresa to the Girl Scouts family. Her proven leadership, innovative vision, and unwavering commitment to empowering young people align seamlessly with the values that define our organization. We are confident that under her guidance, GSCWM will continue to thrive and inspire the next generation of leaders. We’re thankful to the search committee for their dili-

gence in selecting a leader who shares our commitment to fostering a supportive and empowering environment for the members we serve. We look forward to the positive impact Theresa will undoubtedly make as she leads us in fulfilling our mission of developing girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.”

With Lynn at the helm, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is poised to embark on a new chapter of growth, innovation, and positive influence in the 186 communities it serves.



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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

The following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

2009 Nissan Murano JN8AZ18W69W113796 Brandon. Bridger 168 Essex St., Apt. 1L Holyoke MA 01040

2011 Honda Accord 1HGCP2F69BA102783 Gilka Rolon Arroyo 136 Alderman St. Springfield, MA 01108

2004 Infiniti G35 JNKCV51F04M711869 Ruth Gallego 116 King St., 2nd Fl Springfield, MA 01109

2007 Jeep Compass 1J8FF47W37D185652 Jordan Langlois 75 Commercial St., Apt C101 Adams, MA 01220

2013 Dodge Avenger 1C3CDZAG1DN770559 Dayquan Collins 48 Indian Leap St. Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2000 Honda Accord 1HGCG6694YA095784 Raymond Campos

62 Locust St., Apt 1 Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 Hyundai SONATA 5NPEU46F76H069664 Roland Webb 100 Northampton Ave., Apt 2 Springfield, MA 01109

2005 Ford Freestyle 1FMDK06145GA68534 Alberto Rivera 168 Pearl St. Holyoke, MA 01040

2007 Chrysler Sebring 1C3LC56R87N561782 Samantha Powell 149 Brayton Hill Ter North Adams, MA 01247

2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1C4RJFBG6HC853076 Jennifer Spracklin 507 Alvord Pl. South Hadley, MA 01075

2007 Ford Focus 1FAPP37N17W272417 Jean Serrano 45 Willow St., Apt 408 Springfield, MA 01103

2012 Toyota Prius v JTDZN3EU4C3130842 Boston Real Estate Concierge LLC 12 Milford St. Boston, MA 02118

2009 Hyundai SANTA FE NMSH73E69H276665 Angela Levesque 11 Governor St., Apt 11 Springfield, MA 01104

2012 Hyundai SONATA 5NPEC4AC9CH386633 Jeremiah Johnson 16 Wolcott St., 1st Fl Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 BMW 330xi WBAVD335X6KV61576 Edwin Morales 135 Belmont Ave. Springfield, MA 01108

2005 Kia Spectra KNAFE162055089926

Emilio Gonzalez 688 High St., Apt 2L Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Mercedes-Benz C-Class WDDGF8BB3CR193504 Matthew Gonzalez 4335 Arbor Wood Ct. Burtonsville, MD 20866

2007 Toyota Yaris JTDBT923971141326 Mairi Eames 16827 Sarahs Pl., Apt 104 Clermont, FL 34714

2002 GMC Envoy 1GKDDT13S222296243 Luz Luna 53 Nursery St. Springfield, MA 01104

2013 Nissan Altima 1N4AL3AP8DN429426 Jose Rivera Marrero 113 Exchange St., Apt C Chicopee, MA 01013

2003 Honda Pilot 2HKYF1859H561831 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 1GNDDT13S652372859 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

2013 Nissan Rogue JN8AS5MV1DW605167 Kenneth Martin 24 Capitol Rd. Springfield MA 01119

2003 Honda CR-V SHSRD78453U150891 Elspeth Diaugustino 86 Paulk Ter Springfield, MA 01128

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 JMI1BJ2231Y0260105 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 1FAFP56S8YA137453 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

2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J4GR48K26C204527 Shamaris Canovas 802 Newbury St. Springfield, MA 01104

02/2, 02/9, 02/16/2024

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. to consider a Special Permit application filed by the Wainscott Builders, LLC to expand/alter an existing dimensionally nonconforming structure located at 299 N Main Street, Assessor's Map 24 Parcel 56 pursuant to 255-7 (Existing uses, buildings and structures; nonconforming uses); Article IX (Special Permits); 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/81032523799?pwd=e j F U d G F M b v Z I Z O I E c V A 2 N F F v a W R 5 Z z 0 9 Or join by phone: +1(646) 931 3860 Webinar ID: 810 3252 3799 Passcode: 858361

The property is located within the Residential A-2 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'- 'Special Permit' under section 'N Main Street (299) - Nonconforming Structure' or can be viewed at: https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits. 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 02/09, 02/16/2024

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@southhadleyma.gov 02/02, 02/09/2024

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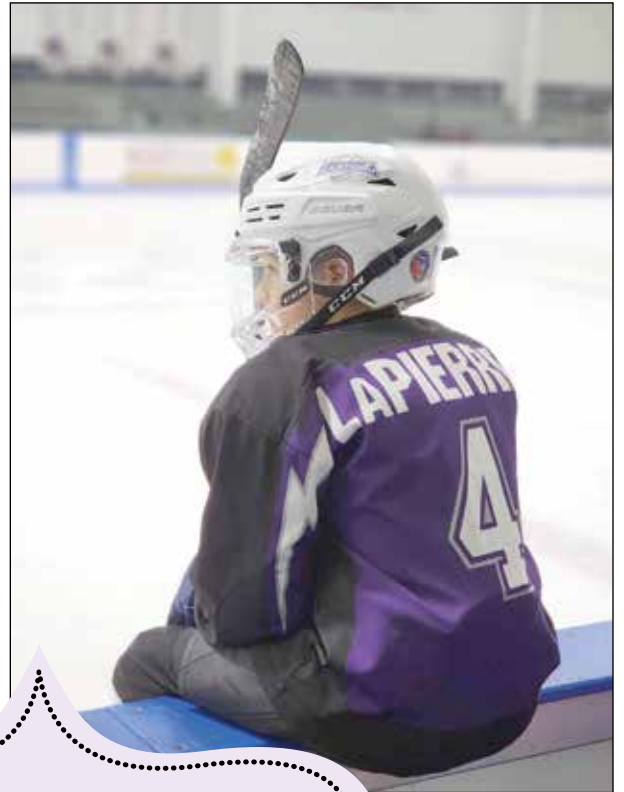
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Owen Harris gets back in position.



Landon Charles gets ready for his hockey game.

SOUTH HADLEY YOUTH SPORTS celebrated

Photos courtesy of Tina Lesniak.



Eric Aubrey, won first place over the weekend at the Quabbin Youth wrestling match.

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