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MASTER GARDENE

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

SOUTH HADLEY - With spring just around the corner, people are looking into gardens but may not know where to start, or how to make their gardens better.

The Council on Aging hosted Master Gardeners Beth Carmichael and Margery Gerard to the center to hold a two-part series on how to set up a vegetable garden for success.

Carmichael and Gerard are from the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and also works at the Full Circle Food Pantry, which raised over 1 ton of food for Neighbors Helping Neighbors last year.

Carmichael set up a time to share with those in attendance about how to set up your vegetable garden for success, or how to improve the one you have.

"Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just starting, you want to consider a couple things," said Carmichael. "You can do an incred-

ible amount with very little." Things you need to ensure



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Master Gardeners Beth Carmichael and Margery Gerard with a table of resources getting ready to teach about making your garden the best it can be.

that you have the time, space, and economic and environmental resources in order to start a garden.

An easy way to start is through ensuring you find some nursery plants, good soil, good timing for planting, beneficial fertilizers, a good source of sunlight, and a reliable water source.

"Gardens are a little bit like real estate- location, location, location," said Carmi-

The location of the gardens is important and should face south with 6-8 hours of

> Please see **GARDENER**, page 9



Budget cuts looming

First draft of wschool plan presented

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

SOUTH HADLEY -The School Committee held their final budget meeting before the public budget meeting and discussed several cuts for the school committee.

"Please know that everything being brought to the committee tonight are proposed cuts to meet a proposed budget," said Friesner. "These aren't set in stone, nor are they necessarily supported at this point by the committee."

The March 6 meeting was held by Chair Eric Friesner, and he was accompanied by Vice Chair Danielle Cooke, and members Jack Witkowski and Jackson Matos.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark Mc-Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Voyik, and Student Representative Peyton Leclair.

Proposed Budget Presentation

At the last School Committee meeting, they dis-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5

Corridor plan discussed at planning board meeting

By Walter Hamilton Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY -Three proposed zoning districts along Routes 202 and 33 between the Granby and Chicopee lines, that could encourage a wider variety of housing with business uses, were unveiled at a Planning Board hearing on Monday.

The proposed zoning amendments were prepared by the town's planning staff and professional planning consultants and a 23-page report was endorsed on March 3 by a vote of the Routes housing options and integrate 202/33 Corridor Advisory Committee. The advisory

group included district homeowners and business owners, at-large town residents and a Planning Board member.

The committee's recent approval of the proposed draft bylaw amendments followed almost five years of committee meetings, public forums and findings by grant-financed consultants that led to the publication of the 110page Routes 202/33 Corridor Plan in early 2022. That plan itself was built upon conditions identified in the town's 2020 Master Plan update.

A Residential Core (RC) and two Residential Mixed Use (RMU) zones would be added, if approved by the Planning Board and Town

Meeting, as the town's sixth "Overlay District" in town bylaws. The proposed zones are designed "to enhance the Route 202/33 corridor by promoting a walkable, pedestrian-and bicycle-friendly, mixed-use, and residential environment with diverse housing options," according to the advisory committee report.

The proposed districts span the corridors of Route 202 from the Granby line to its intersection with Route 33, and then to the Chicopee line. A Residential Core zone would separate the two Residential Mixed Use zones from the area of Easy Street on 202

Please see **PLAN**, page 2

New Girl Scout troop comes to town

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

SOUTH HADLEY - Girl Scouting is an excellent way to make friends and allows for young girls to begin to learn about themselves in a safe environment with other girls their age.

A new Girl Scout Troop, Troop 65556, is here in town, and is a Daisy troop, open to girls in kindergarten and first grade, and is looking to welcome more friends into their

Celia Overby, a leader of the troop, is proud of her girls and the work and excitement already completed within the first two weeks of their meetings.

The troop meets every other Sunday afternoon, and the Daisies have fun making crafts, and learning about the Girl Scout Law. The troop of six girls is eager to learn

"I grew up in the Girl Scouts, and I moved abroad, and I was a Girl Guide. It was the one consistent thing when I was growing up," Overby said.

Overby was a Girl Scout her whole life, even continuing in Girl Guides when she more for a time, and served as a camp counselor, and on the Girl Scout Council for a

"The girls already loved it, and are just on the first day," said Overby. "Learn-



Submitted photo

Celia Overby and her daughter, Grady Overby looking over their Girl Scout book together.

ing about how to organize and have skills as a leader are life-changing. These are definitely skills that I learned through Girl Scouting."

The troop meetings began as just an hour long, and by their second and most recent meeting, grew up to two hours as the girls found they loved their time together.

"The girls mostly want to be able to spend time with one another and have fun. As Daisy's you earn these petals, which are the badges on the front of the uniform. Each petal represents the different parts of the Girl Scout Law," said Overby.

During their first meeting, they learned about the center of the daisy, which stands for the promise to commit to the Girl Scout Law, and what it means.

Their second meeting was on the first petal, which is light blue, and focuses on what it means to be honest and fair, an important part of being a Daisy.

The girls at this meeting played a game with beads

Please see **SCOUTS**, page 3

ConCom discusses plans

By Emily-Rose Pappas Staff Writer

epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - The Conservation Commission met to discuss and plan a site plan for The Mill at Stony Brook, and spent some time discussing a new Field Management Plan.

The Conservation Com-

mission met on March 5, and was held by Chair April Doroski. Also in attendance were members Tom Dennis, Terry Rosenfeld, and Jill Pietrantonio.

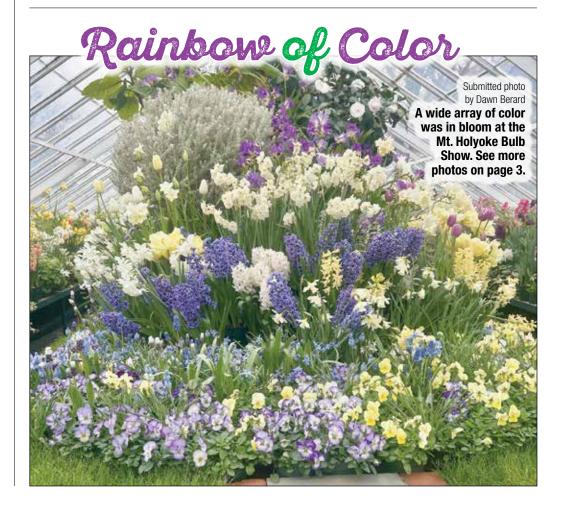
There was also a student member, Isabella, as well as Conservation Administrator and Planner Rebekah Cornell and Colleen Canning with the Conservation Department.

Field Management Plan

Rebekah Cornell brought forward a two-page proposal from Cheryl Cesario from the American Farmland Trust for how farmer McCray is intending to reclaim the hayfield at 240 Ferry Street.

Cornell summarized the

Please see **ConCom**, page 6



South Hadley

Spring Forward Showcase preview event March 21

SOUTH HADLEY—The Showcase South Hadley 2025 festivities kick off early with a FREE Spring Forward preview event starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 21 at the South Hadley Council on Aging located at 45 Dayton Street.

The event will be presenting local food, student entertainment, and a feature performance by the Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra.

Come join in the fun and learn more about the big weekend of arts, culture, entertainment and family fun activities planned for Showcase South Hadley to be held April 26th and 27th.

Special thanks to our early sponsors for their critical financial support: Republic Services, Private Financial Design, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, SHELD, PIP Marketing Signs Print, Mark



Showcase South Hadley Spring Forward preview to feature local food, fun and entertainment for all ages, and FREE of charge.

Teed/Raymond James, Chap-deLaine's Interiors, and Ver-yl's Automotive.

Showcase South Hadley is made possible with the generous support of the Town of South Hadley, the South Hadley Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, local businesses, individual donors, and MASH (Music and Arts South Hadley).

More information about the Spring Forward preview event and the full Showcase South Hadley weekend can be found by visiting the Showcase South Hadley website at www.southhadleyarts.org or the Showcase South Hadley Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ShowcaseSouth-Hadley.

A night celebrating women March 27

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Council on Aging is holding our first event to recognize and celebrate women in the area.

The event will be held Thursday, March 27 from 2 to 6:30p.m. at the Senior Center. Registration is requested. This event is free and open to all ages.

This event will be a multi-facetted event including over 10 vendors (women

owned businesses) with items for sale. The Social Hour will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. and will include refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. This hour will provide an opportunity for mingling with distinguished women in the community.

Guest speakers will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. which will include Kristen Elechko, The Western Mass. Director, office of Gov. Healy. A newly appointed position to represent Western Mass. Lisa Wong, South Hadley Town Administrator and Kari Kastango - the first person to swim the Connecticut River.

The evening will conclude with a performance by The Pearls from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Pearls are a fabulous, all female singer group. The Pearls are sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

All Saints' Church Lenten Lunches Return on Fridays

SOUTH HADLEY—Drive-Up, Pick-Up and Enjoy the Lenten Lunches which will return to All Saints' Church on March 14, March 28 and April 11. Chair Person, Laura Marsh, says "that lunches should be ordered each week in advance by calling the All Saints' Church office at 413-532-8917, and leaving an order on line or with the Parish Administrator." Prices will

be available on request.

This year the menu offers three choices:

- Lobster Roll*, chips and dessert Brownie
 Tuna Salad Roll*, chips
- and dessert Brownie(*gluten free rolls may be
- purchased on request.)

 A Cup of Clam Chow-
- A Cup of Clam Chowder or A Cup of Vegetable Soup, crackers, and dessert Brownie

All items are made by our volunteers in the Church Kitchen, and picked up outdoors between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the All Saints' parking area behind the Church off Dunlop Place. Proceeds benefit area mission projects.

On alternate Fridays in Lent, March 21 and April 4, lunches are available at

St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley Falls.

PLAN from page 1

nearly to the 202-33 intersection. Almost all properties within district boundaries were those with direct frontage on the state highways.

Michael Beauchemin, an advisory board member and resident of Columbia Street, a portion of which is within the proposed RC zone, said the proposal followed "lots of (public) meetings" at the Senior Center and Public Library. The result was a plan for "a more walkable" area that offers flexibility in an area with "many diverse places."

"All comments (at the public meetings) were taken into consideration and we (the board) have made adjustments," Beauchemin said. "We have made it (zoning) more consistent. That was our goal."

The advisory committee report includes a chart that designates the proposed uses to be allowed in the residential zone and others in the mixed use zones. It can be accessed through the following link: https://southhadley.org/1400/Route-202-33-Corridor-Re-Zoning.

Construction of two- and three-family dwellings would be allowed by right in both districts. Conversion of single-family to two-family dwellings would be allowed by right in both zones.

Conversion of a single-family dwelling to a three-family home would be allowed, by site plan review in RC, and by right in RMU, and is defined as "a building that is divided into three dwelling units. Each unit has an independent entrance either directly from outside the building or through a common vestibule. Each must share a common wall or common floor/ceiling with at least one other unit."

A new provision would acknowledge the state-man-

dated construction of accessory dwelling units in single family areas. They are banned in the mixed use areas.

The residential zone bans all businesses, except for professional businesses, defined elsewhere in zoning bylaws, following a site plan review.

In the mixed use area, some businesses, such as offices, professional, artistic, maker/artisan space-studio co-working spaces and brewery, winery, distillery endeavors, would be allowed from a menu of by right, special permit and site plan review,

Restaurants and retail sales would be allowed with restrictions based on their size. Accessory outdoor retail displays would require a special permit.

Banned new businesses include drive-in services, gas stations, auto repair, open-air parking and garages, automotive dealers, marinas, warehouses, wholesale sales, telephone exchanges, amusement parks, bowling alleys, roller rinks, open-air theaters, farm product sales and adult entertainment.

New dimensional regulations for both RC and RMU have been proposed. A new category called Cottage Cluster Development for both zones has also been proposed.

By a 3-1 vote by the advisory committee on March 3, proposed minimum frontage for the RC zone was set at 75 feet, from 100 feet, in order to equate any new development with the majority of existing properties, many of which do not now conform with current regulations. It was also favored for its ability to provide innovative configurations of dwellings on larger parcels.

Smaller lots would create an opening that could bring in ... more affordable houses," said Nate Therien, an advisory board and Planning Board member.

The Cottage Cluster concept shown to the 202/33 Corridor Advisory Committee at its March 3 meeting drew praise from two of its members, Dan Luis and Ken

LeBlanc. Both are developers and builders. The model presented partly resembles a type of religious revival housing constructed in the 19th Century. A famous example, the Wesleyan Grove, is located in Oak Bluffs on the island of Martha's Vineyard.

The concept also includes stand-alone homes limited to one and one-half stories to be situated around a small landscaped common area with seating, similar to a members-only classic English garden. A driveway encircling a maximum of 12 clustered homes, altogether on slightly less than a half-acre, would form the perimeter of the common lot. Vehicles would have space for parking behind the homes off the common driveway.

Several critics of the proposed bylaw warned that more development, especially in the plan's mixed use area along Willimansett Street, Route 33, would worsen already-bad traffic. Some also questioned the wisdom of allowing apartment buildings with heights up to the current business zone limits of 45 feet

(four story) and up to 60 feet for buildings with restaurants that require first-floor extra height for mechanical ventilation systems.

David Isakson, owner of Diamond Automotive, an auto repair business at 180 Willimansett St., said the ban on businesses such as his would create uncertainty for investment in his properties and their eventual sale upon his retirement.

"My complaint is (of) changing my zoning. I know it is going to affect me," he said.

Planning Chair Diane Mulvaney responded that the proposal would have three more hearings over the spring and summer.

"All are valid points," she said, adding, "Nobody wants to destroy your business or home."

Provisions for a Site Plan Authority is proposed that would allow members to review a proposal during the Site Plan Review and Special Permit process.



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Carl G. Johanson Scholarship Fund

Eligible applicants must be a resident of South Hadley, a graduate, or soon to be graduate, from South Hadley High School and enrolled or accepted in a college Engineering Program. This Scholarship Award is limited to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

Applications for the Scholarship Fund may be obtained at the High School or the South Hadley Electric Light Department. Completed applications must be returned **no later than Friday, April 11, 2025** to the South Hadley Electric Light Department,

Attn: Johanson Scholarship, 85 Main Street, South Hadley, MA. Successful applicants will be notified.





SCOUTS from page 1

and cups, and each cup had a different amount of beads. The goal of the game was to make the beads equal and fair amongst all the girls.

"A lot of it is learning about how to connect with people, and for me it gives me a chance to really connect with my child," said Overby.

The meetings typically begin withdrawing a picture about what the girls did during the week, and then they are each assigned a job like taking attendance, and then discuss what their meeting will be about.

They also read a story about the petal they are working on at that meeting, followed by discussion questions. Afterwards there's a game to be active and a craft to be creative.

"We're making it a little active, a little bit of drawing and making this creative, and play at each of the girls' strengths a little bit," said Overby. "I think they love the art piece most, and we are really trying to bolster that."

They make crafts, and play name games, and see how to really get to know one another, and practice the skills of relationship-building and partnership early.

"What I'm excited about is exposing not only my daughter but other kids about what our responsibility is to our community, and figuring out how to be a really good person just outside of yourself," said Overby.

The troop is meeting through the school year, and is looking to possibly do some events over the summer so the girls can stay in touch.

"I think it really comes back to that feeling that there is a place where they belong, and they can feel that they are good at something, and they can start to look beyond themselves and how much they are able to do," said Overby. "Just having that confidence to be

able to achieve things, those are such great skills to have as you grow."

Their next meeting is on Sunday March 23, and you can sign up to join at the Girl Scout website, www.gscwm. org, and go to the join link. There, you can enter the town and age group, and it will give you the information you'll need to sign up from there.

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Democrats to elect State Convention delegates

SOUTH HADLEY — Democrats in South Hadley will convene in-person on Saturday, March 29, 2025 to elect 10 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our town at the 2025 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention.

The caucus, which is hosted by the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, will take place in the Community Room of the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street in South Hadley. The library is handicapped accessible. Caucus sign-in opens at 12 p.m. and the caucus will start at 12:30 p.m.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in South Hadley who are 16 years old by March 29, 2025 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Qualified Democrats who are unable to attend the caucus in person may apply in advance to be nominated for delegate and alternate slots in the event there are not sufficient nominations among those present at the caucus. To apply, email:

southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com. All candidates must consent to nomination.

Opportunities are available for youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates to apply to the State Democratic Committee to be add-on delegates.

The 2025 Democratic State Convention will be held in-person on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. This year, delegates will gather to discuss and decide our Party's Platform. Convention and delegate information is available at: https://massdems.org/massdems-convention/.

For more information or to get involved with the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, visit southhadleydems.com or email the Committee at southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com. Massachusetts voters may register to vote or check registration online at: www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

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Residents currently or formerly living in Affordable Housing wanted to join South Hadley's newly formed Affordable Housing Trust

We need you to help ensure South Hadley remains a vibrant, inclusive and affordable place to live for all people. If you're passionate about making a difference and want to help guide the future of housing in your community, contact Anne Capra, Director of Planning & Conservation acapra@southhadleyma.gov | (413) 538-5030 x6128





















Did we make a mistake starting my wife's Social Security now?

Dear Rusty:

I hope we haven't made a mistake.

My wife just applied for her Social Security benefit. She was born in May 1962 and the estimated amount of her benefit is \$1,280 per month. Her work income last year was \$5,616; however, mine was about \$65,000. I do not plan on taking my benefit until the age of 70 in July of 2027.

My worry now is about the penalty for earning too much. We figured that since her income was so low, we wouldn't have to worry about that penalty, so we signed her up, and then it hit me: what if they look at my income, especially since our tax return is filed as Married Filing Jointly. Do we have a problem, or are they just going to look at her income to determine if there is a penalty? I hope I haven't messed this up. Also, I think I read that any penalty you are assessed for earning too much is returned to you once you reach Full Retirement Age; is that true?

> Signed: Uncomfortable Senior Citizen

Dear Uncomfortable Senior:

First, let me ease your anxiety – you haven't "messed this up." While it's true that your income will be included when the IRS determines how much of your wife's Social Security benefits are taxable, changing your IRS filing status is usually not wise. However, considering your combined income and your "married/ jointly" IRS filing status, up to 85% of the SS benefits your wife receives during the tax year will be included as part of your overall taxable income as a married couple. Your wife's monthly SS benefit is about \$1,280, so about \$13,000 annually will be included in your Adjusted Gross Income when you file your taxes. You can have income tax withheld from your wife's SS benefit by filing IRS Form W-4V at your local SS office (you can have 7%, 10%, 12% or 22% withheld). Note your wife's tax obligation for this year will be less because she will not get SS benefits for all of 2025.

The other thing you are concerned about is whether your income will be counted when determining if your wife will be subject to Social Security's "Annual Earnings Test" and the answer to that is "no." At her current earnings level (about \$5,600), vour wife is well below the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025) for those collecting early Social Se-

curity benefits. So, the AET will not apply and will not reduce your wife's monthly Social Security benefit. FYI, if her earnings did exceed the annual earnings limit, it is true that some of the resulting penalty would be recovered after she reaches her full FRA of 67.

Note the distinction between "taxation of SS benefits" and the "annual earnings test" for those collecting early benefits. Taxation of benefits is always based on your joint income when filing married/jointly, but the Annual Earnings Test looks only at your wife's personal work earnings until she reaches her FRA.

As I expect you already know, by claiming now (at age 62 plus), your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced (by about 26%). Until you later claim your SS benefit, your wife will receive her reduced personal SS retirement amount. But, when you claim, her benefit amount will be reassessed to see if she is also entitled to an incremental amount as your wife. If her SS entitlement at her FRA (even though she claimed at 62+) is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, then her benefit will increase. However, she will not get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA (more likely, she will get about 34% of your FRA entitlement).

In the end, you really did not make a mistake by filing for your wife's Social Security to start now. By the time you personally apply at age 70, your wife will have collected about \$46,000 in Social Security benefits which, I'm sure, will be helpful. And only a relatively modest amount of income tax will be paid on her Social Security benefits.

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

Sweet potatoes get my vote

y dad was a "meat and potatoes" kind Lof guy. Mashed, baked or fried, potatoes were his thing.

Growing up, we usually had potatoes most nights for dinner. Since I have been an adult, I don't eat potatoes very often at all.

I often wonder if that particular Irish gene missed a generation, since I prefer the sweet pota-

to over the regular potato any day of the week. Read on to learn all about this nutritional powerhouse. According to www.nutri-

tiondata.com, sweet potatoes are "low in sodium, and very low in saturated fat and cholesterol. They are also a good source of dietary fiber, vitamin B6 and potassium, and a very good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and manganese.'

If these facts aren't reason enough to try adding this veggie to your garden this growing season, delight in the fact that it is also a very pretty vine!

In fact, once I grew "sweet potato vine" in the planter boxes at Old Sturbridge Village. I didn't know at the time that the variety I was growing also produced bountiful tubers. It was one of those obvious things that I just didn't put together.

It's kind of funny that when I attempted to grow them on purpose at home, they were an utter failure. By the time I peeled the thumbsize roots, there was literally nothing left to eat.

It is time for a refresher on sweet potato culture.

Sweet potatoes require a

long growing season – somewhere between 90-150 days. The tender shoots are cold



sensitive, and must be planted into the ground after all danger of frost has passed. In our area we use Memorial Day as our "frost-free date."

Then, the edible root, aka the sweet potato, must be harvested before the first frost of fall. By my records, the first frost usually occurs in early to mid-October.

This equates to 100 days bare minimum of growing

You can purchase plants through the mail or try sprouting your own from sweet potatoes purchased from the grocery store.

Dick Raymond, author of my favorite gardening book of all time, "Garden Way's Joy of Gardening" (Storey Publishing \$24.95) has some great tips for doing this: Seven or eight weeks prior to Memorial Day, simply cut the spuds in half lengthwise and lay them down in moist peat moss in a shallow tray. Cover with plastic wrap and place in a sunny window until sprouting occurs.

Slips should be separated and planted about six inches deep, twelve to fifteen inches apart from one another.

He advises to water well for the first two weeks; after that sweet potato plants are reportedly somewhat drought

tolerant. When fertilizing, choose a formulation that is a bit lower in nitrogen, other-

wise you will have lots of vines at the expense of sweet potatoes.

Dig up your bounty on a dry day, being extra careful not to damage the skin. Don't leave them exposed to the sun for more than an hour and don't wash them either.

Picky, aren't they?

Fresh sweet potatoes aren't all that sweet - a curing period of two weeks in the dark at 70-80 and at high humidity will bring out the great flavor we are accustomed to. Long-term storage should be at temperatures around 60 degrees.

To make sweet potato fries simply cut the root into thick wedges then toss them with seasoned olive oil (or a favorite salad dressing). Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for one hour, flipping occasionally. Some ketchup as a dip may help reluctant kids to give the "funny orange French fries" a try.

My dad is probably looking down and wishing I did an article on good, old fashioned russets. Sorry, Dad, but Happy St. Patrick's Day anyway!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.





Male and female cardinal

I received an email from a Worthington resident, who reported the one male "red bird" in his yard all winter.

He said, "I feel like I know him and throw seeds to a special place he likes. His habit of showing up in the dim light of dusk and dawn almost makes him shine. He's real quiet right now, but I really look forward to hearing him as it warms up."

The red bird is also known as the northern cardinal. The male cardinal is bright red with black around the base of

its red beak. The female grayish brown above with buffy color below. Her beak is reddish and she has dark around her bill, but not

as black as the male.

Both sexes have crests and are 8 ½ inches long. Although the Worthington resident said the cardinal was quiet now, soon he will sing a series of clear repeated whistles that vary and sound like "whoit whoit whoit, cheer, cheer, cheer." The call is a metallic "chip." Both male and female

The female cardinal lays two to five buff white eggs with dark marks in a nest of twigs, bark strips, vines, leaves, rootlets and paper lined with fine grass and hair. They build their nest in dense shrubbery or among branches

of small trees. Bird watchers may witness mate feeding, a common ritual between a breeding pair. The male picks up a seed and brings it to the female. They touch beaks and his mate takes the offered seed. Mate feeding continues through egg laying and incubation.

Cardinals come to feeders. They feed either on the ground and come to platform style feeders. They prefer sunflower seeds, safflower seeds and cracked corn.

Tuesday morning I saw a female cardinal in a lilac bush. I love to see the male cardinal perched on a snow covered branch or ground especially after newly fallen snow. I have a pair of cardinals, which I usually see early in the morning or at dusk.

Red-winged blackbirds

The Worthington resident saw a red-winged blackbird at his feeder and heard them on snow shoe recent hike by a beaver pond. He said, "They don't sound very confident and I wonder what they find

down there with the pond totally frozen and the cattails denuded by the wind." He said, "The arrival of redwings is exciting for me, as I consider them our first migratory returns.'

Bald eagle

In his email, the same resident wrote about seeing a bald eagle. He said, "Two weeks ago driving along the East Branch in Cummington, I saw an eagle lite in a dead tree, break off a small branch and fly off, hopefully to a new or repaired nest. It sure didn't feel like spring then and even today [written March3] I had zero degrees this morning." He also reports pretty good numbers of goldfinches at his feeder along with the winter regulars.

Brimfield birds

On Feb. 19, I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who sends emails on a regular basis. He said, "Hope you survived our recent bout of nasty weather. Our driveway was cleared on Sunday evening and subsequently turned into a skating rink. Fortunately I had lots of sand and rock salt and a little calcium chloride on hand. Using all of that, I was able to get our cars up and out of the driveway. Of course I had to get the frozen garage doors unstuck before I could get the cars out of the

garage." He took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count of Saturday and Sunday. He said, "I had nine species Saturday, things got a little more interesting on Sunday when there were 15 species seen including an adult sharp-shinned hawk that chased some junco into a quince bush (it missed) and a Carolina wren."

Bluebirds

He had a pair of eastern bluebirds earlier in the day on Feb. 18 and later five bluebirds showed up, two males

Please see **BACKYARD**,

page 5

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.



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BUDGET from page 1

cussed some difficult realities to do with the budget for the school next year, including effects on transportation.

"Tonight is the most important presentation, and that has to do with the additional actions that have had to be taken in order to meet our mandated requirement for a balanced budget," said Mc-Laughlin.

"It's a strange position to be in to present a budget I am not happy with, and do not like," said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin shared a presentation of the final proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

"The FY26 fiscal reality is that even with innovation and efficiencies, the budget is not enough to provide the resources needed to serve the youth of our community with high quality education, growth-oriented extracurricular experiences, clean and well-maintained facilities, and innovative programming," said McLaughlin.

"The complexity of student needs has not diminished since last year. They have increased. The cost of resources needed to provide students with the quality education they deserve has not diminished since last year.'

The first part of the budget presentation at the last meeting, which can be found through accessing the school committee meeting from February 27, and is recorded on the SHCTV website.

The FY26 budget is in total deficit of \$2,162,450, just in order to achieve a Level Services Budget. The committee has set to work to determine their priorities, which include personnel, programming, and services.

"We're at a point where

nothing that we do is going to land upon something of about which there is extra," said McLaughlin. "So, when I talk about personnel, programming, and services, nobody should be happy about cuts to any of these, but we all know that personnel is our most vital resource."

The committee so far has looked at first looking at yellow bus transportation, where the district has some control. They decided to decrease the radius within which this transportation is provided, allowed by state law, and see annual savings of \$250,000 annually, which equates to roughly four teachers saved.

They also discussed special ed transportation, which has increased by \$1 million in only one year, and are looking to move these services inhouse, which would create a \$600,000 annual savings.

Combatting the Deficit: Service Cut

Recommendations After these savings through transportation cuts, the remaining deficit is \$1,312,450, meaning that the reality is now that priorities will be impacted.

High school services include a ski club advisor, math club advisor, debate club advisor, band assistant director, hockey assistant, hockey varsity, outdoor track assistant, swimming varsity, swimming assistant, Band-JV Jazz director, marching band percussion arranger, gaming club, and improv advisor.

The committee talked about these positions and removing them would save the school \$31,676, or half of a teacher's salary. However, Jennifer Voyik shared that there are still many, many positions not being cut.

The middle school services are composed of stipend services such as the Washington DC Field Trip and the Cape Cod Capers, which if cut would result in a total savings of \$19,234.

"So currently the stipends for staff to go on these two field trips are funded from local budget," Voyik said. "And so it doesn't mean that the trips can't happen, what it means is that the funding of those stipends need to be incorporated into the fundraising efforts for these field trips.'

Additional proposed service cuts include the head teacher from each of the four schools, who serve in the absence of the principal, and the substitute callers from each of the four schools. Team leaders at three of the four schools will also be cut.

The total savings from these eleven cut positions will be \$33,795.

The combined savings from the above suggested cuts from Identified Services is \$84,705, leaving still a remaining deficit of \$1,227,755 in order to achieve the level of services the district could provide one year ago.

Reviewing the FY25 Budget

Last year, nineteen paraeducators were reduced, for a total savings of \$418,000. Eight ETAs were added, with a total addition of \$256,000. The net total savings from support staff reductions in FY25 was \$162,000.

McLaughlin shared the different ways they worked towards providing different kinds of services for special education, not to replace personnel, but through recognizing the areas that have deficits, and replacing them.

"I know that there is more work to do," said McLaugh-

This year, the district added back 23 ETAs and paraeducators added back throughout the 2024-2025 school year, with totals into a \$557,000 included in the FY26 budget.

Because of this addition, there is no longer the deficit of \$1,227,755, but \$1,784,755 with the addition of these 23 personnel in order to achieve level services.

Combatting the Deficit: Programming Cut Recommendations

The curriculum reduced the curriculum budget from \$25,000 to \$0, for a further revised deficit to achieve level services for FY26 for a total of \$1,759,755.

"The other thing is, throughout this whole process when we're talking about programming, there are a lot of reductions that happened," Voyik said.

The professional development amount was reduced on the local budget, and there will be more reliance on Title II funds. The costs of paper, library books, and text books are increasing every year.

Combatting the Deficit: Personnel Reductions

For the personnel re-

ductions at the elementary schools, there is proposed one kindergarten teacher, one grade 1 teacher, one special educator at Plains, one transitional therapeutic classroom, one reading interventionist, one math interventionist, and one grade 4 teacher.

For personnel reductions at the middle school, there is proposed two ELA teachers, three math teachers, one reading interventionist, one music teacher, one custodian, and one CNA

For personnel reductions at the high school, there is a proposed one Spanish teacher, a .4 special education teacher, one custodian, and one CNA.

In total, there are proposed 19.4 total positions to cut across all schools.

The impacts would include the class sizes rising: kindergarten for 1:20.2, grade 1 1:20.2, grade 4 1:25.6, grade 5 1:27, grade 6 1:23, grade 7 1:28, grade 8 1:23, Spanish I classes 1:26.6, Spanish II 1:29, Spanish IV and Honors Spanish IV will combine for 1:32, and Latin will be reduced to one section.

McLaughlin shared that he understood the concerns brought up during the public comment period, and shared the specifics of the central office and district-wide roles, and why these positions cannot realistically be cut.

The superintendent and assistant superintendent are in charge of financial responsibilities, Title IX, civil rights,

human resources, overseeing food services, transportation, and technology, and purchasing curriculum.

The director of special education and assistant director of special education are in chare of overseeing the Individual Education Plans of 435 students, or one quarter of the district's entire district.

Other important roles that work hard to support the schools include the director of health services, the mental health coordinator, the assistant principals.

What's Next

McLaughlin shared his remorse for the faculty who have lost their jobs, and for the students who have been directly affected.

The town and district leadership will meet with representative Homar Gomez later this month in order to discuss this failed funding formula, and the impacts on public education.

"It is my strong view that there is strength in common purpose. This is not a good night, and I hope that we can absorb the challenges before us, and mourn those, and that's not too strong a word for me," said McLaughlin. "And then wake up and work in unity together."

The school committee then took time to share in discussion about this proposed budget, and the difficult positions with which they are

BACKYARD from page 4

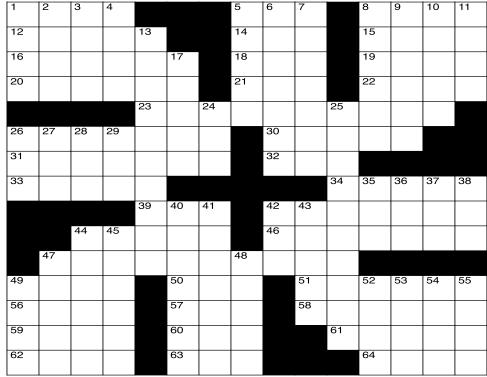
and three females. He said, "That's the most we have ever seen in the yard. Previously we had seen a single bird a few times and a pair investigated a nesting box one year but were chased away by house wrens."

Non-bird critters

During the snow/ice storm in February, my daughter and I saw a wet opossum digging in the snow for seeds while clearling my walk and driveway. On March 1, two of my grandchildren and I saw a porcupine in a tree while driving on our road.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar 12. Concerning
- 14. Expression of recognition
- 15. Greek goddess of
- youth 16. An iPad is one

are two

- 18. Adult beverage 19. Manning and Wallach
- 20. Makes a petty verbal attack
- 21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
- 22. Pointed ends of pens 23. Wristwatches
- 26. Body part 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted

- 32. Turkish honorific title
- 34. Historic Alabama city

- 39. Cub
- 42. Type of sea bass dish 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate 47. Separate oneself from
- 49. Hero sandwiches

others

- 50. Former OSS 51. Open spaces in a
- forest 56. Innermost brain
- membranes
- 57. Fortune 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Doomed queen Boleyn 60. Peyton's little brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Scottish tax
- 63. Soviet Socialist
- Republic 64. An increase in price or value
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Works of body art

- __, Israeli 2. Abba politician
 - 3. A desert in Asia 4. Eat greedily
 - 5. Doomed French queen
 - 6. Beat 7. One who survives on
 - blood 8. As a consequence
 - 9. Counted on 10. Acquired Brain Injury **Behavior Science**
 - 11. Unclean 13. One who does not drink
 - 17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
 - __ student, learns healing
 - 25. Bacterial skin infection 26. Expresses surprise
 - 27. What one says on a wedding day 28. Crony

- 29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
- 35. Unit of length 36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
- 37. More (Spanish) 38. Autonomic nervous
- system 40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
- 41. Statements that something is untrue 42. Greek alphabet letter
- 43. Suspends from above 44. Popular types of cigars 45. Girls
- 47. U.S. philosopher and logician
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance 53. Form of Persian
- 54. Amounts of time 55. Trigonometric function

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MARCH EVENTS

Adult Programs

Nibbling on Native Plants: In Your Backyard and Beyond Wednesday, March 19 at 6 p.m. Native plants aren't just for insects; many people find them delicious too!

Plants that can nourish both groups provide an additional incentive for us to plant them in our yards and landscapes, benefiting all. Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten, for a tour of at least two dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your own landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with details about edible portion(s), season(s) of availability, preparation method(s), and propagation. Russ Cohen's "day job" was serving as the Rivers Advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration. Russ operates a small nursery outside of Boston, where he grows/keeps hundreds of edible native plants, and collaborates with a wide variety of landowning organizations (including the Town of Lexington) to plant them in appropriate places on

USS Glacier AGB-4 Naval Ship Expedition

their properties – a modern-day Johnny Appleseed for wild edibles.

Wedesday, March 26 at 5 - 7 p.m.

Learn about Rich Normandin time onboard the Scientific Navy Ship: The USS Glacier AGB-4. Normandin will talk about his time on the ship traveling from Boston to the Panama Canal and down to New Zealand and Antarctica. Expect close-ups of penguins and navy personnel. You will also see three Navy Icebreakers in action moving an iceberg the size of a city block!

Seed Swap and Garden Chat

Friday, March 21 from 3-4:30

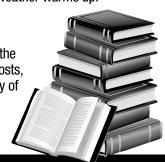
Kick off the garden season with us at a seed swap and garden-planning chat! Bring your extra seeds and trade with other gardeners, or get some from our seed library. We can talk about seed starting and share what worked (or didn't!) last year and what we're planning to plant as the weather warms up.

GeekGal presents: Mysterious Massachusetts

Thursday, March 27 at 6pm

Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon or the Salem Witch Trials. From sea-side ghosts, to UFOs over the Berkshires, Massachusetts has a rich history of paranormal legend, odd events, and strange denizens. In this workshop, we have a look at some of the

most famous of Massachusetts paranormal history.





Needle felting bird ornament workshop

GRANBY—Come explore the exciting world of needle felting! You can learn and practice new skills while making a cute bird ornament. Whether you are new to needle felting or an experienced enthusiast, this fun workshop is for you.

Join fiber artist, Tracy Kochanski, as she helps you develop your needle felting skills. In this workshop you will learn how to choose wool, use proper needle technique and how to sculpt and attach basic shapes to create the various elements of the bird.

Explore form, texture and detail in a relaxed atmosphere while working with an array of wool. All materials and tools will be provided. All experience levels are welcome.

Space is limited to 15, so sign up today by calling the Library at 413-467-3320.

Funding is provided by a grant from the Granby Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033. You may visit granbylibrary.org for more information or call 413-467-

Education

COLLEGE NEWS

Golsa Rajaei named to Ohio University's Fall 2024 Provost's List

OH—Ohio University Chaddock + Morrow College of Fine Arts student Golsa Rajaei of Amherst, MA has been named to OHIO's Fall 2024 Provost's List.

The Provost's List recognition is shared with used to calculate GPA.

high-achieving, part-time undergraduate students who exemplify academic success. Qualifying students must possess a 3.5 or greater GPA and between 6 and 11.99 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are

Bramucci named to College of the Holy Cross' Fall 2024 Dean's List

eron Bramucci of Amherst was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2024 Dean's List.

A member of the Class of 2025, Bramucci was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic

WORCESTER—Cam- achievement during the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

support community JOURNALISM

South Hadley is growing wild

SOUTH HADELY—The Growing Wild South Hadley or the local "growing wilders" as some call themselves - has invited DCR to speak about the statewide initiative Growing Wild Massachusetts.

DCR's program coordinator Patrick Lindquist will be at the South Hadley library community room at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 17. Attendees will be able to take home a native seed mix courtesy

DCR's Growing Wild program is entering its 5th year, and the program has been growing wildly. Join Patrick Lindquist, DCR's program coordinator, for a discussion on pollinator habitats and their role in fostering a more biologically diverse and sustainable future.

He will highlight the

positive outcomes Growing Wild has achieved across the Commonwealth and within DCR over the past five years, reveal exciting developments ahead, and share how you can be a part of the Growing Wild Movement!

DCR is Growing Wild for Pollinators by enhancing our landscapes to benefit pollinators and the environment. For the past few years, DCR staff have been installing pollinator gardens, managing meadows to enhance native plant diversity and converting portions of lawn into low mow zones.

These habitats are installed and maintained following DCR's Pollinator Habitats and Gardens Best Management Practices and with the support of DCR staff, partners and Friend's groups.

Gauthier named to Syracuse Dean's list

SYRACUSE N.Y.—John List recognition, the mini-Gauthier made the Dean's list for the fifth semester in a row at Syracuse University. Gauthier is a junior, majoring in aerospace engineering.

To be eligible for Dean's

mum semester grade point average must be 3.40 or higher, must have earned a minimum of 12 graded credits and must have no missing or incomplete grades.

Candidates night March 18

HADLEY— Know Your Town of South Hadley will sponsor a Candidates' Night for candidates who will be on the April 8, 2025 ballot for local elections.

The program will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, in the Communi-

ty Room of the Main Public ning. Library on Canal Street.

This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to candidates give policy statements and answer audience ques-

Know Your Town member Ira Brezinsky will serve as the Moderator for the eve-

Attendees may meet and greet candidates informally during the social time/ refreshments after the close of the formal part of the pro-

Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship

AGAWAM - Agawam Community Artists and Artisans is now accepting applications for its 2025 Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship.

The scholarship is open to Western Massachusetts high school and college students pursuing art. The application form can be found at www. agawamarts.com. Final date for submission is April 15.

The scholarships are presented in memory of Gloria McLellan, who was a founding member of Agawam Community Artists and Artisans. Creating visual art well into her nineties, Gloria considered herself a lifelong student and teacher, and believed that artists and artisans should be encouraged and supported by their communities.

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans has a mission to promote and encourage participation in art throughout Western Massachusetts.

The public is welcome at our monthly meetings, held every second Wednesday at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, starting at 6 pm.

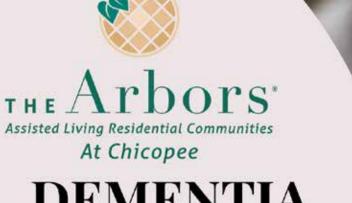
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ConCom from page 1

two-page plan that was sent on February 28, and according to the document, "the proposal is to outline a plan with fructification for farmer Steve McCray to reclaim an unproductive hay field so that it can produce forages that are conducive for dairy production."

The field was documented last fall by Randy Prostak, a Weed Specialist with the University of Massachusetts, and have found wide patches of weeds affecting the fertility of the soil in the field.

The plan put forth a set of five practices based on the best management practices that are in line with agronomic science, and these include amending the soil with lime to fix the pH, apply commercial fertilizers and manure, appropriate herbicides in line with McCray's crop advisor, and have a no-till to increase diverse grass species.

The outline is meant to be for the first year, and McCray will be working closely with Cornell throughout the process, especially regarding the type of fertilizers used, and to ensure that the spray does not go beyond the field's boundar-

Steve McCray will be paying for the field maintenance, and the farmer's license was approved by the Selectboard on March 4.

Cornell shared she would be working out a time to meet with McCray soon to work out the final details of the field management plan.

The Conservation Commission went around and unanimously approved of the field management plan as was presented.

Five-Year Order of **Conditions to be Continued**

The commission held a public hearing segment to consider a request from the SWCA **Environmental Consultants for** a Comprehensive Operations

and Maintenance Plan.

The consultants on behalf of The Mill at Stony Brook, are requesting this five-year Order of Conditions in order to have minor or temporary impacts to the jurisdictional

resource areas.

Cornell stated that "due to their being snow everywhere, the applicant was requesting a continuance to the next meeting to allow the commission to visit when you can actually see the property."

Cornell offered some dates to perform a site visit, and the commission moved to hold the site plan on March 12 at 3 p.m.

at The Mill at Stony Brook. The public hearing will be moved to the March 19 meeting, and the commission moved unanimously to accept the postponement and site visit

Administrator's Report

Eversource Energy reached out the the Conservation Commission about herbicides they will be using on the areas they are working on, and Cornell reminded them of the specific herbicides the town does not permit on the lands.

Cornell also shared that there will be a program at the library on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, at 6 p.m. with a member of the State Growing Wild program to share a talk about the efforts of Growing Wild and what they are doing.

Some of the efforts of the State Growing Wild program involves planting pollinator gardens along state highways, and there will be seeds passed out at the program in partnership with Dave's Natural Gar-

They also received another application from Tighe and Bond, and SHELD will be sharing more about their Meadow's Project at the next meeting.

Cornell also shared that she met with the owner of Quality Fleet Services, and shared that he will be submitted an NOI for the work of removing invasive species and plant more native plants on the property on New Ludlow Road.

At the next meeting, Director Anne Capra and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti will be present to talk about regulations in conservation areas.

They will be also holding a public hearing to ensure that across the board, it is known that dogs need to be on lead in conservation areas.



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SPORTS

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Wrestlers complete tournament competition

Wrestling season has come to an end and several area teams crowned champions at the sectional and state levels.

In the Division 2 state tournament, Max Holloway took home a state title at 215 pounds. Stella Christopher won a state title in the girls meet while Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up. Minnechaug's Kal Ly won the 132-pound bracket while John Bermudez was a runner-up at heavyweight. Holyoke's Steven Santiago finished second in D2 at 120 pounds.

Ludlow's Lucas Alvan was a state champion in the Division 3 meet at 175

In the sectionals held last month, Agawam had a big day with multiple placers. They had four champions. Ryan Sexton at 150, Max Holloway at 215, and Jordin Agosto at 126 all took home titles. Cole Ingham was a runner up at 175, as was Kaleb Progulske at 106. Keymani Rivera (157), and Tyler Gervais (190) both took third place. Agawam would finish third overall in the meet with 204

points. Minnechaug the second-place isher behind champion West Springfield with 213 points. They had two champions, Kal Ly at 132 pounds and John Bermundez at 285. Matthew Macphail and Hunter Gormally had runner-up finishes. The Falcons had one third place finisher and five fourth-place finishers.

Chicopee's Michael Jenkins placed second at 144 pounds.

In the Division 3 Western Mass. tournament at Mt. Greylock, Belchertown, which returned its program to varsity status this season, saw Jack Bergerson finish fourth at 175 pounds and Evan Perkins finish fifth at 150 pounds. Brogan Bottari also took fifth place at 120 pounds.

Ludlow, Granby, Quabbin, and Pathfinder participate in the Central Mass. Championship meet. Ludlow's Lucas Alvan took first place at 175 pounds while Noah Simard was second at 150. Ryan Gomes had a thirdplace finish at 126 pounds.

Quabbin's top finisher was Abe Brown at 126 pounds. He finished in second place. Three others, Brady Dennis at 215, Brent Benoit at 132, and Cole Wilson at 150, all took fourth place in the

meet. Pathfinder had one placer, which was Dominic Jerry at 165 pounds. Granby's Nathan Benson finished fifth at 113 pounds.

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photo-request

Tigers get through quarterfinals, head for state semis



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Maddie Soderbaum eyes the hoop.





Cara Dean fakes and makes a pass.



Olivia Athas gets the standing jumper.



Sophia Butler gets the easy layup.

Streets of Holyoke set for 10K Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The rich tradition that is the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race will make its return next Saturday, March 22. This will be the 48th running of the popular race.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of last year's event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year's race would fea-

ture runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course last year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it

returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was sur-

urley.cd

CC Gurek

makes her

way down

the court.

SOUTH HADLEY - The Tigers charged into the

third quarter and built a huge lead, and overcame a

comeback by Carver High School to win 55-34 last

Friday night at home. South Hadley, the third seed

in the Division 4 State Tournament, advanced into

the state semifinals, where they will meet Millis High

School. That game was scheduled for earlier this

week at Worcester State College. The Tigers have

been to the state semifinals in the past. In the quarter-

final win, Kate Phillips led the Tigers with 21 points

while Cara Dean finished with 14 points.

passed this year. Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.

If you're still looking to participate in this year's race, go to www.holyokestpatricksroadrace.org.



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.



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Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthingto

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> Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:

Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098 Or via email to: sboard@worthington-ma.us

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Friends put together library scholarship program

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library is hosting a special scholarship program for high school students that are making their way towards higher education.

The awards are given to students who have demon-

strated academic achievement and community service through volunteer work at the library, and eligible students are required to be high school seniors graduating this spring and wither reside in Granby or attend the Granby Schools. The minimum GPA required for consideration is a 2.5, and the student's community service record must also be included, with a minimum of 45 logged library volunteer hours completed during per each junior and senior year.

Students must submit their scholarship application and essay, whuch can be found on the library's website, www.granbylibrary. com, and must be submitted by the deadline of May 1, 2025.

Library offering adult dominoes club

HOLYOKE – Love the strategic game of dominoes? Come play it at the Holyoke Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. every Monday starting Monday, March 10. The weekly games will be held in

the first-floor board room. For more information, call Abbey at 413-420-8101 or email abuedinger@holyokelibrary. org. The event is geared toward adults.

GARDENER from page 1

sunlight daily. The garden will also need proper drainage in order to let out excess moisture and also maintain moisture.

Ensure also your plants are stable and be mindful of wind. You also need to ensure your soil is nutrient-rich for your plants to grow.

"Every garden needs water, so be sure to set up your garden near a reliable water source so you don't have to do extra work by lugging a hose or watering can."

Once you choose your site, you can begin to plan your layout and how you want your beds to look. This includes the size, path widths, between beds, orientation to face the most sun, making sure its protected, and keeping in mind your materials, cost, and time to maintain.

"Be mindful of the weather as what is reported on the weather channel may not be the reality," said Carmichael. "Visit gardens that have the layout and beds you want to do. Research gardens, too to be sure you have the time and energy in your life to the garden"

Carmichael also reviewed



Beth Carmichael showing a tool to the group, emphasizing the importance of a quality tool kit.

the disadvantages of using soil covers like landscaping fabric which isn't biodegradable, and warns that newspaper ink can be toxic, and cardboard attracts voles.

She recommends the best course to consistently weed and tend the garden manually.

Planning beds for your gardens should involve ideas



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Margery Gerard showing an
example of a garden log for
people to see how logging
your garden can help you
improve it.

for if you want them grounded or raised, which will affect how much soil you'll need to fill the space or the kind of vegetables you want.

You also should consider the size you want, what you will realistically eat, the materials you'll need and their costs, as well as making sure you know about the plants you want for your garden and research their needs.

"As you're planning your vegetables, be mindful of how much or what you are planting and choose realistic ones your family and friends will eat," Carmichael said. "When you are doing a garden, it's a good idea to journal out what you are doing and planting. Don't neglect safety equipment."

Gardening also involves tools, which include a garden or soil knife for digging, harvest knife, clippers/pruners, cultivating tools, and a log book or journal. You can also keep yourself safe with proper gloves, masks when using chemicals, a hat, sunblock, and bug spray.

Other tools and equipment you'll need include wheelbarrows or cards, containers for "stuff", watering equipment, trellises and cages, and tools for raking and sweeping.

Margery Gerard shared with the group information on strategies to help you increase your yields and quality of your gardens.

"Whether your garden is this big, this big, or this big, how you set up and plan your site will determine how much you will yield," said Gerard.

Areas that are important to consider for your garden is the soil itself and its pH levels, minerals, composition, and how you can improve it.

"There's more to soil than just what you put the seeds in. This is the environment where the food for the plants are," said Gerard.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are the most important minerals in your soil, and it needs 50% pore apace for air and water to permeate, 45% mineral matter, and 5% organic matter.

"Organic material is like compost," said Gerard. "It's the combination that helps make a healthy soil. It's important to add the compost in order to give the soul more nutrition."

You can also use different mulches like straw, oats, or buckwheat to help nutrients flow through that won't disrupt the soil.

How to plant, and what you plant together matters as you look at maintaining your soil's health, and the greatest yield.

Your plant selection revolves around the season you're planting in, the temperature of your home, disease and insect considerations, and the hardscape around where your garden is.

"Plant one thing after another, after another, so that you never have a dry bed," said Gerard. "Look for plants that are disease-resistant. It doesn't mean it won't get the disease, but that it won't get it as badly."

How you plant and what plants you put together can make a big impact on your garden and how it thrives. Succession planting, for example helps to yield stronger plants as the soil is enriched season after season.

Companion planting allows for a greater variety of plants that work together to support the other plants to help slow down or reduce damage from insect eggs, and create potentially healthier plants.

Seed packets will show you when to plant, sun needs, planting depth, seed spacing, days to germinate, days to harvest and how to harvest, growing notes, and diseases and pests attracted to them.

If you want to learn more about planting, don't miss the second session of this series in two weeks on Wednesday March 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Notices

Town of Granby Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at 259-A East State Street, (Public Safety Complex, Meeting Room), Granby MA 01033, to consider the following petition:

1. Appellant, 185 West State St, LLC, is appealing a determination from the Granby Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer that the outdoor display of goods and wares is not permitted in the GB (General Business Zone) and within the Mixed-Use Overlay, pursuant to the Town's Zoning By-laws. regarding 185 West State Street and known as Assessors' Map 3-D-1.1 in the town of Granby, MA.

In addition to the above hearings, the Board of Appeals may conduct other agenda items following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter

39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner, Chairman Granby Board of Appeals 03/14, 03/21/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to consider an application for Special Permit filed by Anthony's Dance Club, Inc d/b/a Centerfold Anthony's, to bring existing adult entertainment club with live nudity, as well as restaurant and bar service, into zoning compliance pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article IX (Special Permit); 255- 42 (Adult Entertainment Uses); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with

in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: https://us02web. zoom.us/j/81902402093?pwd=tcbF0nKVarqb7Z3kqm3ItRAFua5U8U.1

Or join by phone: +1 (305) 224 1968 **Webinar ID:** 819 0240 2093 **Passcode:** 075713

The project location is within the Business B Zoning District and is an existing adult entertainment club, Anthony's Dance Club.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications' - 'Special Permit' under section 'New Ludlow Road (500) - Adult Entertainment' 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 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 03/07, 03/14/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Subject: Public Hearing on the Acceptance and Acquisition of Ethan Circle as a Public Way

The South Hadley Select-board, in accordance with MGL Chapter 82, Section 21 & 22, will hold a hybrid public hearing on April 1, 2025, at 7:05 PM at the South Hadley Senior Cen-

ter, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley MA on the proposed road layout of Ethan Circle, to be taken by eminent domain, as shown on a plan entitled "Ethan Circle Definitive Subdivision South Hadley, Massachusetts" prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc. and dated March 14, 2014 and recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 235, page 1. The plan is on file with the Town Clerk. The public is welcome to attend and give comment.

The hearing will be held in a hybrid fashion with the opportunity for both in-person attendance and remote. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specif-

ic item on this agenda should make plans for in-person or virtual attendance accordingly. For purposes of in-person attendance, the Selectboard will host the meeting in the multi-purpose room with remote participation details noted below.

Remote Meeting Connection noted below:

Dial-in Number: +1 646 558 656

Meeting ID: 892 6769 7952 Passcode: 805326

Please use this URL to login: https://us02web.zoom.us/ j/89267697952?pwd=uJiUT UI4OvcpamKYU8cjcbhBaX OXH2.1

Meeting attendees should mute phones (*6 for landlines) unless asking questions or commenting. All attendees should wait to speak until other participants are finished.

If you have questions, please contact the Selectboard office at (413) 538-5030 x 6181. 03/14/2025

Town Reminder

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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\$310,000 available in Scholarship and Fellowship Awards

WESTFIELD The Horace Smith Fund, celebrating its 125th anniversary, will be awarding \$310,000 in scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, who have also graduated from an eligible high school or private school. This year 20 scholarships, three

fellowships and one William R. Rooney Award for students with special needs will be presented to recipients at the June 19 Awards Night ceremony at Storrowton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Scholarships are offered not only to graduating high school seniors but also to

students already in college or those wishing to return to college. Scholarships of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$7,500 annually and renewable for one additional year to students

pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Students must maintain at least a B average to

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including academic records, merit and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applicants must submit their transcripts and, if applicable, college entrance exam scores or graduate degree specific tests, and three letters of recommendation.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2025. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, and on-line at www.Horace-SmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

MIER CAMP (

Kamp for Kids to celebrate 50 years of summer fun for all abilities with a Golf FUN-raiser on April 10

Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, has planned a season of special celebrations in honor of the camp's 50th Anniversary, starting with a Golf FUN-raiser event on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Max's Swing Lounge, located at 1000 Columbus Avenue in Springfield.

The Golf FUN-raiser event will bring together supporters, community members, campers and friends to begin a season of celebration

for 50 years of growth, inclusion, and joy for children and young adults of all abilities. Proceeds from the Golf FUN-raiser will directly benefit Kamp for Kids, helping to ensure that the camp continues to thrive for years to

Tickets are \$100 and include access to the driving range, mini golf, appetizers, two drinks, and the chance to win exciting contests and prizes. Tickets can be purchased at kamp50.eventbrite. com. Sponsorship Opportunities are also available for businesses and individuals.

Those interested in sponsoring this event should reach out to Kelly Brown at Kelly. Brown@BHNInc.org or 413-654-0930. Sponsorships can also be made on the event website, Kamp50. EventBrite.com.

Founded in 1975 by Dick and Judy Hoyt, Kamp for Kids was created to offer an inclusive camp experience for their son, Rick, who had cerebral palsy, and his brothers without disabilities. Over the years, the Hoyts

have championed disability inclusion, inspiring countless families worldwide. Today, Kamp for Kids continues to honor their legacy,

> child-regardless of ability-deserves the chance to participate meaningful, fun, and edu-

> > cational experi-

demonstrating that every

ences. Located in Westfield, Kamp for Kids serves children and young adults ages 5-22, both with and without disabilities,

hailing from cities and towns throughout Western Massachusetts. Each summer. the camp provides a unique environment for growth and inclusion, offering activities such as expressive arts, outdoor education, arts & crafts, non-competitive sports, and a spray park-all designed to create a sense of belonging and joy for every camper. Kamp for Kids operates during the summer months, serving about 150 campers in three sessions.

"Kamp for Kids is celebrating 50 years of creating a space where every child, re-

gardless of ability, can grow, learn, and have fun together," said Anne Benoit, Program Director of Kamp for Kids. "We're excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to many more years of providing life-changing experiences that foster inclusion, friendship, and personal growth." BHN has been provid-

ing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938.

The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.





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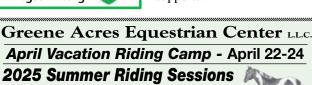
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