

TOWN Reminder



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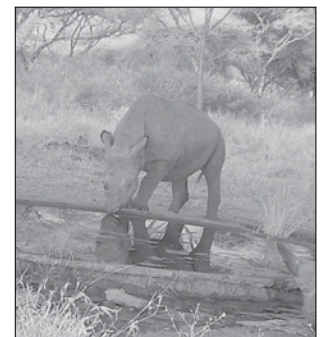
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Meet the newest Select Board member



Casolari looks forward to serving her town

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY -- Although Nicole Casolari may be new to the town's select board, this lifelong resident is no stranger to the concerns and needs of the town.

Casolari was elected in the town's special election on Nov. 8 and had her first meeting the following week.

"It was so great to jump in and get started working with the whole board," said Casolari.

Casolari's decision to run for the select board did not come about suddenly.

"I wanted to get more involved in the decisions being made for our town," said Casolari. "I had thought about running for select board for a little while, and when this special election came up, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to get involved."

Casolari's time as a town meeting member grew her desire to do more for her town. She wanted to be more involved in the earlier stages of the budget process.

"As a town meeting member, I started to feel that the opportunity to have conversations about big decisions that were being made had passed by the time articles were being presented and voted on at Town Meeting," said Casolari.

Please see **CASOLARI**, page 3

South Hadley's newest select board member, Nicole Casolari, was elected earlier in November.

COVID-19 dashboard ending

An opportunity to \$75 for getting a COVID booster is also available

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE -- As the city moves toward 2023, COVID-19 is being put in the rearview mirror, despite claims it is not.

According to a press release from Mayor Joshua Garcia's of-

Please see **COVID**, page 3

Stuff a cruiser at the holiday stroll

By Carly Phaneuf
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY -- With the craze of the holidays looming around each corner, it can be easy to forget that hundreds of children may go without any toys or wrapped boxes during their time of celebration. However, Toys for Tots has been helping kids in need for decades. This year, the police department is proud to hold its nineteenth annual toy drive.

Part of the department's efforts for collection toys includes a stuff a cruiser event, set to happen at the Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday stroll located at 17 College St. The cruiser will be ready to stuff

when the holiday stroll begins, from 5-7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.

Events at the stroll include a parade with Santa, tree lighting, music, hot cocoa, face painting, a scavenger hunt, giveaways, and more. Those who are shopping around may even have the opportunity to buy a toy and donate it all in the same place.

"We're looking for donations for children aged one to 18," said officer Mike Pollender.

He suggested that items like gift cards or electronics would be more fitting for the older kids.

"That way, they can go out on their own and buy things they like," said Pollender.

Those who can't make it to the holiday stroll still have the opportunity to donate. The po-

lice station will be accepting donations during their open hours until Dec. 14.

"Anyone who donates a toy, at the stuff a cruiser event or at the station, will have a chance to enter a free raffle," said Pollender.

Prizes in the raffle include one \$25 gift card to Jonny's Bar and Grill and five \$10 gift cards to the Hanger restaurant.

After all toys and donations are collected, they will be distributed to kids in need by the Marine Corps Reserve.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the help of our officers and community members, especially officer Emily Tebo and detective Trudy Romanovicz who helps organize the event," said Pollender.



Photo courtesy of Tina Smith

Members of the South Hadley High School junior and senior classes took to the field in a PowerPuff game recently.

South Hadley resident earns leading role in Nutcracker

SOUTH HADLEY -- Local resident, Quincy Anderson, age 11, is cast as the leading role of Fritz in The Albany Berkshire Ballet production of the Nutcracker. Quincy attends sixth grade at Hilltown Cooperative Charter School. The performance takes place at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

on Dec. 17. The closest location for South Hadley residents will be Symphony Hall in Springfield.

The heartwarming traditional ballet follows the story of a young girl named Clara, who receives a Nutcracker for Christmas at a fancy holiday party, which is then broken by her brother Fritz. A magical dream ensues where the Nutcracker battles the Mouse King, and Clara, Fritz, and the Nutcracker are transported to the Land of Sweets, and are treated to a collection of beautiful, funny, and moving dances.

Anderson was surprised when he landed the role of Fritz.

"I was excited and nervous, but mostly nervous because I knew it was a big role," said Anderson. Previous roles that Anderson was cast as include a clown and a party child. Anderson has been dancing with the company since 2018, following his



South Hadley resident, Quincy Anderson, 11, is cast as a leading role of Fritz in The Albany Berkshire Ballet production of the Nutcracker.

sister, Emmylou Anderson, gracefully in her footsteps. She was cast as a reindeer



Last years performance of the Nutcracker from Albany Berkshire Ballet.

in ABB's Nutcracker in 2017. His other sister, Lex Daigle-Matos, also danced in the production as an angel.

Quincy enjoys this family tradition, and is proud to be dancing the role of Fritz, which he calls "a dream come true."

Albany Berkshire Ballet performs the Nutcracker with a cast of local children

in 4 different locations including Albany, NY, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Burlington, MA. Tickets range in price from \$25 for children to \$52 for adults and are available through Ticketmaster. For further information, please visit www.albanyberkshireballet.org

Women's Foundation of Boston awards Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts \$25,000

BOSTON -- Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$25,000 Catalyst Grant from the Women's Foundation of Boston. The grant will fund new donor technology software.

GSCWM is one of 11 nonprofits that exclusively serves women and girls awarded the supplemental Catalyst Grant.

"This supplemental alternative grant offering allows us to deepen our impact and support a greater number of effective women-and girl-serving nonprofits. As with our annual multi-year grants, the rigorous process for choosing recipients of our Catalyst Grants is based on mis-

sion alignment and proven outcomes," said Christina Gordon, Co-Founder and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Boston.

The grant will fund new technology software to improve fundraising efficiency, donor engagement, and volunteer awareness.

"This funding will allow us to upgrade our communication with our amazing donors and we are incredibly grateful to the Women's Foundation of Boston," said Pattie Hallberg, GSCWM CEO.

To join, volunteer, donate or reconnect, contact GSCWM at info@gscwm.org or visit www.gscwm.org.

UMass Amherst now offers audiology care for pediatric patients

AMHERST -- The region's premier language, speech, and hearing clinic is excited to expand its high-quality services to children.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst-Center for Language, Speech, and Hearing is pleased to announce that they now offer pediatric hearing care and rehabilitation for children of all ages.

Hearing difficulties can affect the proper development of a child's language, speech, and social skills. Therefore, any hearing loss in children should be diagnosed as early as possible.

UMass Amherst provides the following pediatric services: comprehensive hearing evaluations for children six months and up, otoacoustic emissions (OAE) testing, middle ear evaluations, hearing aid evaluations, fittings and follow-ups, earmolds, swim plugs, assistive technology, and aural rehabilitation.

Emily Bambacus, Au.D., CCC-A, Tomma Henckel, Au.D., CCC-A, and Da-

vid Gooler, M.A., Ph.D., CCC-A, serve as the center's dedicated pediatric providers. They adhere to best-practice protocols developed according to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association guidelines to care for patients and their families.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Center for Language, Speech, and Hearing is a DPH level 3 audiology diagnostic center that offers a comprehensive range of clinical services for individuals with communication disorders, differences, or delays. Speech, language, and hearing services provided by the center's doctoral-level audiologists include diagnostic evaluations and treatment sessions and are available to people of all ages.

For more information about the center's pediatric services or to schedule an appointment with one of our providers, please call 413-545-2565.

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December 7, 2018



Organizers of Sand for Seniors gather at the South Hadley Public Works sand shed to fill buckets for delivery to seniors.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 22 at Noon for Publication Dec. 26-30	:	All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 30 at Noon for Publication Jan. 3-7
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Pumpkin the orphaned rhino is thriving in the wild

By Carly Phaneuf
Staff writer
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ZIMBABWE -- Pumpkin is just one of the conservation success stories in Zimbabwe. The International Rhino Foundation provided an update on the critically endangered black rhino and reported that Pumpkin is doing well.

Pumpkin, a critically endangered black rhino, was rescued as a young calf. She was shot and wounded by poachers, but two years later, she has recovered and is thriving in Zimbabwe's Buby Valley Conservancy.

Pumpkin was discovered in July 2020. While on a routine patrol, monitors from IRF's partner, the Lowveld Rhino Trust, noticed a young black rhino calf that appeared to be injured, wandering in the bush of the Buby Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe.

At approximately 16 months old, the female calf had been orphaned after her mother was killed by poachers. It was apparent that her leg had been injured, but the severity of the wound was unclear. Acting quickly, LRT organized her capture and flew a veterinarian down from Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

The team immobilized the calf to assess and treat her wounds; she had been shot with a heavy caliber rifle and her in-

juries were severe. After the vet cleaned her wounds and administered antibiotics to help fight infection, LRT staff took her to specially constructed rhino bomas where she could recover in safety away from lions and hyenas. Once settled in her new, temporary home, the LRT staff affectionately named her "Pumpkin."

"Once they have been captured and moved into the hand-raising pens, the first thing is to get them to eat," said Nina Fascione, executive director of the International Rhino Foundation. "If they are very young this means getting them to drink milk from a bottle, which can be a bit of a challenge because they are afraid of people and want to fight them. If they are older, they are normally easy to feed with browse and hay. Luckily black rhinos calm down in pens quite quickly. They quickly learn what time their bottles come and are always there at the right time," said Fascione.

After six weeks of daily care, LRT staff decided it was time to release Pumpkin back into the wild. During her stay in the boma, she had received night visits from a wild rhino named Rocky, a former orphan as well. In the mornings, monitors would see his spoor where he had been circling her enclosure. Just a few weeks ago, the monitoring team spotted Rocky and Pumpkin to-



Photo courtesy of IRF.

Pumpkin and Rocky, both orphaned rhinos, socialize and drink water at the reserve in Zimbabwe.

gether, both healthy and thriving in the wild.

"Spunk is what kept her going," said Fascione. "Other animals would have laid down and died with that sort of injury."

It's been a difficult year for rhinos. After a temporary lull in poaching due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, criminal networks quickly adapted to the new environment, with poaching rates and trade volume increasing again this year. Large, organized crime groups, who see wildlife trafficking as low-risk, high-reward crime, became

even more involved in the rhino horn trade during the pandemic, monopolizing key networks and moving higher volumes of the horn.

But there's been good news too. Despite the difficulties posed by daily life in Zimbabwe - including soaring costs for food and fuel - dedicated conservationists continue to persevere in protecting the country's rhinos, with great success. Even having lost more than 200 black rhinos to poaching in the last 15 years, the large population in Buby Valley Conservancy has

remained strong enough to provide rhinos to establish new populations at other sites.

In January, Zimbabwe reported new rhino population estimates: 614 black and 415 white rhinos. This is the first time that Zimbabwe has surpassed 1,000 rhinos in over three decades.

"We congratulate Zimbabwe on the successes this year," said Fascione. "On behalf of IRF, we are thankful to all the men and women working to protect, monitor, and rescue rhinos like Pumpkin."

CASOLARI from page 1

Casolari learned a great deal from the town's residents as she campaigned for this new position, ideas and concerns that she looks forward to working on.

"Running for the select board, and joining at this time of year, means that I can get involved as the budget conversation is just getting started, rather than starting in April when the conversation is wrapping up before a town Meeting in May," said Casolari.

"In talking with so many res-

idents, I heard plenty of frustrations with the availability and accessibility of services as well as the state of our municipal buildings," said Casolari. "We have a great budget to work with, and my biggest goal is to ensure that the money we are spending as a town is taking care of our residents, from young families who are new to our community to our lifelong residents."

As she moves forward with her public service, Casolari intends to hold true to the same notions that she began her campaign with.

"Transparency, accountability, and honesty are probably my main guiding principles. Openness and honesty with residents as we make decisions are crucial," said Casolari. "I want the public to be well informed and I want to hear from residents about their ideas, goals, and concerns so that I can bring these thoughts to the table as the Board makes decisions."

Casolari's passion for service began during her high school years with involvement in the Bag the Community project and helping with youth sports.

A graduate of South Hadley High School, Casolari went on to study math and math education at Boston University. Upon her graduation in 2017, Casolari became a math teacher at her alma mater South Hadley High School. In 2021, she earned her master's degree in educational leadership and management from Fitchburg State University.

"For about 4 years, I worked in the select board and town clerk's office during my breaks home from college and learned a lot about municipal government and elections," said Casolari.

"When I moved back to South Hadley in 2017, I became a town meeting member and a registrar of voters," said Casolari.

At South Hadley High School, she also serves as the varsity field hockey coach, junior varsity softball coach, and National Honor Society advisor. In her free time, she enjoys watching hockey, walking and running with her dog, Charlie, crafting, and spending time with friends and family.

COVID from page 1

office, the city will no longer have a COVID-19 data dashboard on the city's website.

The dashboard was put in place to report public health numbers during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 all the way through the availability of vaccines and the COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variant and subvariants.

According to the city, "Effective Friday Dec. 2, the Holyoke Board of Health will be removing the City of Holyoke's COVID-19 Data Dashboard from our City website. This move is a reflection not of the pandemic being over, but rather a reflection of the ever changing needs of our community. At this point in the pandemic, our capacity is more efficiently utilized focusing on normal day-to-day operations that support promotion of wellness, protection of health, and prevention of disease in the City of Holyoke.

"We would like to recognize and thank our partners at MGH-Harvard Global Health that were instrumental in maintaining and creating this wonderful data visualization tool. In particular, the Dashboard would not have been possible without the dedicated work of Doctor Isabel Fulcher and Doctor Sara Sauer. Thank you."

Holyoke was not at the epicenter of the pandemic as a city, but was the location of one of the worst outbreaks in the country at a facility. The Holyoke Soldiers' Home had an outbreak in April 2020 that resulted in the deaths of nearly 80 veterans, with the management of the facility blamed for how the outbreak was initially handled. It also resulted in the significant sickening of many other veterans at the facility and several staff members.

The city at large often found itself in a high-risk

category for COVID-19 cases, which resulted in more restrictions than some of the surrounding communities. City Hall had a mask mandate in place for several months installed by Acting Mayor Terence Murphy.


Mask and face covering mandates were also in place longer than in recent communities. The mask mandates and restrictions in the Holyoke Public Schools remained in place for almost the entire 2021-2022 school year, despite the mandate being lifted by the state at the end of February.

COVID-19 cases were reported every day by the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health. That has since been moved to once a week, each Thursday. Cases are still happening, but deaths are minimized with the vaccines and boosters available.

The DPH announced Tuesday it would be offering residents a \$75 for receiving any COVID-19 shot, whether it be an original dose or a booster. It's part of an initiative from the state to get more people vaccinated and boosted. Various communities are holding vaccine clinics during the next month where this will be available.

The \$75 gift card will come from a local grocery store or other area retailers.

Holyoke is hosting one of these clinics at the Holyoke Mall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are also clinics scheduled to be held in nearby Chicopee and West Springfield. Go to the state's website for a full list of clinics.



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Opinion



Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree

I chuckle when I think of the words to that song. The next line would be “how lovely are your branches.”

The reason I chuckle is because shortly after decorating our tree tonight my older daughter showed me a video she took last year on her phone. It was in slow motion, her fingers touching the limbs of our Christmas tree and the needles falling to the ground.

I am not exaggerating when I tell you that 90% of the needles were gone when we took the tree out of the house a few days after Christmas.

Now this isn't my first Christmas, mind you and both my husband and I are sticklers for keeping the tree stand full of water.

I think what happened was that rusty water from the old tree stand clogged up the trunk, making it unable to drink. Just a theory mind you.

We have a new stand and hopes for an intact tree through to the Epiphany.

Here are additional tips for buying a healthy tree and keeping it that way.

If you make your tree purchase at a nearby Christmas tree farm, congratulations, you are supporting local agriculture!

More likely than not, the tree of your choice will be cut right before your eyes; you may even get the joy of cutting it yourself. Therefore, it is guaranteed to be fresh.

If it takes you more than a few minutes to get it home, make a new, straight cut across the trunk about one inch up from the bottom just before setting it up indoors. The new cut will remove the seal the tree has formed and once again allow it to take up water...and will it ever!

A fresh tree can drink several pints to a gallon every day. Fill the stand even before you start decorating, and check the reservoir often, refilling it before it runs out.

A more hands-on approach is needed in order to find a fresh tree from a parking lot operation or chain store.

While some of these trees are grown locally, most are likely shipped to the lot from growers hundreds of miles away. They may have been cut a few weeks or more ago.

To ensure freshness, run your hand up and down a branch. Did the tree lose a substantial amount of needles?

Try bending a branch. Did it snap and break?

If you answered yes to either of these freshness tests, it's probably a good idea to pass on this tree and try another.

Trees that have dried out that much before they even make it indoors will leave you a huge mess to clean up (I know all about that) and more importantly, pose a fire hazard.

It is even more important to make a fresh cut on these types of trees. If you cut an inch and the trunk doesn't feel at all wet or sticky, cut a bit more, so that the tree will be able to get a good drink.

Use common sense when placing the tree indoors- keep it away from the fireplace, radiator or heat register. Shut the tree lights off when you go to bed or leave the house.

This advice will keep your tree good and fresh and your family nice and safe.

Good friends of ours have their own tradition regarding the Christmas tree. They don't buy one at all!

Instead, they decorate a tall Norfolk Island pine that they got as a houseplant decades ago.

This time of year, they are readily available for sale, indoors, alongside poinsettias and other holiday plants.

The Norfolk Island pine is easy to grow, simply providing it with good quality light and

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SHFD needs better financial management

I am very concerned about the financial management of South Hadley Fire District 1. At the hybrid Prudential Committee meeting held on Monday, Nov. 28, a woman attending in person expressed her dismay about a “13% increase in taxes” for this fiscal year. The chair of the Prudential Committee appeared to challenge the woman, asking where she got her numbers.

The actual increase is over 16%, according to the numbers from the Fire District website.

These are official records of what has been approved by the district.

The 2020 annual report on page 7 shows an appropriation of \$2,865,293 for FY 2022.

The 2021 annual report on page 7 shows an appropriation of \$3,294,683 for FY 2023. A special district meeting held on June 15, 2022, added an additional appropriation of \$32,445 to FY 2023 taxes, for a grand total of \$3,327,128. This represents a \$461,835 increase over the FY 2022 property taxes of \$2,865,293, which is a whopping 16%. The final numbers for FY 2023 may differ a little, but the 16% increase will stand.

Evidently, it's up to the Fire District 1 taxpayers to get more involved and investigate what's being spent in their Fire District.

Kevin E. Taugher
South Hadley

Why do politicians run for office?



If you followed this year's elections, at some point the question probably occurred to you: Why do people do this? The endless campaign events, the constant scrutiny... and increasingly, the very real and alarming threat of political violence. What drives someone to put up with it all?

I suspect that if you asked a roomful of politicians, you'd get a roomful of answers. For many people, there's no single motivation, and in all my years of talking to other politicians, I've never found one reason that predominates.

But I have found some common threads. For one thing, it's hard to find a more challenging job. The range and complexity of the problems an elected official faces are astounding; I've never met a politician with a short to-do list.

Politics is as intellectually challenging as any occupation I can imagine, and when you succeed at somehow changing your community or state or country for the better, it's also as satisfying. One thing I can certainly say: I've encountered plenty of accomplished people in other professions who've told me that, after a certain point in their careers, they got a bit bored. Not once have I heard a politician say that he or she was bored.

Stretched for time, certainly. Frustrated, often.

But bored? Never.

I suspect part of the reason is that few other professions put you in touch with as many people of different viewpoints, lifestyles, backgrounds, and convictions. If

you're really serious as a politician in the United States, you engage with conservatives, liberals, voters of every station in life, people of deep faith, people of no faith, and every possible ethnic identity. It's one of the great attractions of the job: the chance to meet an unforgettable array of citizens.

In recent years, it's sometimes seemed to me that more people each election are getting involved because they're angry: They're motivated by something the Supreme Court did, or they believe the people in power are taking their towns or states or the U.S. in the wrong direction. But then I remember that negative feelings have always been a strong motivator – after all, we have a United States because people rose up against policies imposed on them by the king and British politicians.

Over my time watching politics, I've met plenty of people who were motivated to get involved because something happened at some level of government that angered them.

At the same time, though, I've also met plenty of people who were motivated by idealism. I was one of them: I first ran for office because I wanted to make a contribution to my country. It was nothing fancier than that.

That is still true of many politicians.

Though as anyone who's run for office knows, it is a bit more complicated than that. For one thing, it takes money. It's not like you're handed a check by the government to run for elective office. It's been many decades since this happened, but I still remember that, when I decided to run for Congress in the early 1960s, I went to visit a community leader in a part of southern Indiana. At the end, he wished me luck and gave me a check for \$100.

Please see **HAMILTON**, 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.

NOTICE

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

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Relaxed Recipes

Creamy chicken pot pie

By Carly Phaneuf
cphaneuf@turley.com

Inspired by New York Times' chef Julia Moskin, this pot pie is a modern twist on a comforting classic. It's easy to make and the perfect comfort food for windy winter days. The marsala and puff pastry make the finishing product much better than a store-bought pie.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed
- 6 ounces thick pancetta, sliced into strips
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon rosemary
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1 pound boneless chicken thighs, cubed
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2½ cups chicken stock
- ¼ cup Marsala
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley, more for garnish
- 1 sheet puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon water

Instructions

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Heat oil and garlic together over low heat. Add bacon and onions, stirring often, until the bacon is golden brown but not crispy. Adjust the heat so the bacon slowly gives up its fat.

In a shallow pan mix flour, spices, 1 teaspoon of salt, and ½ a teaspoon of pepper.

Add chicken and coat. In the skillet with the bacon, add butter and melt over medium heat.

Add chicken pieces and any flour that remains in the bag. Stir until the chicken pieces are golden brown and the flour on the bottom of the pan is browned.

Pour in stock, Marsala, and vinegar to deglaze the pan. Scrape the bottom of the pan to get all the dark bits, and let simmer for five minutes until thickened.

Adjust the seasonings if needed then turn off the heat and stir in parsley.

Transfer chicken and sauce to a 9-inch round pie dish. Roll out puff pastry to desired shape and size. Drape pastry over the filling, making a few slits on the top. Tuck the edges down around the filling and brush the crust with egg wash.

Place in oven with a baking sheet underneath.

Bake until crust is browned and filling is bubbling, 20 to 30 minutes.

Baker-Polito Administration awards over \$13 million for electric vehicle fast-charging

Locations in Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, and West Springfield selected

BOSTON - In an effort to create additional infrastructure across the Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration has announced that \$13.1 million in grants have been awarded to 54 government and private entities under the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program to install 306 Direct Current Fast Charging electric vehicle charging ports at 150 locations. The MassEVIP DCFC program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, provides grants covering 100 percent of the eligible cost to acquire and install publicly accessible DCFC electric vehicle charging stations at government-owned properties and 80 percent at all other locations, up to \$50,000 per charging port.

"Our administration understands the importance of reliable infrastructure supporting the Commonwealth's energy future," Gov. Charlie Baker said. "This announcement is a step towards the increased deployment of these clean vehi-

cles, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and public health, enhance energy diversity and promote economic growth."

"This Direct Current Fast Charging incentive program is another example of our administration's commitment to improving air quality for all," Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said. "This program will support our efforts to grow the clean energy economy, transform the transportation system, and help Massachusetts attain our emissions reduction goals set under the Global Warming Solutions Act."

"I am thrilled that Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, and West Springfield will be receiving these MassEVIP Fast Charging grants to expand access to electric vehicle charging ports in our communities," state Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) said. "Electric vehicles are one of our best tools to lower our Commonwealth's emissions and an increasing number of folks in Massachusetts are switching over to these types of cars. These 24 hour, 7 days a week, charging ports will only aid in that growth and I am grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued investments in this area."

Application open for the 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant

HOLYOKE -- The application for the 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant by the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is now open. Eligibility, requirement, and application can all be found on the Committee's website, www.holyokestpatrickspareade.com. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant will take place on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023, at Holyoke High School, 300 Beech St. Five contestants will be selected to make up the Grand Colleen's Court. The Grand Colleen will be then selected from the five

finalists at the Grand Colleen Ball on Feb. 18, 2023.

Tickets for the Pageant are \$15 per person, \$10 for seniors, and children under 12 are free, tickets are available for sale online at grandcolleenpageant.eventbrite.com or with cash or check at the door.

The 70th Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023, and the 46th St. Patrick's Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023. For any questions please email holyokecolleenpageant@gmail.com.

HAMILTON from page 4

It was a splendid moment. I later told him how crucial that had been – giving someone who had nothing to spend on a campaign some funds. His act of generosity gave me hope that I might be able to pull it off.

Then, too, I think many people who run for office – and certainly those who get elected – are driven by a search for power. From afar, you can see what holding elected office allows: the chance to change things.

But once you're in office, you come to recognize that progress is measured in inches: You might be able to get a new bridge or library built, but just as often,

obstacles stand in the way that make it impossible.

Yet somehow, people keep running. In the end, I think it's because they understand a simple thing: There's no United States without democracy, no democracy without politics, and no politics without people willing to become politicians.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

GARDEN from page 4

average household temperatures.

It is important that the Norfolk Island pine be kept from temperatures below 50 degrees for any length of time or injury may occur.

For this reason, be sure to cover it when leaving the store, and whatever you do, don't leave it in the car and continue to shop!

Keep its soil moist but not soaking

wet. Fertilize in the spring, once active growth resumes.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 30 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.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Single Lens Reflex
4. People of southern Benin
7. One who is learned (abbr.)
10. Neckwear
11. Solid water
12. A way to work the soil
13. Inspiring
15. Pick up
16. It wakes you up
19. Parcel
21. Popular dog breed
23. Lets out a sigh
24. Embedded into the surface
25. Hard liquors
26. One from Scotland
27. Satisfy
30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
35. Similar

36. Winged horse
41. Soft drink maker
45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
46. Nursemaid
47. Inheritor
50. Hot, often dusty wind
54. Serves as an introduction
55. Earned top billing
56. Mansion
57. A partner to a carrot
59. War-horse
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. It checks the heartbeat
62. Aquatic salamander
63. CNN's founder
64. Being precisely suitable and right
65. Strongly alkaline solution

CLUES DOWN

1. Pinochle trick
2. A system of connections
3. Emblems of royalty
4. Work with a soft hand
5. Plant cultivated in Peru
6. A timid man
7. Lacking intellectual depth
8. A way to order
9. Intoxicating
13. Mimic
14. Surfers use it
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Popular Miller beer
20. Finds out about
22. Unusual
27. Small European viper
28. Indicates before

29. Birth swine
31. 7
32. Useful keyboard key
33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Edible mollusk
38. Stitched up
39. Utilized
40. ___ in tradition
41. A way to get through
42. Let off
43. Fashionable source of shade
44. In due time
47. Printing speed
48. A major division of geological time
49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
51. ___ de la ___
52. After B
53. Unusual
58. Former money of the EU

Granby Chamber of Commerce donates to COA

On Nov. 17, South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce President, Regina Silva-Zebrowski, and Treasure, Michele Lyman, presented a check for \$1,000 to Council on Aging Director, Leslie Hennessey. The generous donation will be used to support the Senior Center's fitness and exercise classes.

Photo courtesy of Leslie Hennessey.



Granby Library programs

The Friends of the Granby Library Holiday gift basket and handcraft sale

Come and enjoy a Hot Cocoa Bar from 10:30 a.m. to noon from Dec. 3 until Dec. 23.

The free hot cocoa and cookies are available in the community room.

Town-wide Gnome Hunt

Pick up the clue sheet to find all 8 gnomes hiding in Granby. Return by Dec. 19 and receive a raffle ticket to win. There will be one prize for adults and one for children.

A Perky Pairing: Coffee and Fine Chocolates

At 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, learn everything there is to know about java. The interesting history, benefits, how and where coffee and chocolate hail from, the famous pioneers in both industries, interactive trivia quiz, best brewing and roasting methods, and fun coffee terminology. Chocolate tasting wheel for each patron, a fun display of vintage coffee grinders and coffee pots,



Enjoy fine coffee and chocolates at the Granby Free Public Library.

chocolate samplings that include Espresso chocolate, "coffee cup" molded chocolates, bittersweet, and a classic decaf Italian Affogato. Specialty Coffee Association of Ameri-

ca Certified in "Coffee Foundations." Please sign up for this event at <http://www.granbylibrary.com>.

The Library is located at 297 E State St.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church's Annual Gingerbread Fair

HOLYOKE – The crafters, bakers, knitters, sewers, and cooks at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Holyoke (34 Jarvis Ave.) have been busy preparing for their Annual Gingerbread House Christmas Fair which will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 from

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas ornaments, decorations, gifts, wreaths and much more along with an assortment of delicious baked goods, candies, and deli items will be available to purchase. Knitted hats, scarves, and sweaters

are among some of the additional choices for sale on that day.

A favorite activity for kids, and adults alike, is to purchase and decorate a small gingerbread house; creating their own edible masterpiece!



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Tigers offense makes strong showing on Turkey Day



Coach Brian Couture watches the play of his team

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday, the South Hadley High School football team finished off the 2022 season with a huge offensive performance, defeating Holyoke 60-36. The Tigers exploded for four touchdowns in the second quarter to go up 38-14 at halftime. South Hadley did not let up, grabbing three more scores in the second half. Owen Dawson capped his season with 300 yards on the ground and five touchdowns for the Tigers. Noah Marion had a big game with 148 yards. Holyoke's season finished at 2-9 while South Hadley went 4-7.



Noah Marion makes a run for South Hadley.



Owen Dawson takes off on a run. He scored five times for the Tigers against Holyoke on Thanksgiving.



Burke Belsky makes a toss.

Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Rob Lubold makes a free kick.



Corey Bladley makes his way up the field.



John Tisdell plays the ball off his knee.



Isiah Fraser points to a teammate as he gets ready to pass.

Catholic and Holyoke lock up for fun exhibition

HOLYOKE – For one morning, the Holyoke Catholic name came back as alumni from Holyoke High School matched up with alumni from the former Holyoke Catholic High School. Holyoke Catholic folded several years ago when it was absorbed

by Cathedral, now named Pope Francis in Springfield. Holyoke Catholic was based in Holyoke, but also had homes in Chicopee and Granby during different points of its existence.

Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Pat Beaudry chases down a loose ball.

Trainer requirement gets mixed reviews from MIAA committees

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

With a look at a future law, the Sports Medicine subcommittee of the MIAA is proposing a requirement for every high school offering interscholastic sports to employ a licensed athletic trainer.

The rule change was submitted by Robert Colandreo, a trainer and member of the committee. While many member schools in the MIAA either employ an athletic trainer or regularly have an EMT or other trained medical professional at most athletic contests, a number of smaller schools do not have any type of trainer preference at contests.

Please see **TRAINER**, page 8

Sports

T-Birds earn point against Penguins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-7-0-4) fought valiantly but were bested in a shootout, 3-2, by the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-5-1-1) on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center in a game that saw the T-Birds debut their alternate, blue third jerseys.

Two of the league's top eight defensive units showed off their prowess in the opening 19 minutes, as both teams' penalty-killing units fended off an opposition chance, while goalies Joel Hofer of Springfield and Filip Lindberg of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton traded saves in a period that had 27 shots find the target.

Lindberg finally blinked first with just 37.7 seconds left in the period. Hugh McGing scooped up a loose puck below the goal line and circled his way to the top of the left circle before turning to his forehand and beating Lindberg on the glove side to make it 1-0. It was McGing's fourth goal of the season, but just his second in the last 12 games.

Hofer would stay perfect until the 13:31 mark of the middle

period. After a Penguin face-off win in the offensive zone, Ty Smith hit Jon Lizotte for a one-timer from the center point position. Sam Poulin cut through the shooting lane and got a piece of the initial attempt to guide it past Hofer, tying the 1-1.

The T-Birds' final-minute magic came to the forefront once again in period two. With a man advantage in the dying seconds, Martin Frk set up Jake Neighbours for a one-timer from the right circle. Will Bitten did the work from there, taking away Lindberg's eyes and deflecting the shot through the netminder with 2.7 seconds to play, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage into the third on his seventh goal of the year.

Springfield had multiple chances to extend their one-goal

advantage, but Lindberg did not blink on a pair of chances off a Frk slap shot that was labeled for the top corner, as well as a Bitten one-touch shot from point-blank range.

The T-Birds defense could not quite take the lead across the finish line, as Valteri Puustinen raced into the Springfield zone ahead of a defender and then outwaited Hofer, slipping a forehand shot through the five-hole to tie the game, 2-2, with just 3:05 to play.

Hofer did keep his team alive after making five stellar stops in the 3-on-3 overtime period, forcing the game into a shootout. While Dmitri Samorukov beat Lindberg on the first shot of the affair, the Penguins bounced back on tallies from Alex Nylander and Poulin, while Lindberg came up with glove saves on both Brady Lyle and Bitten.



Fall season concludes

With the exception of the state finals for football set for this weekend, fall sports have finished up from around the state. State finals were held for field hockey and soccer during the weekend of Nov. 18 to 20, and the MIAA shared some statistics about this year's tournament.

Fall Tournament Tidbits

A total of 321 member schools (out of 385, or 83.4%) participated in at least one of the MIAA's five power seeded fall tournaments – Field Hockey, Football, Boys or Girls Soccer, and Girls Volleyball.

Of those 321 schools, a total of 245 hosted at least one event (76.3%).

A total of 22 schools had a team participating in post-season tournaments in all five power-seeded sports.

Two schools – Oliver Ames and South Hadley – earned No. 1 seeds in two different sports (both in Boys and Girls Soccer).

A total of 13 schools reached at least the state semi-final round in two different sports. Four of those schools – Cohasset, Dover-Sherborn, Newburyport, and Stoneham – advanced to the state semi-final round in three different sports.

The new state tournament is in its second year of existence now. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the membership of the MIAA voted to do a state tournament instead of having a sectional tournament with sectional winners making up a short state tournament like in past years. The new state tournament will enter its second season for winter sports early next year.

Whitley captures Welterweight title

SPRINGFIELD – Western Mass. was in the house last weekend for the "Springfield Championship Boxing" Pro-Am card, presented by Granite Chin Promotions, at MassMutual Center in Springfield.

Holyoke welterweight Denzel "Double Impact" Whitley (10-0, 6 KOs) and Pittsfield light heavyweight Steve Sumpter (7-0, 6 KOs) captured the vacant Massachusetts State titles in front of a sold-out venue.

"I remember where Granite Chin was 5 years ago and where it is today," Granite Chin Promotions president Chris Traietti commented. "This was unquestionably our greatest show to date. I'd like to thank our staff, Boston Boxing, sponsors, fans and, of course, all the fighters."

A notoriously slow starter, Whitley evaluated his opponent, Fall River's Kris Jacobs (5-2-1, 2 KOs), in the opening round and then took a methodical approach

for the first few rounds, using his gloves-high defensive stance, effectively counter-punching in spurts.

In the eighth and final round, Whitley decked Jacobs with a right hook, but Denzel chased Jacobs from one side of the ring to the other, going for the knockout. It didn't come but Whitley won a workmanlike 8-round split decision, surprising because one judge somehow scored, 75-75, despite the knockdown.

UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst

and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be

held on Dec. 10 and 11 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Wrestling committee makes options for tournament

The MIAA Wrestling Committee recently met and discussed a variety of topics, including alignments, postseason tournaments and the upcoming regular season. The wrestling committee unanimously supported a recommendation that

female wrestlers are permitted to participate in the Sectional and Divisional State Tournaments (if they qualify) before having to make a decision on whether to enter the traditional MIAA All-State Tournament or the MIAA Girls All-State Tourna-

ment. Currently, wrestlers must choose which "tournament path" to enter prior to the Sectional Tournament. This recommendation requires approval from the MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee and MIAA Tournament Management Committee.

TRAINER from page 7

At the beginning of the fall season, a new rule went into affect for football, requiring that both teams have a trainer present at all games. This required many schools to send their trainer on road games, and either not hold soccer and other sport contests on Friday evenings, or employ a second trainer or EMT in those cases.

Colandreo's rationale was not to require schools to have trainers in full-time employment, but to ensure a trainer is present for practices and games.

He is proposing a July 1, 2024 implementation date for this requirement, allowing schools time to plan for funding.

"The intent of this rule change is to ensure schools employ, in some capacity appropriate for their needs, an athletic trainer, Colandreo's rationale states. "The intent of this rule change is not to require a school or district to create a new full-time position, but to ensure that while games and practices are going on students have access to an athletic trainer. It is recognized that every high school in Massachusetts has a varying need for athletic trainer services. Some larger schools currently have more than one athletic trainer on staff. Other smaller

high schools may only have a need for a part-time contracted athletic trainer. Time to plan for this expense is recognized and a one-year delayed implementation would be welcomed."

He notes that the state is also looking at having an athletic trainer the law.

"There is currently legislation pending that would require all secondary schools to hire an athletic trainer. If this legislation passes this legislative session, or next, it will immediately require a school system to hire an athletic trainer within 90 days," Colandreo said. "As was the process with the AED rule (rule requiring schools to have automatic external defibrillators) a few years ago. Passage of this rule change would give schools and districts a greater than one year time frame to evaluate their needs and set a future budget to hire or contract athletic training services."

Only handful of other subcommittees have recommended the rule, including football, game officials, lacrosse, soccer, and volleyball. The Tournament Management Committee has also recommended it. Several committees denied it, including hockey, baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, gymnastics, and golf.

The MIAA Board of Directors is supposed to vote on the proposal prior to the beginning of 2023.

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WEST-EAST RAIL

Officials with passenger train service project seeks public feedback

By Marcelo Gusmao
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER — A West-to-East passenger rail system from Pittsfield to Boston with a stop in Palmer has been discussed for decades, but a commission of state legislators gathering data about the project say it could be just a few more years away from becoming a reality.

The commission is chaired by Rep. William Straus and Sen. Brendan Crighton and is made up of Representatives Bud Williams, Lindsay Sabadosa, Natalie Blais and Todd Smola, who grew up in Palmer and recently shared his thoughts on the project and his role as his district's voice on the commission.

"I first got brought into it when I was on the Board of Selectmen here in Palmer," Smola said of the decades-long project, adding that many of the other representatives on the commission have been involved with the project for a number of years.

"As time has gone on, and as more interest has picked up over a passenger rail service, a number of us in the legislature came together and said, 'How do we put this on the radar screen?' It's been talked about, now we want to get it into the center of the target."

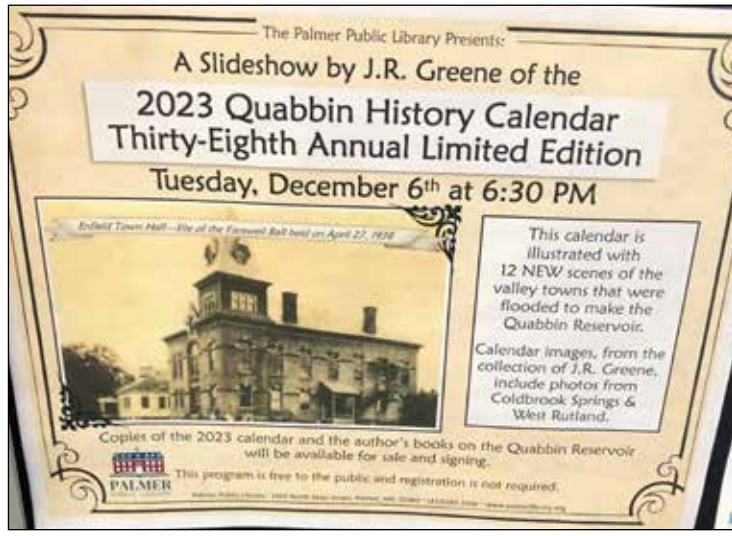
After putting together an initial report on what would be needed to start the project, the committee was tasked with analyzing the data and determining how to proceed.

"The commission was basically formed to come up with everything else that's related to the recommendations of the report: How do you come up with the funding? How do you create the entity to run the railroad? How do you maintain it? How do you keep it going? It's infrastructure."

These are the questions the commission hopes to answer through conversations with the public. The committee met for the first time last week, during which they discussed ground rules for getting the project started.

"We want to have a minimum of six meetings (with the public)," said Smola, "and they don't necessarily have to be in person. There's a virtual component as well so people can participate if they can't actually make the hearing," he said.

Also, "If we feel we need to



Turley Publications staff photo by Michael Harrison

Long known as "The Town of Seven Railroads" – as celebrated by the Palmer Library's dedicated research room – Palmer may once again have a passenger rail depot.

go beyond six hearings, we're going to do that," Smola added.

The commission has been adamant about holding these meetings all over the state and getting feedback from residents in all of the areas that would be affected by the construction, with locations in Palmer and Chester mentioned specifically. Dates have not been set for the meetings, though Smola expects the first one to happen in early- to mid-December.

"I've submitted a Palmer location," Smola said.

"I've spoken to the superintendent over at Pathfinder (Tech), and they've agreed to submit the school in the mix. It doesn't mean there's going to be a hearing at Pathfinder, but we're offering it to the commission."

Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda said the school is "very appreciative that (Smola) considered us as a possible meeting site. We are always happy to consider being a meeting site for important community events such as the passenger rail commission meeting."

Though residents of Palmer will certainly be involved, there was also a sense that smaller towns in the Berkshires did not want to be left out of the decision-making process, Smola said. The intention is to schedule the hearings and choose locations that will allow the greatest number of community members to offer their input and concerns over the project,

with discussions about holding meetings in the daytime and the evening so as to accommodate a variety of work schedules.

Even for people who can't attend any of the meetings, Smola wanted to make sure they had an opportunity to offer input.

"You can put a written testimony together, if you want to submit it to the commission, and we can help facilitate that testimony," Smola said.

"If you can't participate specifically in one of the hearings that we have scheduled, your voice will be heard, no matter what."

Smola continued, "They can submit it to either their local designee that might be on the commission – as an example for Palmer people, if they want to submit it to me, they could do that, or either of the chairs of the commission, Senator Crighton and Representative Straus."

"Essentially," said Smola, "what's going to happen at those hearings is, we're going to invite anybody and everybody who wants to participate to share their views, whether it's concerns about infrastructure, what they'd

like and wouldn't like to see, and then we have to come up with a report by the end of March."

Smola admitted that he anticipates delays in submitting this report, simply due to the size and scope of the project, but that the commission is looking at the end of March as a "hardcore goal."

Smola described some of the obstacles that he's seen in front of this project over the 22 years he's been involved with it.

"Some people thought it couldn't be done, because if you use the existing infrastructure that's right there – where the freight train goes, as an example – how do you use an existing freight train infrastructure and share that line with a passenger service that runs with a certain level of frequency and a high level of efficiency?"

Previous commissions suggested building state-of-the-art magnetic levitation trains as an alternative.

"Boy, this is great, it's gonna get you someplace so quick," Smola remembered.

However, "They didn't realize – ouch, big price tag. And where do you put it? Because now you're not talking about existing infrastructure. There's a big difference between utilizing existing infrastructure and creating brand new infrastructure."

Once these obstacles were presented against the Maglev technology, the commission settled on using the existing rails after all.

"Now, I think, we've accepted that you can have some intermingling here, but what that intermingling looks like is more challenging."

Previous studies, including an exhaustive assessment by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that cost the state \$1 million that was presented about a year ago, estimated the cost of the project will be at least in the hundreds of millions of dol-

lars.

A lot of money by any standard, but officials, including out-going Gov. Charlie Baker, who did not fully embrace the project until the final months of his term, said the timing couldn't be better. Baker, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal and others held a joint press conference at Union Station in Springfield last spring to rally for the West-East Rail and said much of the cost could be paid for from the state's share of \$1 trillion in federal funding for infrastructure passed by the outgoing Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Smola mentioned that as much as this project is being pushed by state legislators, the construction and operation of rails is largely up to the federal government, since it's so often used to cross state lines.

This project has had overwhelming support from legislators outside of its main commission. Smola described Senator-elect Jake Oliveira as a "passionate advocate of the West/East rail," and mentioned Baker, Neal, and outgoing state Sen. Eric Lesser as supportive of the project.

"Congressman Neal has come through with a tremendous amount of federal funding," said newly-elected state Rep. Aaron Saunders, shortly after his win last week.

"The state will need to come through with operational money to get the rail authority up and running," Saunders said.

In his campaign, Saunders expressed his support for the rail project. Though not a member of the committee, Smola said he has "no doubt that Aaron will be involved."

"My job is going to be making sure that when we have the money committed (and) it's Western Mass workers and companies doing the work."

Please see **TRAIN**, page 12

CORRESPONDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- **Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines**
- **Photography skills and own camera a plus**
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Send writing samples with resume to

Cliff Clark, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to cclark@turley.com



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Award-winning, family-owned Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
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- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for our editor's position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to Executive Editor Cliff Clark at cclark@turley.com.



NEWSPAPER EDITOR

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for its weekly publication: the Country Journal. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, copy edit submitted items and staff stories, and guide coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and have some photography experience
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to Cliff Clark, Executive Editor at cclark@turley.com.

www.turley.com



Region

Events at Odyssey Bookshop in December

Author talk: Susan Raffo
Join via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 as Susan Raffo talks about her new book, "Liberated to the Bone". She will be joined in conversation by Sean Donovan and Derek Weiss.

"Liberated to the Bone" is the newest title in the "Emergent Strategy Series". The series addresses the intersections between healing the physical body and healing personal social relations which are shaped by violence. Bodyworker and cultural worker Susan Raffo address intergenerational trauma, social justice, organizing, and how all of these things are relevant to our bodies. The book illuminates three different approaches to healing: ending violence, the significance of being rooted in the present, and creating the conditions to address unfinished histories and generational trauma. By showing how these approaches are intricately connected--physically and emotionally--Raffo interrupts the traumatic binaries of the political and spiritual, the physical and intellectual, and healing and organizing.

Susan Raffo is a writer, cultural worker, and bodyworker. She is part of the Healing Histories Project, a project focused on transforming the medical-industrial complex and confronting

eugenic legacies and REP, a Black-led community-based crisis response model grounded in the belief that we have the ability to love and protect one another without giving our agency to systems built to destroy, consume, or commodify us.

Author talk: Gail Thomas

Poet Gail Thomas will be in person at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Thomas will read from her new works, "Trail of Roots" and "Leaving Paradise". Thomas' has published four other books and her poems are widely published in journals and anthologies. Awards include the Charlotte Mew Prize from Headmistress Press for "Odd Mercy", Narrative Poetry Prize from "Naugatuck River Review", and the Massachusetts Center for the Book's "Must Read" for "Waving Back". She teaches poetry for Pioneer Valley Writers' Workshops.

Author Talk: Bushra Rehman and Dulani

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, join Bushra Rehman talks about her new novel, "Roses in the Mouth of a Lion", the December Odyssey First Editions Club pick. She will be joined in conversation by Dulani.

Punctuated by both joy and loss, full of '80s music and beloved novels, "Roses in the Mouth of a Lion" is a new gem: a fiercely compassionate coming-of-age story of a girl struggling to reconcile her heritage and faith with her desire to be true to herself.

Bushra Rehman's collection of stories, "Corona", a dark comedy about being Muslim American was chosen by the New York Public Library as one of its favorite books about NYC, and her book of poems, "Marianna's Beauty Salon" was described by Joseph O. LeGaspi as a "love poem for Muslim girls, Queens, and immigrants making sense of their foreign home--and surviving." Her newest novel, "Roses in the Mouth of a Lion" centers on friendship and queer desire among young Pakistani-American women from Queens.

Dulani is a Pushcart-nominated multi-genre writer. His poetry and creative non-fiction have appeared in The Rumpus, Best New Poets 2020, Alaska Quarterly Review, and elsewhere. He is co-editor of the anthology "The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities". Dulani's manuscript, "Language We Fall Through" was a finalist in the Kelsey Street Press QTBIPOC Book Prize.

Annual Christmas Fair this set for Saturday

LONGMEADOW – Continuing its popular annual tradition, First Church of Christ in Longmeadow will welcome holiday shoppers Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Church is a vibrant and busy place, but nothing is bigger than the Annual Christmas Fair. This year it will include two floors of booths and shops spread throughout the First Church of Christ complex. Featured items include live wreaths, children's toys and games, jewelry, boutique clothing, attic treasures, gifts from afar, books, art, high quality crafts made by church members, homemade cookies, and more.

In addition to the shopping experience, visitors can sit down to a delicious lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And, Santa will be available for photos in a beautifully recreated North Pole cozy living room scene.

All proceeds go to local charities to support our community.

First Church is located on the corner of Williams and Longmeadow Streets in Longmeadow. For questions, or more information, call 413-567-6287, email office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org, or visit the website www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org.

Public Notices

GRANBY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 11, the Granby Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **December**

19, 2022 at 5:15 PM, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA. The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Kim's Pet Resort, LLC (Applicant) / T & A Associates and Properties,

LLC (Owner), seeking Special Permit and Site Plan Approval under Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III – Regulations, 3.5.3 – Services regarding a proposed pet care/pet related

services business at 220 West State Street, and known as Assessors' Map 8B-B-1 in the town of Granby, MA.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (9:00AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM – 12:00 PM Fridays) at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033. Additionally, copies of the plan and application may be inspected on the Planning Board's web page at <https://www.granby-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/public-hearing-notice>

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair
Granby Planning Board
12/02, 12/09/2022



LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF GRANBY

The Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 19, 2022, at 5:31 PM** at the Senior Center Building located at 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA to grant permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

East State St. - National Grid to install (1) SO pole 235-84 and anchor on East State St. beginning at a point approximately 725' west of the centerline of the intersection of Green Meadow Ln. across the street from pole 235. Existing tree guy needs to be removed and support pole will be installed to replace it. Location approximately as shown on plan

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires,

together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked — East State St. - Granby, Massachusetts. **30688893**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Granby Selectboard
Glen N. Sexton
Crystal L Dufresne
Richard K Beaulieu
12/02/2022

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 22 at Noon for Publication Dec. 27-30

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 29 at Noon for Publication Jan. 3-6

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Town Reminder

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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TRAIN from page 9

Economic impact

Smola talked about how a rail stop would benefit local small businesses by delivering foot traffic. He also said that, though it's far too early to solicit contracts for the construction of the rail, he agrees with Saunders that it would be ideal for them to go to regional companies.

"It's the political will to get this transformational transit project done for Western Mass," Saunders said.

"Not only a tremendous opportunity from a transport perspective, but generational opportunity from the perspective of economic development."

Smola mentioned that other parts of the commonwealth, like Boston or Springfield, might not realize the struggles people in rural parts of Western Massachusetts have to access public transportation.

"It's still tougher to do that stuff out here," he said.

"We don't have the option of just picking up a bus that runs on a regular schedule. The quick bus connector and the PVT systems are great, but they don't necessarily provide the level of access to get from point A to point B as robustly as other places in the commonwealth do."

Smola was able to list a number of ways in which the town would benefit from being a stop for the rail:

"Palmer is the 'Town of Seven Railroads,'" he said.

"In its heyday, it was the place to be in rail. I think, given the aggressive push that government entities are trying to make towards cleaner, more efficient modes of transportation – trying to get more cars off the road, trying to expand access to options for transportation in more rural parts of the state, like Palmer, as an example – I think that's a good thing."

Because of its place at the center of a number of roads that connect the region, Smola describes Palmer as "sitting on a transportation hub," with an exit to the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes 20, 32, 67 and 181 all running through the town and connecting

it to different parts of the state.

"If you're coming through this part of the commonwealth, you're coming through Palmer one way or another," Smola said..

"I think the West/East rail is going to be one of these transportation components that will help bring people to and from our part of the state."

Preaching Patience

Even though the project is closer than ever from coming to fruition, "I would beg people for patience on this," Smola said.

"We've stuck it out this long; If the legislature was not interested in doing anything, we wouldn't have spent the time creating this commission and going through all these steps. There's a real com-

mitment to making this happen."

Before the project could even come close to breaking ground, the funding will need to be in place and a governing authority established.

"And there's going to be more legislation needed at some point," Smola said.

"As much as things in these early stages are moving at quite a clip, just to make all this stuff happen, it's gonna take time."

Want to be heard?

To be alerted about the commission's schedule for upcoming meetings or to send a written testament to Smola, email him at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov.



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