

TOWN Reminder

FREE
December 15, 2023
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Serving the town of South Hadley

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CHRISTMAS TIME at the COA

By Samuel Gelinias
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's Council on Aging is currently accepting donations of hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves, which will be donated to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

These items will decorate a Christmas tree, which had been donated by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors, and is located in the lobby of the Council on Aging (COA).

The tree will remain up through Jan. 8, 2024. Refer to the December listing of events for other activities available throughout the month, the COA said.

The warming tree is one of the many different holiday events and programs offered in addition to the regular services, as the COA offers festive themes and warm thoughts throughout these coldest months of the year.

On Dec. 5, the COA stayed

Please see **COA**, page 6



Marlane Miller with Santa in front of the COA fireplace.

Turley photo by Samuel Gelinias

Most tax rates are down, but bills go up

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - At its Dec. 5 meeting, the town's Select Board and the two fire districts approved the fiscal year 2024 tax rates.

Due to increased assessments, most residents will see their tax bills increase by a few hundred dollars even though most rates went down. Those increases will be seen on the third and fourth quarter tax bills.

The property tax rate for FY 24 will be \$14.41 per \$1,000, plus a rate of \$2.24 for Fire District 1 and \$2.18 for Fire District 2. For the average home, worth approximately \$372,100, this will mean a tax bill of \$5,361 for District 1 and \$5,134 for District 2.

The rates for the town decreased by 6.6 percent, but the rising assessments mean most bills rose by about 4.42 percent. District 1's rate increased by 5.2 percent while District 2's rate decreased by 7.2 percent.

Town Assessor Melissa Couture Rimbold explained that although the town's rates may seem high, they are relatively low compared to other towns. South Hadley's low percentage of commercial and industrial properties puts most of the tax burden on residential property owners.

Several residents spoke during the public hearing, expressing concerns about why District 1's rates increased while the town and District 2's rates decreased.

Prudential committee member John Wojciechowski explained that fire department needs differ greatly from a town's needs. Equipment has to stay top-notch so the department can handle emergencies. He also spoke about the increase in payroll and costs.

There has been a lot of conflict between town residents and those running District 1 this year. Wojciechowski assured residents that the Prudential Committee is hearing the

Please see **TAX RATE**, page 11

The Johnson family & staff of Pleasant Street Auto Body & Repair, Hampshire Towing, Amber Scene Clean, and T+T Towing would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported us throughout this difficult year and beyond. We continue to look back fondly on the friendships we have with our customers, built on honesty & trust, throughout our many years in business. The greatest gift a small business can receive is a loyal customer, and we are proud to be of service to you all. We are thinking of you during this festive time of year and send our warmest wishes for a bright, joyful, safe, & healthy New Year to you and your loved ones!

The Johnson Family
Bill & Tracey • David • Robert, Jennifer & Josephine

Kevin Archambault, Dave Baez, Deb Barnes, Dianne Barry, Rob Bernier, Harry Bolio, Corie Boucher, Christian Brinegar, D.J. Carver, Allen Croteau, Corey Croteau, Guy Demers, Amber Dufault, James Duga, Matt Duga, Christina Dunn, Sean Ellis, Sam Epstein, David Facchini, Darrin Fenn, Tyler Fernandez, Jose Figueru, Jeremy Fontaine, Javier Fontanez, Conner Gadbois, Matt Giera, Jacob Goulette, Alex Graveline, Elizabeth Groot, Matt Hayden, Joe Heath, Lee Jekanowski, Doug Jenkins, Bill Johnson, David Johnson, Michael Johnson, Rob Johnson, Tracey Johnson, Jeff Kirley, Dan Labarre, Mike Labonte, Ethan Laflamm, Josh Larivee, Courtney Lemelin, Jennifer Lemelin, Al Mailhot, Gavin Mardeusse, Dick Martin, Donna Mastriani, Javien Mendez, Vick Mielnikowski, Shawn Miller, Aaron Morrison, Jack John Neves, Alen Orchulek, Walter Ragoza, Travis Richer, Nick Riley, John Ross, Sam Ross, Patty Ryan, Karen Saltarelli, Tony Salvatore, Francisco Sanchez, Justin Sanchez, Rafael Santiago, Neftali Santo, Emma Sawtelle, Danielle Scoons, John Sexton, Dan Slosek, Shawn Stebbins, Andrew Tabaka, Mark Tavernier, Madison Usher, Lee Vieu, Eric Walz, Joel Ware and Ant Was

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

► South Hadley

Middle-schoolers perform 'A Christmas Carol'

SOUTH HADLEY - The Michael E. Smith Middle School Drama Club performed Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in the middle school cafetorium Dec. 8-10 to three sold-out audiences.

"The Drama Club would like to thank all the families and friends who supported our eighty actors during their portrayal of these characters," a press statement reads. "The Drama Club also would like to thank Principal Fontaine, Mr. Klansek, and Mr. Gardner for their cameo appearances as Mr. Jeeves the Charity Solicitor."

Students said they are looking forward to their next production, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, in late March 2024. This will be the second time this show has been performed by the club, and the twenty-second production since its creation in 2005 through a grant from the Michael E. Smith Endowment for Education.



The Michael E. Smith Middle School Drama Club.

Submitted Photo



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South Hadley COA's December events

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's Senior Center has announced its upcoming December highlights.

Additionally, the SHCOA will be closed Dec. 25 for the holidays.

"Please also note there will be no evening programs Tuesday, Dec. 26. We will close at 4:30 p.m." the COA released.

The Café will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Cheesecake Prep and First Fire
Monday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

Cheesecake Decorating

Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.

Cheesecake decoration is \$8 per cheesecake/person. Limit of 24 bakes; participants must have registered by Dec. 6.

Gift Wrapping Help

Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m.

Cost: Donation. Bring items to be wrapped by the expert holiday helpers.

Handwashing event

Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 9 a.m.

Join Maureen Couture RN, South Hadley Public Health Nurse, as she

presents the GLO Germ handwashing technique.

"The Glo Germ technique will show you all those spots you missed and reinforce how hand washing is the first line of defense when caring for ourselves as go through the flu and COVID seasons."

Free holiday lunch

Wednesday, Dec. 20, at noon

Holiday Lunch by Loomis with entertainment by The O-Tones. Pick up tickets at the Welcome Desk to ensure seating.

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Holy Spirit
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T.D.S.

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High School ADA compliance to be explored

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Selectboard and School Committee are gathering information on the Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of the Granby Junior Senior High School building following concerns brought up by the committee.

Town Administrator Chris Martin is set to gather information about an ADA compliance inspection by the town's shared building inspector.

In a recent letter to the Selectboard, the School Committee expressed interest in the future of the conditions and operational efficiency of the high school.

Selectboard member Glenn Sexton said the letter stimulated a conversation, which needed to happen.

"We are talking about it and taking some steps. Maybe the

School Committee and Selectboard start meeting on a quarterly basis to talk about this and updates. Perhaps we get the Finance Committee involved as well," he said. "This is a big project to address on all sides."

School Committee Chair Jennifer Bartosz read a letter sent to the Selectboard from the committee.

The district has done proactive measures to attempt to address concerns about the building including an internal facilities assessment which details needs for the building and grounds.

"Over the past three consecutive years the Granby School Committee has diligently submitted a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority," she read. "Superintendent Sullivan has met with the Select Board each year for your approval in this regard each year as time passes, new issues

continue to arise necessitating our collective attention and action."

Last year at the annual town meeting, a project to address needs of the high school's kitchen and cafeteria was approved by voters. Bartosz said while it would be great to have the issue addressed, there are concerns that the entire building would need to be ADA compliant.

"It is in this context we that we emphasize the critical need for a comprehensive plan regarding the Granby Junior Senior High School facility," she read. "Timely decisions and strategic planning are essential to address the existing concerns and prevent further deterioration that may significantly impact the school's ability to serve its educational purpose."

She said the committee didn't want to force action from the board, but to create a plan to

move forward in collaboration with the Selectboard.

Currently, food for the high school is being made at East Meadow School and is brought over to the high school. The reason the cafeteria was addressed first was due to need.

Another project was the boilers at the school, which are original to the building. The matter was a joint item with HVAC repairs in the FY22 town meeting, the article wasn't approved.

It is currently unknown what financial threshold exists that would cause the school district to bring the entire high school building up to compliance.

Selectboard member Crystal Dufresne asked if that would be something the building inspector could determine.

Sexton replied that the building inspector may be able to tell the town what needs to be done to bring the building into ADA

compliance.

Finance Committee Chair John J. Libera Jr. spoke in the meeting as well, agreeing with the board and committee.

"We need that first question answered [about the cost to bring the school up to ADA compliance.] From there, we can move on to address what's next. If, for example, it's thought that the best thing to do would be to keep educating students like they are now. Then from there you have to start a very serious study into what that would cost," he said. "We know that we know that the costs are going to be high because any kind of preliminary work that's been done looking at things show that the renovation costs are outrageous, and the building costs are getting worse. And compliance issues are paramount, and anything is being done."

Granby Library to host pastel workshop this weekend

GRANBY – The town's public library will soon host an upcoming Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired pastel workshop for adults and teens entitled "The Rose."

Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present the workshop from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16.

"This is a pastel painting workshop designed for both sheer beginners to advanced participants," the library released, adding that space is limited. "Please call 413-467-3320 to pre-register."

In this new two-hour workshop, participants will produce their very own personalized and original pastel based on Georgia O'Keeffe's rose.

"Maichack guides everyone in drawing, blending, and layering. Mr. Maichack has been asked over the years to offer a rose workshop, the most popular of flowers, and a symbol of love. Here it is," the Granby Free Public Library released in a press statement.

All materials will be supplied, including pastels, paper, and blending materials, and all will keep their 12x18 painting while entertained by anecdotes on Georgia O'Keeffe's flower painting and her life.

"Maichack will bring his Georgia O'Keeffe rose pastel painting to the presentation to help

give close detail in pastel, supplement our creations, and unveil the process. All will be broken down into easy steps and methodically planned out to make it so easy," the library released.

Maichack is an award-winning artist, twice Mass. Cultural Council Gold Star Award Program nominee, a seasoned professional from instructing at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, colleges, and hundreds of libraries. Maichack lives in the Berkshires and is a portraitist and painter working primarily in pastels.

"Winner of the Award of Merit from the Bennington Center for the Arts: Impressions of New England Show 2003, he also was awarded the Savoir-faire Pastel Award from the Great Lakes Pastel Society," the library shared. "Maichack was commissioned by Westfield State College to paint the pastel portrait of the past president of Westfield State University, Doctor Frederick Woodward, which was unveiled at the dedication of the Woodward Center; and pastel painted dictionary great Charles Merriam, unveiled by Merriam-Webster Co. at Merriam-Gilbert Library. He has been in many national juried shows and was awarded numerous Massachusetts Cultural Council grants. In addition to portraiture, his still life [art] and landscapes

are represented by galleries from Kennebunkport, Maine, to San Francisco, Calif."

Maichack is accepting requests to do various commissions to do pastel paintings; email him at EmJay7@aol.com or visit his new web site at GregoryMaichack.com. According to the press statement, he has been a faculty member of the Museum Studio Quadrangle in Springfield and taught at Holyoke and Greenfield Community Colleges, Westfield State University, East Works, the MFA Boston, and The Guild, Northampton.

"Maichack's pastel paintings have been selected twice for the Annual National Exhibition of the Academic Artists Association and as a result Maichack was invited to be a member of this prestigious organization."

This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Polish food sale Saturday

HOLYOKE— On Saturday, Dec. 16, Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke will be selling frozen pierogi, golumbki and kapusta. The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m. Cabbage, apple and

potato/cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen. Quarts of kapusta will be available for \$5.00 and golumbki will be sold for \$3.50 each. Please call the parish office at 413-532-5661 for more information.

Southampton man dies after single-vehicle crash in Easthampton

EASTHAMPTON – A 21-year-old man from Southampton died after the vehicle he was driving crashed near the four-way intersection of Loudville Road, Glendale St., Pomeroy Meadow Road, and West St. in Easthampton on Tuesday.

The vehicle was traveling eastbound on Pomeroy Meadow Road when it failed to stop at a stop sign, crossed the intersection, and struck the guardrail on the southeast corner of the intersection. The vehicle briefly became airborne before landing in a field and coming to rest in a wooded area. The driver was pronounced deceased on scene, according to

reports. The crash occurred at approximately 6:40 a.m.

Easthampton Police and Fire responded to the scene, followed by the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section (CARS), Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services Section, and Massachusetts State Police Detectives from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. Road closures and detours near the scene of the crash were lifted at approximately 1:15 p.m. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The official cause of death will be determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

NOTICE

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Small Grants Available to South Hadley Falls Businesses

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

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

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

Grant application and more information online here:

<https://www.southhadley.org/1299/>

South-Hadley-Falls-Business-Improvement-

Opinion

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Experiment with American Holly seeds

I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) are native plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too!

It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pretreatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots. Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new, bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way?

I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67.

For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit.

Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily

Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later.

If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA,

will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record).

That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

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Write to us in Letter to the Editor format and we'll print your opinion on our Op/Ed page.

Email it to townreminder@turley.com. Include your hometown and a phone number at which we can reach you for confirmation.

Police department announces newest Sergeant

SOUTH HADLEY – On Dec. 12, Detective Felix J. Blaney-Perez was sworn in as the South Hadley Police Department’s newest Sergeant.

Sgt. Blaney-Perez was appointed as a reserve officer in March 1995 and became a full-time officer in June 1996, the police department released in a statement. Sgt. Blaney-Perez was assigned to the Detective Bureau from September 2020 to November 2023.

“During his time with the South Hadley Police Department, Sgt. Blaney-Perez has been or is currently involved in the following roles: roles of Youths Escape the Streets Team, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, Crisis Intervention Team, Police Access and Community Engagement Team, Drug Addiction Recovery Team, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Civil Rights Officer, Firearms Instructor, Armorer, Union President, Police Association VP,” the South Hadley Police Department released.

Prior to his time with the South Hadley Police Department, Sgt. Blaney-Perez served in the

United States Army from 1986-1992 and also served with the Air National Guard from 1992-

1995. Sgt. Blaney-Perez participated in deployments to the Middle East, South America, and Europe, according to reports.

Sgt. Blaney-Perez was pinned by his wife Anne Blaney-Perez.

“Congratulations Sgt Blaney-Perez on your promotion,” police said. “Thank you to Town Ad-



Courtesy photos by South Hadley Police Department
Sgt. Blaney-Perez was pinned by his wife Anne Blaney-Perez.



Detective Felix J. Blaney-Perez was sworn in as the South Hadley Police Department’s newest Sergeant.

ministrator [Lisa] Wong, and the rest of the town hall staff for joining in the swearing in ceremony.”

Granby Police Logs

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 148 calls for the week of Dec. 1 through Dec. 7. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Dec. 1

4 p.m. – Roland Monfette, 65, of Granby was placed under arrest due to an active arrest warrant.

Saturday, Dec. 2

2:46 a.m. – A motorist reported a car that went off the road and had flipped over. Granby Police and Fire responded.

There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

10:56 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in front of the library. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

6:01 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 51MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Sunday, Dec. 3

11:49 a.m. – Granby Police and Fire

responded to a reported car fire in the post office parking lot. There were no injuries and the fire was extinguished.

7:31 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 54MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended Massachusetts driver’s license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for speeding and operating with a suspended license.

Monday, Dec. 4

1:55 a.m. – While on patrol, an offi-

cer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 80MPH in 45MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

7:12 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

10:10 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 11

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Tuesday Night
6:30pm

Pitch Night

Wednesday Night
5-7pm



BBQ Smoke Dinner

Friday Night
7:30pm

Trivia Night
\$5 per person
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CHRISTMAS TIME at the COA



Members of the SHHS Culinary Department serve seasonal sweets.



Ethan Bombard (far left) with his classmates decorating cupcakes.



Turley photos by Samuel Gelinas
Regulars of the COA and staff were excited to see young people enjoying the atmosphere.

COA from page 1

open late to hold a holiday-inspired Open House, welcoming all ages for a variety of seasonal enjoyments.

Among the entertainment provided included Christmas karaoke and a scale model village with a train. No holiday party would be complete without Santa, who sat by the fireplace for pictures and stayed to read "The Night Before Christmas" to guests.

Regulars and staff of the COA said they were excited to see the presence of young people, who even helped with putting on this event.

Local young people were hospitable to visitors while showcasing their talents, according to reports, including students from the South Hadley

High School Culinary Department and the Girl Scouts. The Culinary Department decorated cupcakes and serviced a hot chocolate stand, while the Girl Scouts hosted crafts.

Ethan Bombard, a culinary student from South Hadley High School, helped with cupcakes and said that this is not his first time at the COA. The students have done multiple events here, such as the veterans' breakfast, he said.

"All of them have been super fun and engaging, and the people super nice," Bombard added.

Marlaine Miller, a South Hadley resident who attended, called the event "fabulous," complimenting the food service, music, and festive atmosphere.

"Everybody is just so friendly here," Miller said. "They did a great job."



Star decorating took place in the large conference room during Open House.



A model train buzzes by a scale model of the COA.

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Tigers offense struggles in opening defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Even though things didn't start out very well for the Chicopee Comp girls' varsity basketball team in the season opening game at South Hadley, it was an enjoyable ride home for the Lady Colts.

After trailing by as many as 20 points in the first half, the Lady Colts outscored the Lady Tigers, 43-26 in the second half, enroute to an exciting 59-55 non-league victory before a large crowd at Thomas B. Landers Court, last Thursday night.

"We've scrimmaged South Hadley over the past couple of years and we've talked about playing them in the regular season," said Comp head coach Tony Couture. "I really didn't think it would start as bad as it did for us, but this was such a fun game tonight. I wish it was the last game of the season because I don't know if any game is going to live up to this."

The last regular season meeting between the two schools, which are separated by about five miles, took place in January of 2020. The Lady Colts celebrated a ten point victory in that contest.



Caitlyn Dean sends a pass into the paint.

The Lady Colts were led by junior guards Eliza Burger and Taryn Carriveau, who combined to score 47 points, in the season opening victory.

Burger finished with a game-high and career-high 24 points.

"Taryn has always been a big part of our offense and I was able to step up in tonight's game," said Burger, who made a total of six 3-pointers. "I know several of the South Hadley players and it feels very good to get a victory

against them."

Carriveau, who entered the 2023-24 regular season with more than 500 career points, scored 19 of her 23 points after halftime. She scored a career-high 24 points in a one point non-league home win versus Tantasqua Regional a year ago.

Comp senior forward Alyssa Caney chipped in with six points,

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



Drew Alley attempts a shot.

New co-op readies for regular season



Chris Walczak looks to shoot on goal.



Brennan Corcoran begins a journey up the ice.

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Belchertown and Chicopee hockey met in a scrimmage as both teams prepared for their regular season opener. Belchertown is coming off an appearance in last year's state tournament while Chicopee's team will feature several different players this season as the Pacers now co-op with four other schools. This year's team will be a five-team co-op with Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Granby, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCIC) all participating. Chicopee faces Easthampton on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. at Fitzpatrick Rink.



Nathan Robitaille works along the right side.



Connor McDonnell digs the puck away from the wall.



Stephen Samson tries to get around a defender.



Caleb Lundgren heads up the ice with the puck.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

T-Birds stuff Islanders on Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakub Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 8

Sports



The Rams hosted several teams, including Agawam and Holyoke at their event.



The Rams then faced Springfield International Charter earlier this week.

Rams host multi-team event

GRANBY – Last Saturday morning, several teams, including Agawam, Monument Mountain, Chicopee, Southwick, and Holyoke, came to Granby to match up in a series of dual meets on two mats in the Granby High School gymnasium. The Rams host a few events during the regular season on Saturdays. But coming up this weekend, Granby will travel to Holyoke for the Knight-Hawk Tournament, which is an individual competition. Their next single dual meet will be Wednesday, Dec. 20 against Smith Vocational.



Saturday wrestling meets at home are a regular thing for the Rams, which host three events this season.



Last year, the Rams had a tougher time in regular season dual meets.



Granby wrestling hosted multiple meets last weekend.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

T-BIRDS from page 7

placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Vadim Zherenko was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game moved to 4-on-4 following matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put the game

out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a backhand to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the third. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could

muster on this night.

Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play shorthanded, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

TIGERS from page 7

while sophomore guard Ava DeBettencourt and senior guard Natalie Fournier finished the contest with three points apiece.

The South Hadley student section had a lot to cheer about as the Lady Tigers reeled off 17 unanswered points during a four-minute stretch in the opening quarter.

After receiving a bounce pass from senior guard Drew Alley, junior center Ava Asselin (4 points) scored the first points of the new season for the home team with an inside hoop. Then junior guard CC Gurek scored the Lady Tigers next ten points with the help of two 3-pointers and two lay-ups.

South Hadley, who was leading 12-1 at that point, continued its run with an inside hoop and a 3-pointer from the left corner from freshman forward Cara Dean (9 points).

Even with his squad leading by 16 points, longtime South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc wasn't very comfortable standing on the sideline.

"Even though we were leading by double digits in the first half, it only felt like we were ahead by six points," Dubuc said. "Comp is a well-coached team, and I knew that they were going to make a comeback against us."

A 3-pointer and a lay-up by Burger closed the gap to 17-6 entering the second stanza.

With 5:20 remaining in the first half, South Hadley built a 27-7 lead following a lay-up by freshman forward Kate Phillips (7 points).

Less than a minute later Gurek, who scored all ten of her points in the first quarter, left the game with a left ankle injury.

"CC is our starting point guard and captain," Dubuc said. "She carried us offensively during the first half. She's the real deal and we're hoping her injury isn't very serious."

Then Comp put together a 9-2 run and trailed 29-16 at halftime.

"We've been working on that full-court press and our goal was to wear them down," Couture said. "I think, maybe, that happened. We hung around in the first half long enough and came out great in the third quarter."

Carriveau scored 13 of her team's first 15 points in the third quarter, which sliced the deficit to 33-31.

Then Burger banked home a 3-point shot from the left side of the court with 2:50 remaining in the third quarter, which gave the Lady Colts their first lead since early in the first quarter.

Burger would make another shot from beyond the arc giving Comp a 39-33 lead.

"Burger had a great night shooting the ball," Couture said. "She got hot in the second half, and she is a great scorer and a great shooter."

The Lady Tigers responded with a put-back basket from junior guard Maddie Soderbaum, who led the way offensively for the home team with 12 points. Then back-to-back field goals by Phillips tied the score at 39 entering the fourth quarter.

Neither team was able to pull away over the final eight



Sophia Butler is fouled as she shoots.



Cianna Gurek drives to the hoop.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cara Dean looks to shoot.

minutes of the contest.

Soderbaum scored eight points during the first five minutes of the fourth quarter, which gave the Lady Tigers a slim 51-49 advantage.

With 1:30 remaining in regulation, Burger made her final 3-pointer, which gave the Lady Colts the lead back at 55-53.

After a made free throw by DeBettencourt, Cariveau sealed the season opening victory for the Lady Colts by making three more shots from the line.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.



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Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will com-

pete on all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note, Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also

join in on the Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is officially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at www.speedsport.tv.

Worcester Railers suffer loss to Adirondack Thunder

WORCESTER – The Railers dropped a 3-2 shootout to the Adirondack Thunder here Saturday before a loud Teddy Bear Toss crowd of 5,029. While Worcester did not dominate play in this one as much as it did in Friday's 4-2 triumph, the Railers had more and better chances than the Thunder.

However, Adirondack was 1 for 2 on its power plays, Worcester 0 for 1. This marked the ninth time in 21 games this season the Railers were outscored by the opposition on special teams. Worcester is 2-4-3 in those games.

The Railers did not get a power play until overtime. At 3:08 of the fourth period, something happened that typified the night. A Worcester shot rang off the post, rolled into the back of Thunder goaltender Vinnie Purpura, then bounced back towards the net.

It stopped on the goal line. Worcester outshot the visitors, 38-28. That included a 21-6 edge in the first period, which ended 1-1 but could have been 5-1.

"Stay the course," was coach Jordan Smotherman's advice to his team in the dressing room. "That's two really good games out of us. We have 80 shots in two nights and we should win both those games. Obviously, we'll take the three-point weekend but prefer the four."

"There's a lot to build on." The seven-minute overtime was exactly what hockey's honchos had in mind when they thought up the idea. It was non-

stop offense with great goaltending from Worcester's Tristan Lennox and Purpura, both of whom stopped five shots.

The shootout was the kind of thing hockey's honchos are trying to avoid. The teams traded slow-motion approaches to the net. Adirondack's Patrick Grasso had the only goal in eight tries, a 12-foot wrist shot along the ice.

Keeghan Howdeshell and Anthony Repaci had the Railers goals. Worcester never led. Jack Jeffers and Mike Gillespie scored for Adirondack.

Howdeshell's goal came at 19:07 of the first period. It was set up by a physical play by Riley Piercey along the right boards. Repaci redirected a long pass from the right point by Todd Goehring at 13:33 of the second period.

In the last four games the Railers have outshot the opposition by 160-108 but have been outscored — goalie in the net — by 11-8. Worcester's shots have not been time-to-change lines softballs, either. The Railers are pummeling opposing goalies.

"It's the old adage in hockey," Smotherman said. "If you keep getting the chances they're gonna go in at some point. I'd rather be getting them than not."

Saturday night's game marked the 16th time the Railers and Thunder have met in the last 30 games going back to the end of last season. That ridiculous overload is almost over. The teams play just three more times this year, one of those games next week.



'Tis the season for giving at the South Hadley library

SOUTH HADLEY - During the month of December, the main library at 2 Canal St. will be accepting more than just book donations.

"For those that are feeling generous or want to help out locally this holiday season, we are accepting food and toiletry donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc.," the library released. "They are a client-choice food pantry in

South Hadley that serves over 150 families in South Hadley and Granby."

"With more and more people experiencing economic hardship and needing food assistance, please consider donating."

NHN is seeking much needed soup, hot and cold cereal, canned meat, tomato products, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant and

women's hygiene products— drop items off in the gift boxes under our tree by the elevator.

"You may also make monetary donations instead by clicking the 'Donate' button on nhnfoodpantry.org or their Facebook page. Please, no expired items," the library added. "Take advantage of our convenient open hours for your holiday giving this season."

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Town Reminder

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates for the full-time position of **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

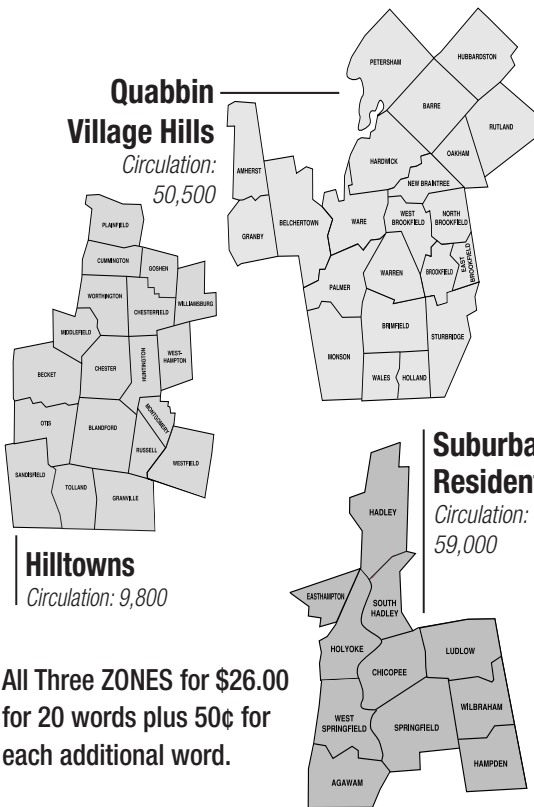
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Local author hosts reading at East Meadow Elementary

GRANBY - Local Ludlow children's author Kathy Picard visited East Meadow Elementary School on Nov. 30 for a reading to two kindergarten classes and two first-grade classrooms.

The event was held thanks to Superintendent Stephen Sullivan and Principal Lisa Desjarlais of East Meadow Elementary School, according to a press release.

"Seventy-nine students were impressed with the story and interacting with the colorful pages by Illustrator Deborah Nicholson," the press statement reads.

Life lessons featured in the book, "I love you so much that..." include the "why's" of asking to brush one's teeth, paying attention to a teacher in school, going outside to play, eating vegetables, and more.

"The children had the opportunity to share their favorite vegetables/fruits, [and] share the chores they do around the house to help out the adults in their family," the press statement reads. "Talking about the importance of keeping them even safer by not talking to a stranger. To ask an adult if it's okay to go with someone they may not know. When Kathy asked them the important question, 'if a stranger said I have lots and lots of money and lots and lots of candy, would you help me find my lost puppy?' Every single child said no. So important, and these children all know the right answer."

According to reports, the children said their favorite part of the story was "seeing Abby, Kathy's mini schnauzer, on the pages." Abby "paw signs" each book given.

"They also liked Dr. Abair, the bicycle page, [and] bear brushing teeth," the press statement reads.

Picard gave each child a toothbrush

and paw stickers. The teachers of the four classes were given materials to do a "paper plate teddy bear pouch" with the children when time permits.

Picard authored the first edition in 2021, followed by a second edition later in 2021 to include activity pages to "engage young minds through repetition and retention so the story's heartfelt message remains with them."

"It includes questions, color, scribble, draw and interact with the images on these pages," the author released.

In June 2023, the story was put into an Interactive & Bilingual (Spanish/English) version. This children's book is also listed as an educational resource by organizations such as Childhelp and the Massachusetts Citizens for Children. It's also listed on ChildUSA, a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania, as a resource for parents and teachers, according to the author.

"Kathy has read her book to schools in Chicopee, Ludlow, and Springfield. Daycare centers in Chicopee, Granby, and South Hadley. YMCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs, Lupa Zoo, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative in West Springfield, Book Clubs and Correctional Facilities," the press statement adds. "Her long-term goal is to give each child the opportunity to have this educational, loving book in their home library."

The books can be found on Amazon, libraries including the Granby Public Library, or directly purchased through Picard and for a limited time at Sapowsky Farms in Granby, Wilbraham Flowers in Wilbraham, and Beautiful You Salon in Ludlow.

Contact Picard at Kathychildadvocate@gmail.com or 413-575-4674.



Submitted Photo

Kathy Picard of Ludlow, middle, joined first-grade teacher April Johnson, right, and a teacher helper at East Meadow School in Granby.

POLICE LOG from page 5

that the vehicle was traveling at 58MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Thursday, Dec. 7

5:40 p.m. - Several motorists reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An accident report was

completed. It was determined that the operator of one of the vehicles did not stop for the stop sign and caused the accident. That operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

10:14 p.m. - A motorist reported that a car struck a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed. It was determined that the operator of the vehicle had a suspended MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes and operating with a suspended driver's license.

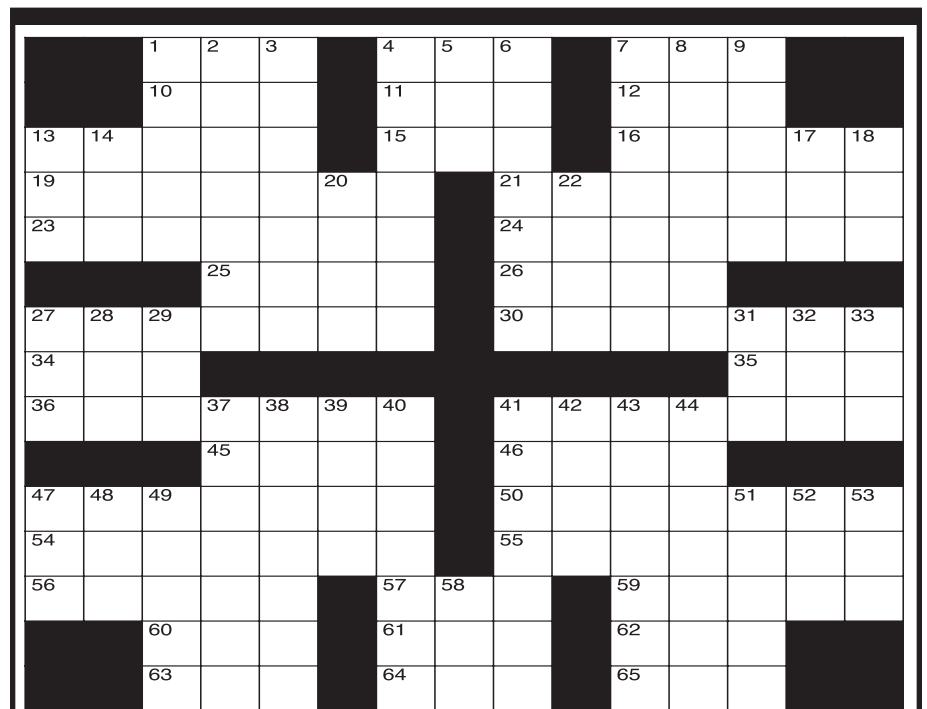
TAX RATE from page 1

concerns and making plans to improve communication. Part of that will be budget sheets that are easier to read and the committee being more open to questions from the public.

Later in the evening, in a joint meeting with the Planning Board, the Select Board heard all the details of the town's Housing Production Plan, and the Planning Board approved it. The Select Board will hold a public hearing at its next meeting and then vote on the plan. The plan, which has been worked on for about one-and-a-half

years, lays out the guide for developing affordable housing in town over the next five years. Among other things, the plan looks at different funding sources and locations for affordable housing units. The committee that created it held several community forums and public comment times, as well as distributed a survey to get feedback from residents.

The board also looked at the different objectives for the town administrator's performance-based evaluation. The evaluation will look at the areas of communications, operations, commitment, and operations among others.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: ___ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases

- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. ___ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage

- (abbr.)
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. ___ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil ___, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

Community

Nomination papers available for March Town Election

SOUTH HADLEY - Nomination papers for the 2024 Town Election in March are available until Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 116 Main St., South Hadley.

Nomination papers may be obtained during office hours, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Accommodations for appointments outside of regular office hours are available, a press statement reads.

Interested candidates must be registered voters in the town of South Hadley. To appear on the ballot, candidates must obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk's Office and have them signed by local registered voters. Town-wide offices require 50 signatures on nomination papers from registered voters in South Hadley. Town Meeting Member offices require 10 signatures from registered voters in their respective precinct. It is

recommended that prospective candidates obtain more than the minimum number of signatures.

- Papers for the following seats will be available:
- Town Moderator - 1 Seat - 3 Year Term
 - Selectboard - Two seats - Three-year term
 - School Committee - Two seats - Three-year term
 - Board of Health - One seat - Three-year term
 - Municipal Light Board - Two seats - Three-year term
 - Board of Assessors - One seat - Three-year term
 - Housing Authority - One seat - Three-year term
 - Trustee Free Public Library - Three seats - Three-year term
 - Planning Board - Two seats - Three-year term
 - Town Meeting Members - Eight seats per precinct - Three-year term
 - Town Meeting Member - Two seats, Precinct A - Two-

- year term
- Town Meeting Member - One seat, Precinct C - Two-year term
- Town Meeting Member - One seat, Precinct C - One-year term

Once the candidate has obtained all the needed signatures, nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 for signatures to be certified. The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in conjunction with the Presidential Primary.

Interested candidates may direct their questions and comments to the Town Clerk's Office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or by email at elections@southhadley.ma.gov. For more information about voting and elections in South Hadley, visit southhadley.org/Elections.

Happy Holidays

Come Visit Santa,

Mrs. Claus and his elves
at his cabin in
Buttery Brook Park

Dec. 9, 10
Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17
5:30 - 7 p.m.

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