

TOWN Reminder

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FOUR CHAPLAINS *honored in ceremony*



Submitted photos

American Legion Post 260 Commander Brian Willette and Chaplain Father Fohn Smegal, the Massachusetts National Guard Chaplain conducting a memorial wreath laying to honor the Four Chaplains' sacrifice.

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Learning the history of those who fought for our country is importance, and those who served alongside them just as much.

Last Thursday, the South Hadley Public library hosted a special event where people could gather to learn about the bravery and sacrifice of

four chaplains, who all held the rank of first lieutenant.

These men included Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Catholic priest Father John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling.

"I learned about the Four Chaplains after becoming involved in the American Legion and Military Order of

the Purple Heart in 2010 and was invited to an annual ceremony that was being held at the VA Chapel in Northampton," said Brian Willette, the South Hadley American Legion Post 260 Commander.

"I attended and there heard for the first time the story of their selfless service and supreme sacrifice so that others may live. I also learned the term "Four Chaplains Sunday" so named by the American Legion as the

day we as an organization commemorated the fateful events of February 3rd, 1943."

While all different people in their personalities and denominations, Goode, Poling, and Washington all served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America, and they met at the Chaplains School at Harvard University.

They studied for their

Please see **CHAPLAINS**, page 9



Submitted photos

Representative Gomez answering questions and getting to know the people of our town.

Town welcomes new state rep with fun events

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – When it comes to the people who represent our communities, we don't always get a chance to sit down with them one-on-one to get to know them as people.

The representatives who work to organize and ensure that we have what we need on the state level as a part of the House change through their terms, but they share the one goal of ensuring that our community's voices are heard.

New State Representative Homar Gomez came to the town recently to have a talk and answer some questions from the community at the Council on Aging, getting to know people in a laid-back way to get to know the people of South Hadley.

After that, made an appearance at the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Com-

merce's Business After 5 event, getting the chance to meet with local business owners and see what its like to be a business owner here in the community.

"I truly valued the opportunity to connect with people, hear their stories, and spend time within the community. That was undoubtedly my favorite aspect," said Gomez. "I find advocating for our community to be truly fulfilling."

Gomez has always spent his time in community service, and started out his government career as a city councilor in Easthampton for seven years, three of them he served as city council president.

"Throughout my tenure, I dedicated myself to understanding the workings of each city department through close collaboration. This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of municipal operations and their financial

Please see **GOMEZ**, page 6

Business After 5 kicks off

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Chamber of Commerce works hard to provide information to the community about local businesses and has been holding Business After 5 events to highlight these businesses and nonprofits in the community.

"The South Hadley and Granby Chamber started our flagship event, the Business After 5, in 2018," said Steve Laplante, the SHGCC President. "Since then, the SHG Chamber has added other events like the Spring Fling, a Comedy Show, Legislative

Breakfast, a golf tournament, and Trunk or Treat to name a few."

The South Hadley Granby Chamber of Commerce works hard to promote its members and non-profits in many different ways, including donating money they raise to non-profits, the Council on Aging, scholarships for high school seniors, and to local food pantries.

"At a Business After 5, the SHG Chamber is able to help promote the hosting venue, which is always a member of the SHG Chamber, allows our members in attendance to network with each other, helps our event sponsors

to spread their message to event attendees, and we are able to raise the money that we donate back to the community through ticket sales, raffle prize sales, 50/50 raffles and more depending on the event!"

Last week, the Chamber held a Business After 5 event at Johnny's Tap Room in South Hadley, where almost 60 people came to represent the many different businesses and non-profits from South Hadley, Granby, and other neighboring communities.

The night starts off with selling raffle tickets, network-

Please see **AFTER 5**, page 5



Submitted photos

Steven Laplante, Melissa Whitelock, Jenn Therkelsen, State Representative Homar Gomez, Regina Zebrowski, Jameson Glanville, and Michelle Lyman at the event.

Eversource requests certificates from Cons.

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Conservation Commission held a public meeting, as well as a discussion and consideration of requests for various certificates, with many people in attendance online.

The Feb. 19 meeting was held by Active Chair Terry Rosenfeld and members Kathleen Davis, Jill Pietrantonio, and Tom Dennis, as well as Conservation Administrator Rebekah Cornell, and Conservation Department member Colleen Canning.

Request for two Certificates of Compliance for Eversource Energy

The commission moved to discuss a request for a Certificate of Compliance from Eversource Energy, regarding lines 1327-1428-1447, as well as to discuss their Copperweld Replacement Project.

Melissa Coady of Tighe & Bond came on the meeting on behalf of Eversource, and shared that the work has been completed on the lines 1327-1428-1447, and has been completed under the commission's jurisdiction

Please see **EVERSOURCE**, page 3

Local cross-stitching group gets together for fun

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – Finding your "thing", the hobby or activity that you can do to unwind after a long day does not have to be a difficult process, as there are hundreds of activities and hobbies to pick up and learn how to do.

Joan Dittmer hosts a group at the Senior Center on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. on learning to cross-stitch.

"We are a very user-friendly group for every level, for whatever they want to make, for however complicated or simple you want to do. We are always looking to welcome some new

members," said Dittmer.

The group is designed for people of all experiences to cross-stitch, and you don't even have to know how to start the first stitch in order to join in on the fun and learn a new craft.

The group has been going strong, and will reach two years in April with six steadfast members, and it is always looking for new people to try their hand at a new pattern or two.

"The time goes by so fast," said Dittmer.

The fabric used in cross-stitching is made up of little boxes of varying sizes, and once you learn the directions to put in the stitches, you can see the designs begin to take shape

Please see **STITCHING**, page 6



Submitted photos

Members of the cross-stitch group, Francis, Joan and her therapy dog Harmony, Carolyn, and Melissa.



Photo courtesy of Brian Regan

Beau Briere at the Eagle Scout ceremony.

Eagle Scout Beau Briere Makes a Difference in South Hadley

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—For many young scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout represents the culmination of years of dedication, leadership, and service. For Beau Briere, this honor also became an opportunity to give back to his community in a meaningful way.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Briere took on the task of repainting fire hydrants throughout South Hadley, a project that not only improved the town’s appearance but also contributed to public safety.

“I decided to do this project because when fire hydrants get rusty or old, they can become less functional and disgusting looking in neighborhoods,” Briere explained. His efforts benefited both the community and Water District 1 of South Hadley, which helped coordinate the project. “I would just like to recognize all the people who helped me with finishing my project,” he added, acknowl-

edging the teamwork that made the project a success.

For Briere, the decision to pursue the rank of Eagle Scout was natural. “I saw it as beneficial for my life,” he said. “Becoming an Eagle Scout sets someone up with skills in life that I would be missing out on if I never did Boy Scouts. I was hoping that becoming an Eagle Scout would tell people that I was capable of doing it, as I did.”

Now an Eagle Scout, Briere is continuing to build on the skills and discipline he developed in Scouting. He is currently attending Western New England University, and down the line, where he hopes to earn a master’s degree in electrical engineering.

His experiences in scouting, particularly outdoor adventures, have shaped his perspective and resilience. “My favorite scouting experience has been the outdoor adventures of almost all my camping trips, as each one of them has so many stories to tell full of fun and adventure,” he shared. “Even if it was a below-freezing camping ex-

perience or anything that may have been uncomfortable at the time, I don’t regret any of it.”

Briere’s accomplishment is a testament to his hard work, leadership, and commitment to serving his community. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is no small feat, requiring years of dedication and the successful completion of a service project that benefits the community. Through his work repainting fire hydrants, Briere not only enhanced the safety and appearance of South Hadley but also demonstrated the leadership and perseverance that define an Eagle Scout.

His journey serves as an inspiration to current and future Scouts, showing that with determination and a willingness to serve, great things can be accomplished. South Hadley is now a better place thanks to Beau Briere’s hard work, and his story is a reminder of the positive impact young leaders can have in their communities.

Fifty-Third Annual Spring Flower Show at Mount Holyoke College

SOUTH HADLEY—The Botanic Garden at Mount Holyoke College is holding its annual Spring Flower Show starting Saturday, March 1, 2025 and ending Sunday, March 16, 2025. The Spring Flower Show is held in the Talcott Greenhouse on campus and is free and open to the public.

This year’s show is the fifty-third annual event. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the vibrant colors and fragrances of this floral spectacle. Visitors will also be able to stroll through other parts of the Talcott Greenhouse complex including the surrounding three acres of gardens.

“The show will feature thousands of vibrant tulips, cheery daffodils, fragrant hyacinths as well as other spring bloomers all set amidst and



in combination with plants from the permanent living collection,” said Tom Clark, the director and curator of the Botanic Garden. “The Flower Show is always a welcome burst of spring-like exuberance in the waning days of winter! We encourage visitors to explore the entire

Talcott Greenhouse as it has a rich and diverse collection of plants from around the world.”

During the show, the Talcott Greenhouse will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Drama Club hosts Beauty and the Beast Tea Party fundraiser

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The Michael E. Smith Middle School (MESMS) Drama Club is inviting families to a magical afternoon at their Beauty and the Beast Tea Party Fundraiser on Saturday, March 8, from 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Pat’s Social Center in South Hadley. This event will bring children and families together for an enchanted experience.

Abby O’Connor, a parent volunteer with the MESMS Drama Club, shared that the idea stemmed from brainstorming ways to fundraise during the club’s Saturday morning set-building sessions.

“We came up with the idea based loosely on the character breakfasts found in Disney parks, making it local like the princess parties I took my daughter to at St. Pat’s when she was little,” O’Connor said. “Our vision is to put on an event that is equal parts fundraiser and community event.”

The tea party will offer guests the chance to meet

the main characters from the upcoming MESMS production of Beauty and the Beast, take photos with them, and enjoy light refreshments, music, dancing, face painting, and coloring activities. Each child attending will receive a special gift as a keepsake from the event. To add to the magic, attendees are encouraged to dress up in their favorite princess or fairytale attire.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$10 each and have been selling well, but the club welcomes continued support.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://mesmsdrama.ludus.com/index.php> or at the door with cash.

The Beauty and the Beast Tea Party serves as a fundraiser for the MESMS Drama Club, which offers a free theater experience to over 60 students. The proceeds will help cover the costs associated with putting on five performances this season.

“There have been a few large and new expenses this year that need to be accommodated for each of the five shows we put on, so we de-

cided to raise extra funds,” O’Connor explained. “The club is free to any student who wants to join, so community support is imperative. Any cost you can imagine accompanying running a drama club of 60-plus children, we need help with.”

A highlight of the event will be the presence of the show’s actors in full costume, who are excited to interact with guests. “They are so excited to be out in the community for these events, getting to interact with the families that are so supportive of our shows!” said O’Connor.

For those who wish to contribute beyond attending the event, donations can be sent by mailing a check made out to the MESMS Drama Club to Michael E. Smith Middle School, 100 Mosier St., South Hadley, MA 01075.

Join the MESMS Drama Club for an unforgettable afternoon of enchantment while supporting local theater students in bringing their production of Beauty and the Beast to life.

Chorale to present annual concert

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley.

The program features Randall Thompson’s Frostiana; Giovanni Battista Pergolesi’s Magnificat; and Johann Sebastian Bach’s Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring and Sheep May Safely Graze.

Music Director Anita Anderson Cooper conducts the 70-voice chorus and orchestra.

A well-known area musician, Ms. Anderson Cooper also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College Handbell Choir.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of singers, ranging in ages from 20s through 90s, from 17 area communities.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also be purchased prior to the concert day for \$20 \$15, and \$5 from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at www.eventbrite.com.



Anita Anderson Cooper, Music Director, and Michael Rheault, accompanist, lead a rehearsal of the South Hadley Chorale.



Submitted photos by David Hillerby
The South Hadley Chorale rehearses for its March 16 concert. Photo by David Hillerby.

This program is supported in part by grants from PeoplesBank and the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts

Cultural Council. For further information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

Looking for Arbor Day Honoree nominees

SOUTH HADLEY—The Arbor Day & Tree Committees are seeking your suggestions for whom to honor this Arbor Day. The honorees in the past have been organizations (Tri

Town Garden Club, Scouts, Conservation Commission, etc) or individuals (Richard/Betty/Peter Johnson, Richard/Hunter, Bill Bacis, Mike Lamontagne, etc.) who have made a difference in the well being of South Hadley’s green spaces.

As climate change is advancing rapidly, who has helped promote growth, maintenance and protections of our trees/shrubs not only along our roadsides but in our parks & yards as well?

Who has helped plant gardens (pollinators, vegetable and flowers) for our community to enjoy?

Who has helped educate residents on the need to protect the green beauty that surrounds us and not let it wither and die? Please send your suggestions and a short description of why you are nominating this person or group for the award (200 words or less) to Rebekah Cornell, Co-Tree Warden (rcornell@southhadleyma.gov) or Linda Young, Arbor Day Committee (lyoung@mtholyoke.edu) no later than March 15.

Thank you all for putting on your thinking caps and giving us your suggestions!

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Lenten lunches from the Ladies Guild



Submitted photo

Members of the St. Patrick's Ladies Guild

SOUTH HADLEY—The Ladies Guild has been doing the Lenten Lunches for many years, up until pre-covid the lunches have been a sit down affair in the Social Center.

However, since then they have been having a Grab & Go model, basically people place an order with their payment prior to the lunch, and then drive up to the Social Center at 15 School Street, report in to a greeter in the parking lot, drive around the building and their lunch will be brought out to their car.

We found that so many people enjoyed this type of service that we continue to do it this way. The order forms can be picked up inside the church or on the rectory porch at 30 Main Street. The completed order form and payment can be deposited in the drop box on the porch or mailed in.

The order must be received by the order deadline date in order to prepare quantities.

We serve 100% lobster salad in a traditional hot dog

roll or a white albacore tuna salad on a croissant. Each meal will include homemade minestrone soup or clam chowder, a bag of chips and a freshly baked cookie.

This is one of our major fundraisers, with 100% of net proceeds going towards the church, local charities and scholarships.

We hope for a good year. All Saints Church in South Hadley has a similar program but on opposing Fridays.

EVERSOURCE from page 1

and bylaws.

“The majority of the activities subject to the commission’s jurisdiction under the bylaw for the replacement project, which was exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act, had to do primarily with temporary timber matting for access and a work pad for stable work surface areas,” said Coady.

Coady shared her screen to show the letter sent to the commission from Tighe & Bond about the progression of timber matting across the course of the project and construction on and around these lines.

The commission made a motion to accept and issue the Certificate of Compliance to Eversource for this project.

The next Certificate of Compliance came also from Eversource, regarding vegetation management along lines 1327 and 1428.

“Eversource with their vegetation management program is required to maintain certain minimum safety clearances from the overhead transmission lines,” said Coady.

The project was a maintenance project to ensure the replacement of copperweld on the lines, and the related work around it.

The commission also ensured that they received payment from Eversource for the trees that were cut down in the amount of \$23,000.

The commission made a motion to accept and issue the Certificate of Compliance to Eversource for this project.

Master Plan Implementation Committee Meeting

Daniel Hamel of MPIC came to the commission regarding the Master Plan, and what it is, sharing the different ways members of MPIC work with other committees and board to see how they are working towards the Master Plan.

The commission discussed the different areas in which they are contributing to the Master Plan and its goals, in increasing awareness about natural resources, encouraging families to explore outdoors, restoring floodplain storages, using the park near the library, and create an outdoor gathering plan.

Cornell shared about the different ways the local areas and libraries have been working closely with Cornell and Growing Wild, creating more outdoor spaces.

Farm License Agreements

Cornell met with several farmers to discuss some three-year agreements with farmers in order to work with them on entering a longer lease agreement.

“That shows that that we’re committed to them using the field and it gives them a little more incentive too, to invest in the field as well,” Cornell said.

Both McCray’s and Barstow’s farms were open to the three-year agreement, which details the times and frequency for mowing fields in order to promote wildlife conservation.

The commission discussed how to create guidelines for these lands and their management, to ensure that the lands are utilized freely by the farmers but can also be a home for wildlife to encourage that growth in Growing Wild strides.

“But let’s learn before we implement things that are really going to negatively impact the farmer,” Cornell said.

The commission made a motion to approve the license agreement, with a total of three out of four commissioners agreeing to the agreement.

Administrator’s Report

Cornell shared about the upcoming Shade Tree Challenge, which is going to kick off this week, where she has planned several lectures start-

ing on March 20.

On June 12, there will be a Growing Wild perennial plant giveaway, and Cornell is looking for tree steward volunteers for four weekends, two in April and two in October.

The Wastewater NOI will be filed for the next March meeting, and there are several projects looking for dinosaur prints for the

Wetlands Delineation Public Hearing Postponed

The Conservation Commission held a public meeting with a Request for Determination filed by SAI Shyam, LLC by Mr. Himanshu Patel.

Before the discussion began, Rebekah Cornell provided a clarification concerning phone calls regarding an abuttal to a potential housing development, to reassure that there is no development proposed.

“This application is before the commission specifically with the request to review the wetland delineation because the property owner of 506 Granby Road does know there’s wetlands, natural resources, on the property, and they’re asking the commission to confirm the presence of wetland and exactly where that boundary is,” said Cornell.

Cornell proposed the hearing be postponed to the April 2 meeting so that the commission could have the applicant be present, as well as have time to schedule a site visit, monitor snow levels at the time, and take time to confirm the delineation.

The property owner also has not submitted any site plans for potential housing, and it would need to be reviewed and accepted, which it has not been.

The board unanimously agreed to postpone the discussion to the April 2 meeting, so that the two missing members of the commission can also be present.

SHOWCASE South Hadley set to return in April

Spring Forward
Preview Event
March 21st

SOUTH HADLEY—Showcase South Hadley Spring Forward preview event in March and two-day festival weekend in April to bring top-flight local, regional, and national talent to town, plus family fun activities for all ages. Most activities and performances are free of charge.

South Hadley will celebrate its many diverse cultural and business communities once again with SHOWCASE South Hadley 2025. The event kicks off with a FREE preview event on Friday, March 21 at the South Hadley Council on Aging at 6 p.m., featuring local food, beverages, student entertainment, and a performance by the Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra.

The full festival weekend will take place on April 26 - 27, with performances and activities across South Hadley. Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., will include events at the town center, common, local churches, and Mount Holy-



oke College, culminating in a performance later that evening by Grammy-winning blues and soul artist Ruthie Foster at Abbey Chapel on the MHC campus.

On Sunday, April 27th, a Gospel Brunch at Morningstar Baptist Church, featuring the Kevin Sharpe Band (advance registration required), will kick off at noon, followed by performances at the Baptist Church hall, Methodist Church, and South Hadley Public Library all afternoon. An Artisan Craft Fair will be held each day, along with a host of children’s and family presentations and activities for all ages.

Special thanks to early sponsors for their financial support: Republic Services, Private Financial Design, SHEL, PIP Marketing

Signs Print, Mark Teed/Raymond James, ChapdeLaine’s Interiors, and Veryl’s Automotive.

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

More information, including scheduled performers, the developing program, Gospel Brunch registration, sponsor and donor support, volunteer opportunities and general inquiries can be found by visiting the SHOWCASE South Hadley website at <https://southhadleyarts.org>.

Public invited to March 1 Community Input Meeting on FY26 budget

SOUTH HADLEY – Join town leaders March 1 in a discussion on the Fiscal Year 2026 town and school budget.

The Selectboard, School Committee and Appropriations Committee will hold a hybrid Tri-Board meeting to discuss the FY26 budget on Saturday, March 1 at the Senior Center and on Zoom.

The public is encouraged to attend and provide input. Doors open at 9 a.m. for refreshments and a meet-and-greet with board members and town officials. The meeting and administrative panel will begin at 10 a.m.

and end at noon.

The South Hadley Senior Center is located at 45 Dayton St. The meeting agenda with Zoom information can be found on the town website. If you have questions, please contact the town administration office at 538-5030 ext 6181.



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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I get extra Social Security for my military service?

Dear Rusty:
Please help, I served from 1964 to 1966 in the US Army. I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording and you never get to speak to anyone. The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble?

Signed:
Disabled American Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:
My profound thanks for your service to our country.

FYI, the “special extra credit for military service” you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may or may not affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I’ve written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read at this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case, serving between 1964 and 1966, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years).

However, whether those special extra credits would affect your SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earnings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your “Primary Insurance Amount” or “PIA,” which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your SS full retirement age.

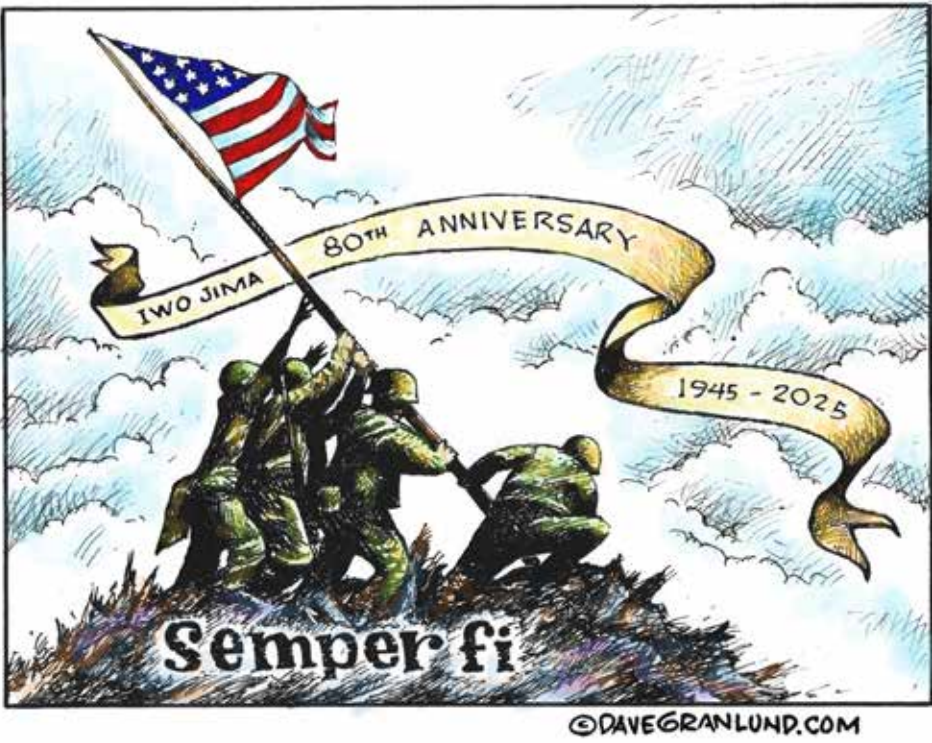
If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than what you earned while serving, Social Security would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn’t affect your benefit. If, however, any of your military earnings including the “special extra credits” were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these “special extra credits for military service” depends largely on your post-service earnings history. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service.

Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn’t advise SS of your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren’t sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those “special extra credits for military service” when you applied. However, if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those “special extra credits” for your military service years.

FYI, we know it is often difficult to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment, which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits “by appointment only” and you can call the above number to schedule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I’ve said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the “special extra credits for military service,” are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is “yes” then it is likely worth it; if “no” then perhaps not.

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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



GUEST COLUMN

Backyard sugaring a fond memory to revisit

It has been a few years since we tapped our maple trees and boiled down the sap.

My husband and I agreed that with the upcoming forecast of cold nights and warm days it was time to get out our supplies and give it another go ‘round.

Our backyard syring days go back to the dating phase of our relationship. Enjoying homesteading activities together made me certain that he was a “keeper.”

I’m pulling this column straight from the archives and rereading it to be sure we get off to a good start.

Maybe you too will give sugaring a try!

Although the sap from most native species of maple can be used to make syrup, sugar maple sap is most desirable because it has a high sugar content. Sugar maples also bud out later than other species, a good feature considering sap from trees that have begun to break bud will produce syrup with an off-taste.

The trees you tap should be at least 10-12 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet off the ground. One tap is sufficient for healthy maples that size, three for those over 25” in diameter and two for those that fall in between.

Tapholes are usually made 3-4 feet from the ground for ease of maintenance. You’ll want to drill slightly upward 2.5-3 inches into healthy sapwood (not dark heartwood).

Space taps evenly around the tree. The metal spout or spile is inserted into the taphole and set in place with a gentle tap.

For small scale production, clean water or milk jugs with work great to collect the sap- simply cut a small hole to accommodate the spout. Over the years we have upgraded to plastic spiles that attach to tubing inserted into a hole in a five gallon food-safe plastic container.

Whatever containers you use, be sure to make

sure they are covered to prevent rain and debris from getting inside.

When the weather is perfect, i.e. warm days and below freezing nights, sap will flow. On really good days I remember dumping the gallon jug mid-afternoon to make room for more!

With our new set-up we usually collect 3-4 gallons per tree on a good day. When my kids were little they would graph just how much

ter-in-law once boiled sap down on a gas camp stove out on her deck. We weren’t talking hundreds of gallons here, but just enough to show my nephew how it’s done!

I kept notes from the last time we tapped our trees. Once we had collected 21 gallons of sap to boil down. My husband started with about 15 gallons of sap in the pan and as the water evaporated he added more – there is a careful balance between scorching and adding too much, not easily explained unless you’ve had the experience and monitored the candy thermometer.

Finish your syrup by no longer adding sap and waiting until the syrup is 7.1 degrees higher than boiling water. Then, syrup can be filtered and stored in sterile containers at 185 degrees or higher for proper seal.

Forty-three gallons of sap are needed to make 1 gallon of syrup. It takes about 7 hours of boiling to get that precious gallon if you use a rectangular pan 2 foot wide by 1 foot deep.

Let these statistics be your guide so that you won’t get in over your head the first time you try it. Nothing is worse than having sap go to waste because you are too darn tired to boil into the late hours of the night.

Nothing is better, however, than the first bite of maple syrup drenched blueberry pancakes the following morning!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

each tree produced!

Don’t let too many days go by before you begin to boil down your sap, though, or it will spoil.

For our evaporator we rigged up a commercial stainless steel pan that fits over a stone outdoor barbecue that came with the property. It has worked out quite well for us.

Whatever you decide to use, be wary of boiling indoors – I have heard horror stories of the sticky steam doing a great job of lifting kitchen wallpaper!

As I recall, my urban sis-



BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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

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

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The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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

GOMEZ from page 1

complexities,” said Gomez. Gomez serves the Second Hampshire District, and is looking forward to doing so with pride, not only in the community, but also in the position he has to reach those in Boston.

“Serving the Second Hampshire District’s an honor, and I won’t waste it. I love working for the people and being their voice in Boston. I’m proud to be part of the Hampshire district and will do anything to help it get what it needs,” said Gomez.

As State Representative, he is looking forward to using his role to make a difference for the people of these towns, and making sure their voices are heard and their needs are met, something he got from the love of his own community.

“My decision to seek the position of state representative was inspired by my community,” said Gomez. “My family’s growth within the community, and my neighbors’ hope for a more equitable and improved place to

live where everyone is heard, motivated me.”

Gomez, in the short time he’s been in office, has already made a tremendous effort to connect with the people of the district he serves, and the two events in South Hadley have already shown that.

“If you see me, please don’t hesitate to stop and chat, whether it’s just a quick hello or a conversation about community happenings.”

— Representative Homar Gomez

“If you see me, please don’t hesitate to stop and chat, whether it’s just a quick hello or a conversation about community happenings. Please feel free to say hello or give me a call. I’d even appreciate a coffee invitation; it’s always

a great way to connect.”

The State Representative’s position is to be the voice of the people, and he is looking to do so for these communities by “respectfully bring to the attention of the Boston legislators that the needs of our Second Hampshire district, while differing from those of Boston, are equally vital to our constituents.”

Homar, throughout his time on city council, and now in his new role, has taken great interest in working with the people, and for the people, and has found that “while challenges are anticipated, the rewards will significantly outweigh them”.

“Serving others is deeply ingrained in me, and I see this as a wonderful opportunity to do so,” said Gomez. “I truly value connecting with people and learning from their experiences.”

If you get the chance to see Representative Gomez, make sure to give him a wave hello, and have a conversation with him, as well look forward to the next few years of his term.

STITCHING from page 1

with ease.

“It’s a very inexpensive hobby, you just have to have very good eye sight,” Dittmer said. “There’s various ways of finishing a project- you can turn it into a pillow, and little projects are easy. There’s something for everybody.”

Dittmer provides people with a baggie containing a needle, some fabric, and a few patterns to start off with, and members of the group bring their own floss and materials to use.

The group receives donations of kits, as well as floss and designs, and Dittmer brings in some of her own supplies, which she generously shares with the group.

“I try to get them started on their first day so that they can get it started and finish it at home,” said Dittmer.

She first learned to cross-stitch at the age of ten, when visiting family in Germany, where she was from. She tried her hand at a kit, and her mother showed her the proper way to do the stitches correctly so that the top and bottom ones

went in the same directions.

She has been cross-stitching now for over 50 years, and has entered her cross-stitch pieces into the Big E, receiving blue ribbons, and on several occasions getting Best in Show.

The easiest place to start is



A stunning dragon made by Joan Dittmer that won a blue ribbon at the Big E.

on small pieces with simpler designs that can finish quickly, in order to get the hang of the craft and not quit prematurely.

“I would just tell them to come to our group and get started. I’ll show them how

to start the stitches and center them, and then they can go home and practice,” said Dittmer about people looking to start the craft.

“My favorite thing about cross stitching is that its relaxing. It really is my therapy,” said Dittmer. “I love watching people as they learn, and seeing what they have accomplished.”

The group is full of friendly people, willing to help out the others in the group, whether it be a specific color of floss, a ride to the group, or something else. And, they get plenty of cuddles and pets in with Dittmer’s trained therapy dog, Harmony.

“Watching the picture develop is so cool. I have been taking pictures of my projects, and as it develops, I take pictures, and then I take a photo of the back of piece,” said Dittmer.

You can call the senior center for more information about joining the group, or stop in during their regular meetings, and look into learning something new that you may find to be your new “thing”.



Learn about the SHOWCASE South Hadley that returns this spring.



Welcome to the South Hadley Chamber of Commerce's Business After 5 Event.



Krystle Jimmo and Dave Isakson from Diamond Automotive, handing out information about their business.



Michelle Lyman and Steven Laplante enjoying the time of fellowship and good food.



Everyone gathered ready to hear from the evenings speakers and sponsors of the night.



The new State Representative of District 2, Homar Gomez with his Legislative Aide, Veronica Frantz-Eggelston.

AFTER 5 from page 1

ing, and guests milling about to visit with one another to get business cards, which allows for sponsors to meet with the guests, and for the guests to enter their cards into a raffle.

During speeches, the premier sponsor is recognized, Michael and Karl from SavATree, and they speak, and then the other sponsors are recognized, and then people are invited to stay and support the host of the Business After 5 event, Johnny’s Tap Room.

The event was emceed by

Jameson Glanville from ERA Laplante Real Estate, and John Anz from SHOWCASE South Hadley was also invited to share with those in attendance about the upcoming festival of events in April.

“The Business After 5 events serve as a valuable platform for local businesses to network, collaborate, and foster community relationships. By promoting support and education among members, events like these can significantly enhance business growth and engagement within the community,” said Laplante.

Also in attendance at the event was special guest, and the new State Representative of District 2, Homar Gomez with his Legislative Aide, Veronica Frantz-Eggelston.

Gomez addressed the people attending the event, and introduced himself to those in attendance, as well as introducing himself to the members of the Chamber, and talking about his family, background, and eagerness to begin working with the Chamber.

“My favorite part of the night is seeing how many people came out to support

the Chamber and our sponsors. It really reflects the commitment of our Chamber and the strength of our community,” said Glanville.

“My favorite part of the SHG Chamber, is the connections I’ve made that have led to valuable insights, collaborations, and support that has helped me to grow both personally and professionally,” said Laplante. “As the current President of the SHG Chamber, it is an amazing feeling to be part of something that brings the entire community together.”

“What inspires me the

most about these events is what happens in real time out in the community. When business owners and community members follow through on their connections in the day to day events of life,” said Glanville.

“I often describe attending our events actually feeling like being part of a family! When events foster a family-like atmosphere, it not only strengthens relationships but also encourages collaboration and support among members,” said Laplante.

The atmosphere and overall experience at Johnny’s

Tap Room, with the delicious appetizers and drinks to go around truly made the event perfect, making it so all who came felt at home.

“Wow is the first word that comes to mind when reflecting on our February Business After 5. There is something about the atmosphere at Johnny’s Tap Room that always makes me feel at home,” said Glanville.

The Business After 5 events are held once a month, and move to different locations, all businesses that are a part of the Chamber.

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Rams take the Class C Western Mass. title



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Riley Goodhind gets the height for a shot.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Tim Sheehan guided the Granby boys’ basketball team to a victory over Sabis in the 2005 Western Mass. Division 3 championship game.

Sheehan, who’s currently coaching the boys’ varsity hoop team at Agawam High School, attended the Western Mass. Class C championship game between Drury and Granby, which took place at Westfield High School last Saturday afternoon. He watched his former basketball team make a little bit of history.

The top-seeded Rams, who trailed by ten points in the fourth quarter, battled back for a hard fought 62-60 overtime win over the second-seeded Drury Blue Devils in the Class C finals. It marked the first time since 2005 that the Granby boys’ basketball team captured the Western Mass. championship title.

“We’ve had some very good basketball players over the years, and we had to bring the trophy home from them today,” said Granby senior Riley Goodhind, who scored all seven of his points in the Class C finals during the

fourth quarter and in overtime. “The seniors have been playing basketball together since we were in the seventh grade.”

A year ago, Granby defeated Drury, 51-46 in the semifinals before losing to Mahar Regional, 47-34, in the Class C finals at Holyoke Community College.

“We came so close to winning the title last year and the way that we won today’s game, it’s something that these kids will remember for the rest of their lives,” said Granby head coach Dylan Dubuc, who had been the Rams junior varsity coach before replacing Sheehan as the varsity coach a couple of years ago. “This was the craziest game I’ve ever been a part of. But it’s almost fitting for this group. We talk about it all the time, facing adversity, playing for 32 minutes, never giving up, sticking together. And it took every bit of the 32 minutes and then some.”

The three Granby seniors who reached double digits in the finals against the Blue Devils are Gavier Fernandez Jr. (17 points), Sawyer Clarke (14 points), and Raymond D. Colon (13 points). Their other seniors are Cody White (8

Please see **RAMS**, page 7



Granby boys basketball captured the Western Mass. Championship last weekend.



Ava Asselin hits a three-pointer.

Generals get revenge on Tigers in WMass finals

HOLYOKE – Last year, South Hadley and Pittsfield girls basketball battled it out in a hard-fought matchup won by the Tigers. This time around, the Tigers just did have enough to score a second straight sectional title. At Holyoke Community College last Saturday, South Hadley was defeated by Pittsfield 52-47. The Tigers trailed by as much as nine points in the second half, but roared back in the final minutes. They sent the Generals to the free throw line, but Pittsfield made the free throws they needed to keep their lead. South Hadley was led by Kate Phillips with 12 points. Cara Dean and Olivia Athas had 10 points each in the defeat, South Hadley’s third of the season overall. The Tigers drew a local matchup to start the Division 4 state tournament. They were scheduled to host Southwick on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

Cianna Gurek looks for an opening to the hoop.



Olivia Athas fakes before making a pass.



Caitlin Dean goes for a rebound.



Kate Phillips drives toward the basket.



Cara Dean hustles down the court.

Pacers defeat McCann Tech



Damian Loniaz looks to make a stop.



Brennan Corcoran readies a wrist shot.

HOLYOKE – On Feb. 11 in a makeup game, Chiscopee High School hockey grabbed a 6-2 win over McCann Technical High School. The Pacers were not scheduled to participate in the Western Mass. Tournament, and were placed in nonplayoff action last week. Highlights from that action will be in a future edition.

T-Birds get big win in shootout

BRIDGEPORT — The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-19-2-3) walked a tightrope and escaped with a 3-2 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (12-33-3-3) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

From the game's onset, T-Birds starting netminder Vadim Zherenko was dialed in, as he fended off a ferocious first-period barrage as the Isles launched 15 shots at the Springfield net. Despite managing only five attempts at the opposite end, the T-Birds kept the game even heading into the second.

For a second straight day, the T-Birds offense came to life in the back end of the middle frame, beginning with Otto Stenberg cashing in for the game's opening marker at 11:05. Hugh McGing gathered the puck behind the goal line and slipped it into the left circle for a pinching An-

ton Malmstrom. The Springfield defenseman's shot glanced off Henrik Tikkanen before coming to rest in the crease for Stenberg, who tapped it into the yawning net to give Springfield the 1-0 lead.

Both teams exchanged unsuccessful power plays during second-period action, but a strange sequence of events at 5-on-5 resulted in the next key moment in the game. It began at the 17:27 mark when Matthew Peca one-timed a pass from MacKenzie MacEachern from the right-wing circle. The captain immediately celebrated what he believed to be a goal, but referees deemed it hit the crossbar, and play continued. Just seconds later, Brian Pinho beat Zherenko on a breakaway at the opposite end of the rink, and the Isles believed they had tied the game, 1-1.

After a replay review, the officials determined that Peca's shot did, indeed, find the back of the net, and as a result, the Pinho goal was wiped away, and Springfield had the 2-0 lead heading into the third.

Despite what has been a difficult season, the last-place Islanders refused to waver in the third. Eetu Liukas finally solved Zherenko with a perfectly placed wrist shot from the left side at 10:13 of the final period, setting the stage for a chaotic finish to regulation in a 2-1 game.

After Springfield killed off one Islander power play, Tikkanen raced to the bench in the final minute, and with a cavalcade of bodies around the slot, Sam Bolduc found a home for a point wrist shot at 19:07, and the game was tied heading into overtime, 2-2.

The Islanders had most of

the high-danger chances in the 3-on-3 period, but Zherenko locked back in and answered the bell on three Bridgeport attempts while getting a break as Bolduc rang a shot off the post.

Peca got the T-Birds off on the right foot in the shootout, beating Tikkanen through the right armpit to give Springfield the edge. Zherenko took care of matters from there, stopping Matt Maggio and William Dufour before getting an assist from the post on Chris Terry's attempt to push the shootout into a fourth round. The shootout triumph was Springfield's first away from home since Dec. 31, 2022.

Winners of three straight, the T-Birds continue their five-game road swing on Friday night when they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:00 p.m. puck drop at the XL Center.

Railers get shutout win in road finale

CHARLESTON, SC – The Worcester Railers HC (24-23-2-4 54pts) lost to the South Carolina Stingrays (33-13-3-2, 71pts) on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-0 in front of a crowd of 4,503 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Bloomington Bison on Friday, February 28th, at 7:05 p.m. for Monkey Wrenches weekend.

Jamie Engelbert (1-0-1) opened up the scoring with a goal for the Stingrays early in the second period. 8:35 into the third period Alexander Suzdalev(1-0-1) netted another goal for the Stingrays increasing their lead to 2-0. The Stingrays kept their momentum going with a goal late in the third period by Tyler Weiss (1-0-1) which would be the final goal of the game to give the Stingrays a 3-0 win over Worcester.

Neither team was able to get the puck in the net in the first period. Hugo Ollas had 11 saves on 11 shots while Garin Bjorklund had 7 saves on 7 shots. The score was 0-0 going into the second period.

Please see **RAILERS**, page 10



Jake Fournier dekes with the puck.



Alex Rochele tries to work away from pressure.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Braydon LaDuke heads up the ice.

RAMS from page 6

points), Gavin Moreno (3 points), Brennan Dwyer, Junior Alcantara Garces, and Goodhind.

"I've never had such a big senior class before, but this group is very special," Dubuc said. "These guys are super close. They love each other, they play for each other, and they fight for each other. They battle. It's a special group, and it's going to be hard to replace these guys."

The victory improved Granby's season record to 17-4, while Drury dropped to 15-6.

The Blue Devils, who defeated Greenfield, 58-45, in the 2023 Class C title, game took a 47-37 lead against the Rams with 3:06 left in regulation when sophomore Jorge Bond (17 points) made a pair of free throws.

A little more than a minute later, Colon, who scored all his points after halftime, buried his second 3-pointer of the fourth quarter, closing the gap to 49-43.

With 1:08 on the scoreboard clock, the Blue Devils held a 54-47 advantage after sophomore Zane Kaley made two more free throws.

At that point, Drury had made 15 of their 16 foul shots in the fourth quarter. They would only make one of their eight shots from the line during the final five minutes of regulation, which enabled the Rams to make a comeback.

Fernandez made a lay-up and a pair of free throws slicing the Rams deficit to 55-53 with 24.4 seconds remaining in regulation.

After Drury missed two shots from the line, Colon pulled down the rebound leading to a Goodhind layup tying the score at 55-55 with ten seconds left in regulation.

Then Colon stole the ball at midcourt, but Fernandez missed a 3-pointer from the top of the key at the buzzer, sending the contest into overtime.

The Rams took their first lead since the second quarter at 57-55 when Clarke hit a jumper with 2:55 left in OT.

Twenty seconds later, Goodhind made a foul shot

pushing the Rams lead to three points.

Drury answered back with a pair of inside hoops from junior Connor Hinkell (8 points). Senior Sam Moorman (14 points) also made a foul shot, and the Rams found themselves trailing 60-58 with 15 seconds left.

Colon was fouled while making an off balance baseline lay-up. He made the bonus free throw completing the old fashion three point play giving his team a 61-60 lead with 5.8 seconds remaining.

Fernandez sealed the deal by making a foul shot with two seconds left before his younger brother, Zavier, who's a junior, stole the inbounds pass at the buzzer sending the Rams players and their fans into a frenzy.

The Rams held a 15-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Drury outscored Granby, 17-11, during the second quarter and headed into the locker room with a 29-26 advantage.

The third quarter was a defensive battle as both teams only scored five points.

Holding a ten point lead with three minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils players probably thought they would be taking the championship trophy for the second time in the past three years.

The Rams players never gave up and they wound up taking it home for the first time in twenty years.

Granby will now be looking to make another successful run in the Division 5 state tournament.

The third-seed Rams are scheduled to host either Bartlett High School of Webster or Brooke Charter School in the round of 32.



Ryan Colon looks for an off-balance shot.



Gavin Moreno goes for a shot on the free throw line.

Cody Breault takes the open three-point attempt.

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The Town of Russell Sewer/Water Department is accepting resumes for the full time position of **SEWER/ WATER OPERATOR** at **Town of Russell WWTP, 200 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071-0131** or email **russellwandw@townofrussell.us**.
Applicants will need a Grade 4 Wastewater, 1T Water, and a 1D Water licenses or the ability to acquire them.
Inquire at office or thru email.

Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer
The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**.
Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.
This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00.
The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington.
This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.
Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Circulation: 50,500

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**Suburban Residential**
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FOR RENT

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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.

CHAPLAINS from page 1

classes at Harvard while heading out on assignment on the ship, the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester, which later sunk in a great tragedy while crossing the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943.

The Dorchester was transporting troops over to an American base in Greenland when a German U-Boat fired a missile at the ship, which killed 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen, and civilian workers onboard.

These four chaplains, through their courage and leadership, despite their different faiths and backgrounds, helped to save many, and created after them “a unique legacy of brotherhood”.

The four chaplains comforted the wounded while soldiers rushed to the lifeboats, and one survivor recalled seeing them handing out lifejackets, ensuring others’ safety before their own, even giving their own to someone else.

As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

The ceremony at the library documented the lives and legacy of these men, and served as an opportunity to remember them on the anniversary month in which the USAT Dorchester sank.

“We also commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Chaplain Corps,” said Willette.



Brian Willette, the South Hadley American Legion Post 260 Commander, greeting the people who came for the Four Chaplains ceremony.

“The Chaplain Corps was established on July 29, 1775, and 218 chaplains served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Army chaplains have participated in every major conflict involving the United States since. The Chaplain Corps has eight recipients of the Medal of Honor,” Willette said.

At the Arlington National Cemetery, there is a Chaplains Hill, which commemorates the military chaplains from four wars, and is their final resting place.

Those buried here include the Army’s first chief of chaplains, Col. John T. Axton, a veteran of World War I; World War II’s chief of chaplains, Maj. Gen. William R. Arnold, who was the first chaplain to become a general; and Maj.



Chaplain Father John Smegal, the guest speaker, offering a few words to commemorate the Chaplains.

Charles Joseph Watters, who served in Vietnam and posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his selfless actions on November 19, 1967.

“They inspire me in the fact that they came together without planning it naturally stood together to accomplish the same goal, to help as many of those soldiers as possible, to even give their own lives, seemingly without hesitation,” Willette said. “Their diverse backgrounds immediately become unimportant, but their common goal of saving lives and performing their spiritual mission came to the forefront.”

The South Hadley Pack 303 Sea Scours were a part of the ceremony and was their first exposure to the story of the Four Chaplains, and Willette’s and other members of

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS



George L. Fox



Alexander D. Goode



Clark V. Poling



John P. Washington

the South Hadley Legion’s working with the group.

“Some day they will take the lead on this. This is a story for our youth to know and to pass on for future generations, and here in South Hadley it will be the Sea Scouts who will ultimately carry this story on,” said Willette. “We look forward to many more years though of teaming up with them on keeping the Four Chaplains story alive.”

Father John Smegal, an Army Chaplain, was also present at the ceremony, and gave a speech about the Four Chaplains, and what they

meant to him.

“Father Smegal embodies the spirit of the Four Chaplains himself. Father retired as a priest in the Diocese of Springfield and in retirement asked what now he could do for his country. How could he continue to serve God and man. His answer was to join the Massachusetts Military Defense Forces to serve his soldiers spiritually for the good of our nation,” said Willette.

The plan to bring this ceremony into the public eye was one that was long in the making, and it is truly a joy to



Sea Scout Owen Bowman read the biography of one of the Chaplains, and then offered a salute.

see it finally complete.

“But it is just a start,” said Willette, stating that this ceremony is planned to be held annually on Four Chaplains Day.

“We may do more than one and we are more than willing to conduct this ceremony at any local church or synagogue and for the benefit of any other community organization,” said Willette.

The story of the Four Chaplains is truly one of true bravery, love, and selfless sacrifice, as these four men, though of differing beliefs, gave their lives for those in their care

“The South Hadley American Legion is at your service. This is an important story worth telling,” said Willette.

Public notices

Sale of Motor Vehicles Under G.L.C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a SEALED BID auction with bids end at **8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.** Vehicles will be available for viewing BY APPOINTMENT ONLY by calling 413-534-5373.

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

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- 2009 Honda Civic 2HGFG12689H513911 Amanda Beaton 31 Colton Ave W. Springfield MA 01089
- 2008 Ford F-150 1FTRX14W18FA66072 Vincent Porfiri 32 Chestnut St., Rm 4 Ludlow MA 01056
- 1993 Dodge Dakota 1B7GG23X7PS195155 Carlos Colon 202 Beech St Holyoke MA 01040
- 2006 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB51A86L629961 Mark Simmert 527 Ocean Ave New London CT 06320
- 2002 Chrysler Sebring 1C3EL46X32N290950 Violet Vance 51 Standish St Worcester MA 01604
- 2005 Honda Civic 2HGES16355H536440 Cali Brennan 34 Beacon Ave., Fl 3 Holyoke MA 01040
- 2006 Ford F-150 1FTRX14W06FA29270 William Phoenix 499 Hadley Rd Sunderland MA 01375
- 2005 Nissan Altima 1N4AL11E75C370000 Patrick Troughton 17 Joyce Anne Dr Manville RI 02838
- 2005 Audi allroad WA1YD64B15N023152 Jose Ferreira 37 Howard St., Apt 1 Chicopee MA 01013
- 2004 Honda Civic 2HGES16504H539696 Olga Rios 109 School St., Apt 6 Springfield MA 01105

- 2003 Honda Civic 2HGES16533H504407 Alexis Zurc PO Box 51506 Indian Orchard MA 01151
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- 2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J8GR48K07C666343 Anand Rangasawmy 25 Dawson St Springfield MA 01108
- 2007 Buick LaCrosse 2G4WD582271243305 Luis Rivera 522 W. Shaft Rd., Apt 28 N. Adams MA 01247
- 2006 Honda Accord 1HGCMT72686A008816 Dymphana Jeffers 221 Bay St., Apt 202 Springfield MA 01109
- 2002 Honda CR-V JHLRD178882C062684 Allie Winiarski 127 Silver St., Apt 1 Agawam MA 01001
- 2008 Mazda Mazda3 JM1BK32G481122431 Limaris Santiago 17 Highland Ave., Apt F7 W. Springfield MA 01089
- 2017 Ford Fusion 3FA6POVP2HR281134 Paul Rondeau 329 Eagle St N. Adams MA 01247
- 2005 Honda Elite 80 Base 3H1HF030X5D001167 Owner Unknown
- 2010 Toyota Camry 4T1BF3EK2AU016967 Maurice Jason 83 Craft Rd Centereach NY 11720
- 2006 Subaru Outback 4S4BP61C367315001 Anibal Rivera 582 Pleasant St., Apt 1J Holyoke MA 01040
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- 1997 Pontiac Firebird 2G2FS22K5V2218668 Daniel Seddon 87 Sullivan St North Adams MA 01247
- 2005 Nissan Altima 1N4AL11D85C199555 Norma Serrano 751 Belmont Ave, Apt 1 Springfield MA 01108

- 2011 Toyota Camry 4T4BF3EK5BR157393 Jacob Brumley 175 Theroux Dr., Apt 13B Chicopee MA 01020
- 2010 Acura TL 19UUA8F24AA017256 Lesley Rechelle Ridley PO Box 1649 Newport NC 28570
- 2007 Toyota RAV4 JTMBD33VX76034766 Brittany Rancourt 41 Prospect St N. Adams MA 01247
- 2013 Ford Edge 2FMDK3JC4DBB54846 Vivian Macon 241 Oak Grove Ave Springfield MA 01109
- 2016 Freightliner Cascadia 1FUJGLD57GLHB7390 Picasso Logistics Group Llc 94 Dubois St Springfield MA 01151
- 2016 Freightliner Cascadia 1FUJGLD5XGLHB7383 Picasso Logistics Group Llc 94 Dubois St Springfield MA 01151
- 2015 Freightliner Cascadia 1FUJGLD55FLGD7374 Picasso Logistics Group Llc 94 Fink Dr Springfield MA 01151
- 2013 Toyota Camry Solara 2T1FF28P03C605281 Shana Perez 28 Finch Dr Chicopee MA 01020
- 1998 Triumph Daytona T595 SMT502FK7WJ055642 Steven Michalewicz 238 Hillside Ave Holyoke MA 01040
- 2009 Volkswagen Jetta 3VWRZ71K49M133888 Michael Lombardi 40 Lincoln St Chicopee MA 01020
- 2016 Toyota Tacoma 5TFSX5EN3GX040547 Kara Barnes 322 Montgomery Rd Westfield MA 01085
- 2009 Chevrolet HHR 3GNCA13B39S628905 Rosa Sanchez 175 Maple St., Apt 1R Springfield MA 01105
- 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J4HR48N86C182497 Joel Kappenman 28 Green Way Springfield MA 01118
- 2008 Honda Accord 1HGCP26758A039425 Kimberly Henderson 463 Appleton St., Apt 25 Holyoke MA 01040
- Moped L37MMJBV3LZ030136 James Martin

- 350 West Street Ludlow MA 01056
- 2008 Honda Civic 2HGFA16518H311977 Noel Martinez 627 Chestnut St., Apt 1 Springfield MA 01107
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- 2006 Chevrolet C5500 1GBE5C1246F422744 Nyne Equipment Llc 1235 Route 9 Castleton NY 12033
- 2015 Freightliner M2 106 1FVACWDU0FHGK1431 All Railroad Services Corp 44 Fink Dr Ottsville PA 18942
- 2015 Ford F-750 Super Duty 3FRNF7FB6FV643588 All Railroad Services Corp 44 Fink Dr Ottsville PA 18942
- 2016 Freightliner M2 106 1FVACWDU0GHGZ3859 All Reliable Services Inc 159 Hampton Point Dr., Ste 3 Saint Augustine FL 32092
- 2003 Nissan Pathfinder JN8DR09Y43W836660 Noah Mccoy 159 Pearl St Holyoke MA 01040
- 2005 Ford F-750 Super Duty 3FRXF75N25V125237 All Reliable Services Inc 159 Hampton Point Dr., Ste 3 Saint Augustine FL 32092
- 2018 Freightliner M2 106 1FVACXFC9JHJR7148 Global Energy Services Inc. 707 Sable Oaks Dr., Ste 150 South Portland ME 04106
- 2018 Audi Q5 WA1BNAFY0J2144399 Mariah Miles 554 W Wolcott Ave Windsor CT 06095
- 02/21, 02/28, 03/07/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Zoning Bylaw
The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss proposing

articles to Town Meeting for the purpose of amending the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Zoning Bylaw (255-50) to conform to the Affordable Homes Act (H. 4977), legislation amending MGL Chapter 40A Sections 1A and 3 to allow ADUs by right.

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

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81902402093?pwd=tcbF0nKVarqb7Z3kqm31tRAFu5U8U.1>

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

The current drafts of the proposed bylaws and any accompanying documentation can be found here: <https://www.southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws>.

Alternatively, hardcopies of the documents can be viewed at the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor’s Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
02/28, 03/07/2025

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Proposed Amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit

(ADU) Zoning Bylaw

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

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Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
02/28, 03/07/2025

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Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

CAMPUS
NOTES

Fall 2024 Dean’s List at Emmanuel College

BOSTON—Norah Lavallee, of South Hadley (01075), has been named to Emmanuel College’s Fall 2024 Dean’s List in recognition of academic excellence. Lavallee is a Finance major.

To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

Hamilton College fall 2024 Dean’s List

CLINTON, NY—Anna Richardson, of Granby (01033), has been named to the Dean’s List at Hamilton College for the fall 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must be a member of the Class of 2025, 2026, or 2027 and have carried a course load of four or more graded credits throughout the semester and earned an average GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

Richardson, a senior majoring in government and Hispanic studies, is a graduate of Williston Northampton School.

Registration open for annual 5K Dash and Dine

AMHERST— University of Massachusetts Dining Services invites the community to participate in their 14th annual UMass 5K Dash & Dine on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m., with the goal to promote health and wellness at UMass Amherst while raising funds for the Amherst Survival Center (ASC).

UMass Dining’s focus is on quality ingredients and meals, customer service, student health and wellness, customization options and appreciation of global influences. Over the past 13 years, UMass Dining has raised over \$50,000 that has been proudly donated to the Amherst Survival Center. It is with the help of all donors, runners and walkers of the UMass 5K Dash & Dine that this run can continue its legacy every year.

Schedule of events:

- 9 a.m. – Check-in at the Southwest Horseshoe
- 10 a.m. – Free Fun Run for children 8 years old and under
- 11 a.m. – Race begins
- 11:30 a.m. – Award ceremony
- Noon – Lunch in Berkshire Dining Commons

The race fee is \$15 for all Five-College students, \$25 for UMass Amherst faculty and staff, and \$30 for the general public. Children 8 years old and under are free to participate. The race fee includes registration, and a complimentary meal at the university’s award-winning dining facilities in the Berkshire Dining Commons.

Donations can be made and participants can register on the UMass 5K Dash & Dine website. Online registration will end April 24 at midnight. Walk-up registration will be available on race day.

“The UMass 5K Dash & Dine is an annual effort made to support the community in increasing awareness of personal wellness while addressing food security on and off campus,” said Ken Toong, Associate Vice Chancellor Auxiliary Enterprises, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

“Our goal is to create exciting initiatives that simultaneously support individuals’ personal wellness goals and help our neighbors in need. Our vision of success is built on being a true partner to the community, and working together to create meaningful and lasting impact.”

Along with media partners WWLP-TV and Rock 102, UMass Dining is thrilled to bring an incredible course to runners and walkers alike, while supporting the ASC food and nutrition programs.

Media is invited to attend. If interested, or for questions regarding the UMass 5K Dash & Dine, please contact Meghan Rothschild at Meghan@chikmedia.us or (413) 218-4994, or Melinda Rose at melindarose@umass.edu.

UMass Dining is the largest collegiate dining program in America and is a recognized leader among college dining programs because of its focus on quality ingredients and meals, customer service, student health and wellness, customization options, an appreciation of global influences and modern eating trends, and creating community on campus. Their mission is to support and improve the student experience at UMass Amherst.

RAILERS from page 7

The Stingrays struck first with a goal from Jamie Engelbert (14th) just 2:18 into the second period, placing a shot perfectly over the glove hand of Ollas to score what would eventually be the game-winner. This was the only action in the second period, while South Carolina out shot the Railers 15-4 in the second.

Alexander Suzdalev (10th) gave the Stingrays a 2-0 lead over the Railers in the third period. The Stingrays continued their scoring with a goal by Tyler Weiss (14th) who finished off a rebound along the far side on a wide open net. Weiss’ goal was the final goal of the game giving the Stingrays a 3-0 victory over the Railers. The Railers outshot the Stingrays 12-11 in the third period.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

MacDuffie offers fun summer camp

Camp MacDuffie is an exciting summer day camp for rising 1st to 8th graders.

Participants spend the morning engaged in a program area of their choosing, enjoy lunch by Sage Dining Services (included), and then stay active with various outdoor/indoor activities and field trips throughout the week.

Their program leaders are passionate and experienced, and they all look forward to creating a fun and supportive environment for your child to thrive in this summer.

Come along and join Camp MacDuffie this summer.

MacDuffie Hoops Basketball Camp

MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp available with Coach Steiner.

Are you ready to take your game to the next level? This summer, join Coach Steiner and the MacDuffie coaching staff for an elite basketball experience at MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp!

What to Expect:

- Skill development & fundamentals
- Game strategy & IQ training
- Conditioning & foot-work drills
- Competitive games & scrimmages

Hands-on coaching from Coach Steiner & MacDuffie’s top coaches

This camp is for players who are serious about improving and want to sharpen their skills, build confidence, and grow their game.

The MacDuffie School is located in Granby, MA. Limited spots are available – Register today!

Don’t miss your chance to train with Coach Steiner! Sign up now and get ready to work hard, compete, and have fun!

#MacDuffieHoops #TrainWithCoachSteiner #SummerBasketball #GetBetter

Day and overnight camp for girls

It’s in our DNA. Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. Today, Girl Scouts honors her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) summer camps offer a wide variety of programs for all different interests.

Summer camp is a great way for girls to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation for nature. In a girl-led environment, all campers are able to challenge themselves and take healthy risks while surrounded by supportive friends and camp staff. No prior Girl Scout experience needed to attend Girl Scout camp!

Camping has been a cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience for more than a century. While girls are swimming, hiking, and honing their skills on the archery range, they’re also achieving valuable life skills whether at Day Camp at Lewis Perkins in South Hadley or Overnight Camp at Bonnie Brae in Otis. Girl Scouts’ dedication to progression in outdoor programming means campers practice age-appropriate skills and gain experience they need to feel confident taking the next step in their outdoor journey.

No matter which camp you choose or whether the stay is a few days, a week, or longer, your camper will have a ton of fun making new friends, trying new things, practicing new-found skills, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Financial assistance is available.

Camp Lewis Perkins and Camp Bonnie Brae are American Camp Association Accredited. More information and sign up here: <https://www.gscwm.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/camp-and-outdoors/summer-camp.html>.

The Hartsbrook School SUMMER CAMPS

FARM CAMP WILDERNESS CAMP CREATIVITY CAMP

CODING CAMP COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT)

JUNE 23 TO AUGUST 1

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Fun all summer long for ages 4-14!

hartsbrook.org/summer-programs

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Lots of outdoor and weather permitting water play.

www.packardmountain.com

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DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org

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2025 Summer Riding Sessions

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July 28 - August 1 • August 18-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

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Call to Register (413) 813-9291

53 Ware Road, Belchertown

Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com

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Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool

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Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:

Week 1: June 30 - July 3

Week 2: July 7 - 11

Week 3: July 14 - 18

Week 4: July 21 - 25

Week 5: July 28 - August 1

Week 6: August 4-8

Week 7: August 11-15

Arts • Athletics • Coding • Science • Dance • Lego’s

Creative Writing • Theater • Science • And More!

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included

Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

Register now for summertime fun at MacDuffie.org/summer-camp

The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.103

Space is limited so don't wait!