

TOWN Reminder

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Town boards discusses FY26 Budget

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Members of the Selectboard, School Committee, and Appropriations Committee held a public meeting over the weekend at the Council on Aging in order to hold and open forum to discuss the FY26 budget.

Chairs Eric Friesner, Andrea Miles, and Thomas Terry opened up the meeting on Saturday, March 1, sharing their desire to hear from the community regarding the FY226 Budget.

For the Selectboard, members Renee Sweeney and Nicole Casolari were present. For the School Committee, Vice Chair Danielle Cooke, and members Jackson Matos,

Dan Vieu, and Jack Witkowski were present.

For the Appropriations Committee, Steve Hamlin, Leonard Finkowski, Kevin McAllister, Jim Everett, and Joel Prough.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Voyik, Town Administrator Lisa Wong, and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti.

FY26 Budget Outlook

“We are seeing a record-breaking increase,” said Wong about the budget and its outlook.

The governor, every year, comes up with a budget in January, and what amounts of money are awarded to town governments.

However, this year there

is going to be a Flat State Increase, which means that despite fluctuations in other factors, a price, payment, or value will rise by a fixed percentage or amount.

While the town receives about \$1 million from taxation and new growth from the town itself, the town is not seeing more new state aid which has allowed for more growth.

The town through local receipts, like excise taxes, and other funds that come in locally, they are looking to see about \$200,000 coming in.

“We have a lot of things that are going to be different this year,” said Wong.

Insurance is receiving a 19% average increase, and that hurts the town and school’s budget as it really “eats up any new revenue that

we get”, said Wong.

They are looking into becoming more energy efficient, and a grant for that, but we are still seeing a 30% increase in utility costs.

The town is also juggling contractual increases, like when employees have their costs of living rise, and transportation costs are also rising, which is especially harming the schools

“I am a really big believer in partnership, and now more than ever, we need to be partners,” said McLaughlin.

The floor opened up for concerned community members to ask questions, and several topics were addressed, including school choice, which is a loftier matter the School Committee is looking into.

The schools are looking into the Mass Cultural Arts

“I am a really big believer in partnership, and now more than ever, we need to be partners”

— Superintendent
Mark McLaughlin

Grant, which will award about \$15,000, as well as entitlement grants for students in need.

However, these grants are not immediate fixes as they require certain hoops and hurdles as well as qualifications to be met.

The issue of transportation is the school’s biggest point of tension, and the school committee put forward a proposal to change transportation on the yellow buses to be for students who live 2 miles away.

This change would impact on the students closer than two miles to the school, as they won’t be able to access yellow bus transportation.

The school committee is, however, looking into in-house transportation for special ed students, which would show an estimated savings of about \$600,000, which the committee will be proposing to Capital Planning next week.

For more information or to ask questions, you can email the following members: The

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5

Local photographer highlights Persephone Exhibit

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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GRANBY – Art is a beautiful way to share our lives and stories, and one of these art forms is photography, where photos can be captured in a real life.

Local photographer Stephanie Granger currently has an exhibit at the Granby Free Public Library, and it features the story of the goddess Persephone.

Granger began her photography journey as a “Mom-Tog,” where she focused on creating a way to document her son’s life in a meaningful way.

“I’ve always loved photography, and growing up, I would spend hours looking through boxes of old family photos. Those tangible memories felt so much more real to me than digital images on a screen,” said Granger.

She had been using a different camera, and cellphones at the time didn’t have as good cameras as they do now, so she dove into learning more about photography.

“I wanted to capture his life the way my childhood had been documented,” Granger said.

She dove into researching the artform, different cameras and read equipment reviews, and read through countless blog posts about composition and settings, but became overwhelmed by it all until she found a class for moms

like her.

“That’s when I realized photography wasn’t just about mastering the camera-it was about developing my eye for the shot,” said Granger.

She found a n online photography community and took the different courses they offered and recommended.

“I began to understand



“Release”

light, composition, and how small adjustments could completely change an image. As I experimented more, I began to trust in my ability to create something beautiful and intentional,” said Granger.

When her son turned two, that is when she discovered



Submitted photos

Stephanie Granger hanging up the photos a part of the exhibit.

her creative process, and as she followed her ever-on-the-move toddler, she found that the most reliable model for her photography was herself.

“What I didn’t expect was how much personal growth would come from it. Through self-portraits, I gained confidence, learned

to express emotion, and even found a therapeutic outlet for stress and anxiety,” said Granger. “Sometimes, I take hundreds of photos and only find one I love-but the process itself is always rewarding.”

All of this research and time resulted in the Perse-

Please see **PERSEPHONE**, page 3

Local historian shares the story of an old church

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The history of our community is often something we wonder about, and historical societies and groups work hard to showcase the depth and diversities of these communities and those who came before.

But some individuals, like Robert Comeau, history is a deeply personal thing and deserves to be represented and shared so that others know about these histories.

Robert Comeau hosted a talk at the South Hadley Public Library on Wednesday evening about the Precious Blood Church fire of 1875, a Roman Catholic church that burned to the ground in a tragic accident only five years after its construction.

“There was a wooden church, and it was the first church in Holyoke for the Quebec Ethnic group, and by

1875, it was very dried out wood,” said Comeau. “During a nighttime mass, there were lots of candles, and the very dry building became a very drastic situation. Within ten minutes, the church was gone, and 70 people lost their lives.”

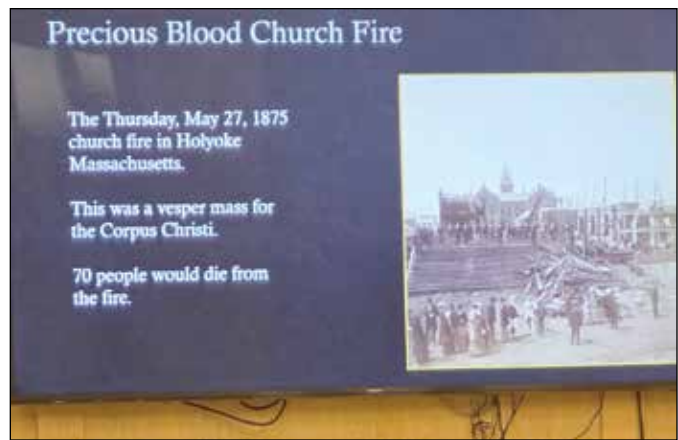
The church stood in Holyoke, and had a congregation of 500 people, and the loss of the church hit the community deeply as many died in the fire, but others died later.

The Precious Blood Church was unique in that it was given permission by the bishop to construct its own, culturally unique, church of all Catholics from Quebec.

“The first time I heard about it was in 2002, I was walking by Precious Blood Church, and there was a memorial for these victims,” said Comeau.

Fifty-five of the seventy people who lost their lives were buried in South Had-

Please see **CHURCH**, page 11



Submitted photos

An image of the wreckage of the Precious Blood Church after the fire.

South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee gears up for spring activities

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—As the warmer weather approaches, the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) is actively planning a range of outdoor activities to encourage community engagement with the town’s extensive network of trails and walking routes. Since its inception in 2016, the committee has organized numerous treks, providing residents with opportunities to explore local outdoor spaces while

meeting fellow community members.

“Since 2016, the Bike/Walk Committee has offered many opportunities for the community to participate in ‘treks’ that showcase the many trails and walking routes that are available in South Hadley,” said Ruth Camuse, chair of the committee. “Participants learn what’s available, meet and converse with other people, and benefit by trail leaders who know the route and offer other information related to chosen locations.”



One of the committee’s key resources is its website, which provides maps and detailed descriptions of each trek. “Our website offers details about each trek and includes maps designed by a member, Lucia Foley, who is

a talented graphic artist and writer,” Camuse noted.

As part of its mission, the BWC works closely with the South Hadley Recreation Department, the Conservation Commission, and other regional organizations to enhance biking and walking infrastructure. Originally formed as a working group within the Sustainability and Energy Commission, the committee became an official advisory group to the Selectboard in 2015. Today, it continues to advocate for safe and accessible outdoor spaces

and is actively involved in implementing the town’s Master Plan and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s bike/walk comprehensive plan.

Looking ahead to the spring, the committee is still finalizing details for upcoming events. “We are still discussing what will happen in May and June. Our next Bike/Walk meeting is on Tuesday, March 12. We will have more information at that time,” Camuse shared. However, she noted that May is Massachusetts Bike Month, during which the committee typ-

ically hosts biking-related events.

On April 13, it will host the “Guided Vernal Pool Walk at Lithia Springs with Brad Timm” to celebrate Earth Day. This walk will focus on amphibians and other wildlife. On May 3, Bill DeLuca will host the Guided Bird Walk at River to Range Trails, which will include a pre-hike online session. More information can be found on the committee’s website.

Andy Rogers, human ser-

Please see **BIKE/WALK**, page 5

Stage Transformations: Beauty and the Beast in South Hadley

By T. A. Blaisdell

SOUTH HADLEY—How do you transform a very nice 7th grade girl into a hideous beast – all for art’s sake, of course!?! Well, let me tell you, it takes a village.

This is the problem Stefani Holmes and Ted Blaisdell faced as co-directors of this year’s musical offering from the MESMS Drama Club, Beauty and the Beast, Jr, going up on the South Hadley High School stage March 27 to 30.

Beauty and the Beast, Jr, is a musical adaptation of the French children’s tale reimagined by Disney imagineers. With soaring tunes by Alan Mencken and memorable lyrics by Howard Ashman, Beauty and the Beast, Jr tells of a young French provincial girl, Belle, who agrees to act as a substitute for her aging father in the dungeons of the “monstrous Beast’s” castle. A monstrous Beast ... hmmm, a VERY large task.

First, you need a vision, and for that we thank Jim Henson and his Sweetums puppet. We asked ourselves, “why not create a life-size puppet of the beast?

Then, how to build a 7-foot-tall hideous beast?

Answer?

Find yourself a professional puppeteer. And South Hadley is lucky enough to have Eric Weiss who more than fits the bill.

Eric Weiss is a teacher, puppet builder, and sole proprietor of Homeslice Puppetry. He specializes in building custom puppets, and he has been building and teaching puppetry for around 19 years.

He has worked for weeks measuring and stitching and fabricating to produce, well, you MUST see it.

We also leaned heavily on the remarkable talents of our costumer Carol Parrish, who had to clothe this enormous Beast, and the genius of our Stage Designer and Technical Director Jim Dahrouge who



Carly Peterson before she is transformed into the Beast.

created a castle set that could accommodate the bulk of the beast and make it easier for “Him” to dance with Belle! And the South Hadley Arts Council provided a very generous grant to help us cover the costs of this adventure.

Oh, and one more thing, we finally got one VERY intrepid 7th grader - Carly Peterson- to agree to step inside the 7-foot-tall body puppet to bring the Beast to life on stage, in the flesh so to speak.

Ms. Peterson reflected on her non-speaking role, “The great challenge is not to make

him menacing, the costume does that, but to show his gentle side, the side that can fall in love.”

In addition to Ms. Peterson, our cast includes over 70 talented and enthusiastic students from MESMS to bring this lively musical to South Hadley audiences.

General Admission Tickets can be purchased online at mesmsdrama.ludus.com prior to the show or at the door for \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

The show will be held at South Hadley High School Auditorium for three evening shows on Thursday, March 27, Friday, March 28, and Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. and two matinees on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. There will also be actor-grams and concessions available.

Don’t miss this wonderful show. Get your tickets now!

South Hadley is growing wild

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

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

DCR’s Growing Wild program is entering its 5th year, and the program has

been growing wildly. Join Patrick Lindquist, DCR’s program coordinator, for a discussion on pollinator habitats and their role in fostering a more biologically diverse and sustainable future.

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

DCR is Growing Wild

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

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

SHOWCASE South Hadley set to return

Spring Forward Preview Event ~ March 21st
SHOWCASE Weekend ~ April 26th - 27th

SOUTH HADELY—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 lo-

cal 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 Holyoke 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, SHELd, 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>.

\$310,000 Available in Scholarship and Fellowship Awards

Application Deadline March 15

WESTFIELD - The Horace Smith Fund, celebrating its 125th anniversary, will be awarding \$310,000 in scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, who have also graduated from an eligible high

school or private school. This year 20 scholarships, three fellowships and one William R. Rooney Award for students with special needs will be presented to recipients at the June 19 Awards Night ceremony at Storowton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Scholarships are offered not only to graduating high

school seniors but also to students already in college or those wishing to return to college. Scholarships of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$7,500 annually and renewable for one additional year to students pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Students must maintain at least a B average to renew.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including academic records, merit and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student

feels deserving of financial assistance. Applicants must submit their transcripts and, if applicable, college entrance exam scores or graduate degree specific tests, and three letters of recommendation.

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

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Saturday, March 22nd 4-7 pm
Live Music by Dee Riley

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Stephanie Granger smiling as she shows her work, and modeling, as Persephone.

Submitted photos



“Re-Emergence”



“Cyclical”

“Entrapment”



PERSEPHONE from page 1

phone Exhibit at the library, which features a collection of about a dozen self-portraits, but she has hundreds. She used a tripod and interval timer, and learned how to model, spending time with different poses, framing and focus with the camera, and playing with lighting. “The idea for Persephone came when I realized all these images I had poured my heart into were just sit-

ting on a hard drive, unseen,” said Granger. “When deciding on the theme of this exhibit, I looked at the timing and, with it being March, was drawn to the transition from winter to spring.” Her fascination with Greek mythology, paired with the themes of transformation and renewal, it was the perfect time and subject matter as we approach spring, and the snow begins to melt. “Art has a way of making people feel things they

might not even be able to put into words,” said Granger. “My biggest hope for this exhibit is simply to share my work. If my photos make someone feel something—anything—that’s the greatest compliment I could receive.” For more information about the exhibit, please visit the Granby Free Public Library or email Stephanie at: stephaniegrangerphotography@gmail.com

Environmental Justice Tree Planting Program & Free Shade Tree Challenge

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Tree Committee is planting 400 trees over the next two years. The first 100 trees will be planted in Spring 2025. These plantings will be in South Hadley’s two Environmental Justice neighborhoods - South Hadley Falls and Mount Holyoke College Neighborhood. Spring & fall 2026 plantings will be townwide. The EJ Tree Plantings is funded by the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program.

To learn more visit the website: <https://www.south-hadley.org/1063/Tree-Planting-Program>

Applications due April 1. Plantings will be scheduled over four weekends in April & October of 2025 and 2026.

Tree Steward volunteers will plant 1.5” (8’-10’ tall) bare root trees. We are looking for more planting volunteers! Tree Stewards will be trained in tree planting. No experience necessary. Must be able to bend, dig and lift 50 pounds.

Waterbags for each tree. Tree recipient is responsible to water the tree for two years.

“Right Tree in the Right Place” means that site specific criteria may limit planting locations.

Species selection will change - refer to the Tree Planting Catalog for current species.

The tree planting program is funding three public lectures to increase awareness about the importance of trees and proper tree care. Each attendee will receive a What Tree Is That? book published by the Arbor Day Foundation. Raffle prizes include books, gift certificates, and

more. South Hadley residents can sign up for a free tree!

In a changing climate, it’s important the trees we plant today survive to provide benefits to future generations. We can do this by planting the right tree in the right place – such as making sure they are not too big for the planting location or are tolerant of road salt if near a street. Other important considerations are watering, early pruning, proper mulching (no mulch, volcanoes please!), and protection from wildlife. When properly cared for, trees provide numerous benefits like producing oxygen, reducing carbon dioxide, providing cooling with their shade, increasing mental health & wellness, and promoting a sense of community within neighborhoods.

At 6 p.m. in the South Hadley Library Community Room on March 20, “Urban Forestry Tree Success Stories: Planning & Planting for the Future in the Face of Our Changing Climate” presented by Rich Parsatiliti, R&R Farm Tree Consulting.

Parsatiliti is the Tree Warden for the City of Northampton and Superintendent of the City’s DPW Forestry, Parks, and Cemetery Division. He is an International Society of Arboriculture Board Certified Master Arborist/Urban Forest Professional and serves as the principal consulting arborist for R & R Farm Tree Consulting. Co sponsored by the South Hadley Tree Committee and Sustainability & Energy Commission.

April 10th “Young tree care and pruning” With Jen Kettrell of radiant tree consulting.

New trees undergo main stressors in their first years of life. For newly planted trees to thrive, they need responsi-

ble human friends to care for them. In this lecture, Kettrell will discuss critical tasks in tree establishment including proper watering, mulching, soil health, pruning, and winter and animal protection.

As the owner of Radiant Leaf Consulting, Kettrell shares her passion for horticulture through the training she provides to both homeowners and green industry professionals. She is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist. Radiant Leaf Consulting is a Massachusetts Certified Woman Business Enterprise.

June 12th The Importance of Native Trees With Larri Cochran

The Growing Wild movement encourages planting native trees & flowering plant species to support biodiversity in our local ecosystems. Native insects, birds, and bees all play vital roles in pollination. People are often surprised at the role native trees and shrubs play in the survival of not only birds, but of our native butterflies, moths and bees, as well. In this talk, we’ll discuss the important role of native trees & shrubs in our communities and best design & planting practices for residential and urban settings.

Larri Cochran is a certified horticulturist and Landscape for Life Trainer, a long-time Board member of the Western MA Master Gardener Association, and co-directs the Northampton Community Garden. She offers consulting & design services for gardens & landscapes. She teaches design workshops and designs/manages native habitats.

Flashback

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March 19, 2021

Colleens enjoy their day in the sun

Colleen Patricia Hardon, Colleen Hailey Dusseault, Grand Colleen Moira McDermott, Colleen Emily Couture and Colleen Natalie Mayko participated in a reverse car parade at the Big E on March 13.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

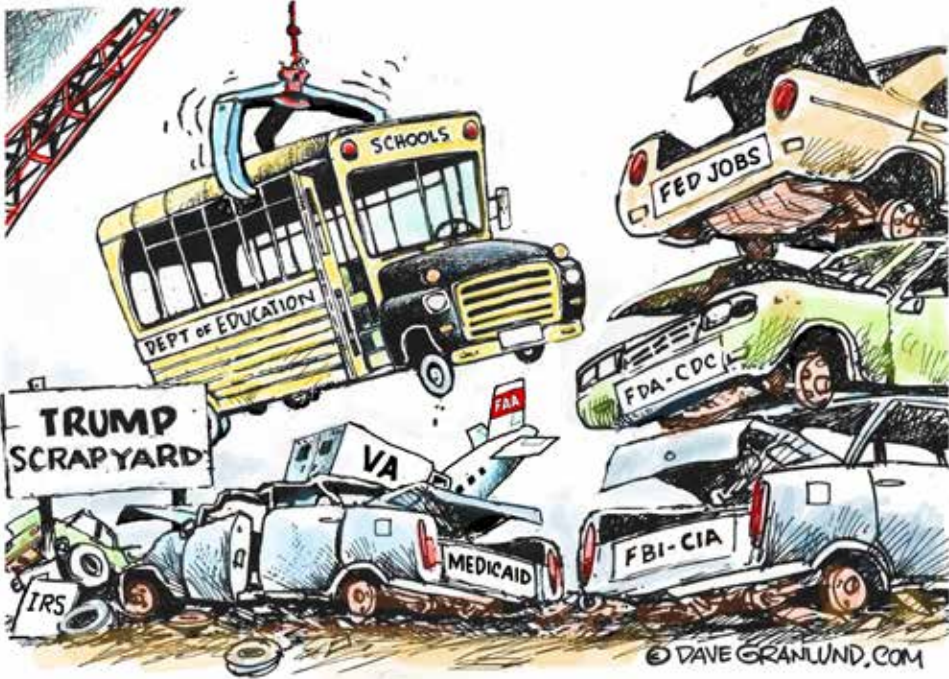
But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits

becomes taxable income (the thresholds are lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

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.



And just like that it's spring

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!

Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot- stone edged raised beds – that contain the heat and help them to grow quite successfully.

By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.

Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of

leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow, orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.

If I had to choose only one variety to grow it would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.

Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!

Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and "load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.

They call them snack peppers, and they are just

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably- usually by June first.

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants.

Although there are over 20 species of pepper, just one is known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name Capsicum annuum. Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.

Green when immature,



When Mom or Dad won't accept help

Scientists have found that humans age dramatically in two bursts – at around age 44, then at around 60. As people get beyond middle age, a fairly significant number don't want to admit to themselves that they are getting older because of a variety of factors:

Society portrays aging negatively. (At least we have Kathy Bates as "Matlock" showing us a seventy-something smart cookie.)

Psychologically, people associate aging with decline and loss of abilities, so they avoid thinking about it.

Ageism, the last acceptable form of discrimination, is still present in workplaces.

Preserving a younger self-image is a boost to the ego.

This denial manifests itself in many ways – for ex-

ample, buying a three-story house or getting a 50-pound dog when you're in your 60s or 70s. And I think it's at the root of why, when our parents are getting older, they resist accepting help from their children and their caregivers.

It's a process

We may age more quickly at certain times, but getting older is a process, and processes take time. Which is why the first time you ask Mom or Dad, "Do you want someone to come in a few days a week to help you out?" the answer may very well be, "I'm fine" or "Heck no," or words to that effect.

So you have to keep at it and not give up at the first sign of resistance, especially if you can see their capacity to perform the activities of

daily living (ADLs) is becoming diminished.

What are the activities of daily living?

ADLs are an indicator of a person's ability to function independently. They include eating, bathing, toileting -- tasks needed to keep a body healthy and safe. ADLs can also include more complex tasks like managing money, managing medications, cooking and doing laundry, which are important for independent living.

If a parent has difficulty performing one or more ADLs, they may end up living in unsafe conditions and have a poor quality of life unless they receive assistance.

ADLs can be empirically observed and measured, which takes emotions and assumptions out of the equation. You can also report to Mom's or Dad's doctor if you observe difficulty with ADLs, so the doctor can have that conversation with them.

Most importantly, you want to keep an eye on ADLs before there's an accident, injury or financial mishap: a stove or oven left on, a fall in the bathroom, or bills going unpaid.

How to approach "the talk"

Getting a senior to accept help is sometimes not easy,

but it's good to point out to them that they're in control now. There may come a time when the decision to accept help is no longer in their hands.

Some general guidelines:

Involve others, such as their doctor. What may be difficult to hear coming from a child may be more acceptable from a third party.

Listen to their concerns and feelings. Show that you understand their thoughts about the perception of aging.

Hear them out about their wishes and focus on the options they seem interested in. "If you could wave a magic wand, how would you make your life better?"

Then ask questions: Find out why they might be reluctant to accept help, such as fears about the loss of independence or the cost.

Give them choices: Allow them to help make decisions about the type of help they would be most comfortable with, and from whom. Would they be OK with a family member helping out but not someone from a care agency? How would they feel about having meals delivered a few times a week?

Point out how today's technological solutions can maintain independence. Have DoorDash deliver the grocer-

ies and a rideshare take you to the doctor.

Reframe the meaning of independence: Remind them that asking for help doesn't mean they're becoming less independent, but rather embracing interdependence.

As much as you can, let Mom or Dad control the decision-making. But the fact is that at some point, children and caregivers may have to assume control. It's important to have in place powers of attorney for health care and financial matters.

Finally, keep in mind that you'll be next in line for this conversation with your children or caregivers. How would you want someone to speak to you, and how accepting will you be when someone says, "I think you need help"?

Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.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.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political 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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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 Bacio, 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@southhadley-ma.gov) or Linda Young, Arbor Day Committee (lyoung@nthol-yoke.edu) no later than March 15. Thank you all for putting on your thinking caps and giving us your suggestions!

All Saints’ Church Lenten Lunches Return on Fridays

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

Prices will be available on request. This year the menu offers three choices: #1 Lobster Roll*, chips and dessert Brownie #2 Tuna Salad Roll*, chips and dessert Brownie (*gluten free rolls may be purchased on request.) #3 A Cup of Clam Chowder or A Cup of Vegetable Soup, crackers, and dessert Brownie

All items are made by our volunteers in the Church Kitchen, and picked up outdoors between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the All Saints’ parking area behind the Church off Dunlop Place. Proceeds benefit area mission projects. On alternate Fridays in Lent, March 6, 21 and April 4, lunches are available at St. Patrick’s Church in South Hadley Falls.

BIKE/WALK from page 1

vices director for South Hadley, added that the committee aims to build on past events while introducing new initiatives. “Many [events] we repeat or build off past treks/ events, and some are new. We love partnering with the conservation commission to educate people on the wonderful

habitat we have,” he said. “We are looking to do something to highlight the Valley Bike Program and partner with other events going on. We are also hopeful to partner with the council on aging to bring back weekly walks as part of the programming.” Beyond organizing community events, the BWC is also undertaking a town-wide

study of sidewalks to assess connectivity and accessibility. “We are looking at doing a study of all sidewalks in town, how they connect to existing infrastructure and what we could do to make the community more bike/walk friendly,” Rogers explained. “As a Complete Streets Community, anytime a roadway is under construction, the ben-

efits for walking/biking are evaluated.” Another exciting project currently in progress is an inventory of seating areas across town, led by Camuse and Rene Grosser. “They are currently doing an inventory of South Hadley, looking at places to sit around sidewalks, parks, walkways, etc.,” Rogers said. “There has been

a ton of time and effort put into this, and we hope to have this public in the near future so more places to sit can be added. The new bench at Water District #1 was a great example of this project.” The committee is also looking to recruit new members who are passionate about biking and walking in South Hadley. “We would love to

attract a few new members to the committee,” Camuse emphasized. “People who could help us plan and lead treks, participate in our research and decision-making, and lend support to any other projects we undertake.” Interested residents can apply through the town’s website, with the Selectboard set to appoint new members in June 2025.

GARDEN from page 4

that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content.

Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squatty three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

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.

BUDGET from page 1

Selectboard at selectboard@southhadleyma.gov, Town Administrator Lisa Wong at lwong@southhadleyma.gov, Superintendent Mark McLaughlin at mamclaughlin@shschools.com, and Assistant Superintendent Jenn Voyik at jvoyik@shschools.com.

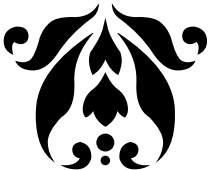
Achievements of the School and Town “Everyone who went to public school has their own memory of what that was like,” said McLaughlin. “But particularly since Covid, very little about what you might remember from your days in public school would be present now.” Despite all the hardships the schools have faced, and will face in the future as times change with new problems to face, there has been work done to celebrate the various achievements across the district. The high school received the 2024 MIZZ District 1 Sportsmanship Award, and was also named a 2024 School of Recognition by DESE. The district also implemented the first new elementary report card in 20 years.

They also implemented Social Emotional Learning and Anti-Bullying Curriculum K-12. They also implemented an ED Literacy Assessment (iReady) for all grades, as well as a new elementary literacy program with data showing an increased and sustained improvement in reading. The middle school also celebrated the new Project Lead the Way. “There’s a lot of things that we have done collectively as a town that are fun to point out,” said Lisa Wong. Over the past few years, the town has seen a new senior center opened, free rides for seniors, pickleball courts, The Weekly Wrap-Up, preserved farmland, a traffic calming study, and more. The next few years, the town is looking forward to improvements to Butter Brook Park, a new handbook for boards and committees, the Affordable Housing Trust launch, a trash and recycling cart launch, a historic district, and more. **The Tri-Board Committee** “One of the benefits of having this tri-board is that it breaks down the silos that could sometimes happen between the boards and helps us to identify the titles and

projects that have crossed between the boards and to help them move forward,” said Chair Andrea Miles of the Selectboard. The Tri-Board Committee was “resurrected” in 2022, and the main purpose is to enhance that communication between the three boards are kept up, and that the Executive Committee, made up of chairs, vice-chairs, and school and town leadership, met at least once annually. The boards also gave an overview of their given responsibilities and roles within the leadership of the town. The Selectboard forms and publicizes policies, enforces bylaws, rules, and regulations, and also serves as a licensing board. It also selects and oversees the Town Administrator and Town Counsel, as well as appointing members to boards. The School Committee reviews and approves budgets for public education in the district, establishes educational goals and policies for the schools in the district, and selects and oversees the Superintendent. The Appropriations Committee recommends to Town Meeting all articles that involve expenditure, appropriation, and raising or borrow-

ing funds. It also investigates the costs of maintenance and expenditures of the different town offices. “There is a fair amount of work done,” said Terry. “And I think there is a real proactive part on the town to communicate with the community what is happening.” Superintendent Mark McLaughlin talked a little bit about the Joint Building Operations, sharing his thankfulness towards the work different members of the town have put in towards supporting the Mosier Building Project. He also shared the strides they’ve made in doing work on the water damage in the high school, as well as improving the safety and security of school buildings. School Committee Chair Eric Friesner discussed the Mosier School Building in more detail, and moving into the next stages of the project and working with the district and what it needs. Scott Moore talked about the Green Communities, and what that means, and how it is good to see we have this standing and are one of the last communities to achieve it. Town Administrator Lisa Wong also shared a new Community Needs Assess-

ment coming in 2026 that will address what gaps and needs are in the community in order to fill them. The Budget Hybrid Public Meetings will be on March 4 at 7 p.m. for the Selectboard, and March 11 at 6 p.m. for the School Committee. The Budget Votes will be for the Selectboard on March 18 at 7 p.m., and School Committee on March 20 at 6 p.m. The Bylaw Review is to be determined, either in March or April to review bylaw recommendations. The Appropriations Committee had their preliminary budget meetings with school and town leadership on February 25 and 26, and TBD in March or April will have budget meetings and hearings. Capital Planning had a meeting on March 4 at 4 p.m. on how to prioritize upcoming projects, as well as a meeting to be determined at some point in April, where they will develop final recommendations and write the report to Town Meeting. Town Meeting will be held on May 14 at 6 p.m., where there will be a vote on the budget and bylaws.



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SPORTS

Tigers open state tournament with win



Julius Hebeneth shoots for the Tigers.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley boys’ basketball team lost back-to-back games to Monument Mountain Regional and Bethlehem High School, which is located near Albany, New York, on Thomas B. Landers Court at the beginning of the regular season.

After winning their final seven home games of the regular season, the 11th-seeded Tigers hosted 22nd-seeded Uxbridge in the Division 4 state tournament round of 32

game.

Things didn’t look very promising at the start of the second half, as South Hadley was trailing by ten points. The Tigers wound up battling back for a thrilling 72-68 triple overtime victory over the Spartans before a large home crowd, last Friday night.

“We just needed everything every kid gave us and then some to win tonight’s game,” said South Hadley head coach Chris Gerber, who coached a triple overtime game for the first time. “The players will remember this game for 40-50 years. The



Tim Loughrey extends for the left-hand layup.

story will just keep getting better and better.”

South Hadley (16-5), who went 10-2 at home this season, advanced into the round of 16 for the second time since the MIAA changed the postseason tournament format prior to the start of the 2021-22 season.

Two years ago, South Hadley lost, 69-64, at Springfield International Charter School in the round of 16. The Tigers made a longer bus ride to play in this year’s sweet 16. They were scheduled to face the sixth-seeded Georgetown High School Royals, which is

located North of Boston, on Tuesday night.

The trio of sophomore guard Noah Hambley, junior forward Isiah James, and senior forward Jack Loughrey combined to score 60 of the Tigers’ 72 points in the final home game of the season.

Hambley, whose aunt, Jes, is the school’s all-time leading scorer with 2,069 career points, led the way offensively with a career-high 30 points. He made a total of seven 3-pointers, which is also the most he’s made in a game since he joined the varsity squad a year ago.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jack Loughrey flies for the hoop.

“This is my 13th year coaching. I’ve been blessed to coach some great point guards,” Gerber said. “Noah is as good as any of them.”

Loughrey, who’s the newest member of the Tiger’s 1,000th point club, scored 20 points before fouling out with a little more than two minutes remaining in the first overtime session.

James scored seven of his 10 points during the second half.

The other two Tigers starters in the home finale were sophomore forward Tim Loughrey (6 points) and

sophomore guard Jackson Driver (3 points).

Uxbridge (12-9) and South Hadley made a total of 29 3-pointers in the postseason game. The Spartans made 18 3-pointers, while the Tigers made 11 of them.

With 16 seconds left in regulation, Jack Loughrey made a lay-up basket tying the score at 52-52 for the first time since the end of the first quarter.

Just before the buzzer went off, South Hadley senior Julius Hebeneth (2 points)

Please see **TIGERS**, page 7

Offense turns out for Rams in first round



Sawyer Clarke takes the free throw.

GRANBY – Last Thursday night, Granby had a hard-fought battle with Central Mass. School Bartlett and came away with an 82-72 win to start the Division 5 State Tournament in the Round of 32. Gavier Fernandez had a career night for the Rams with 47 points. Of that, he had 12 points on four treys and an incredible 21 made free throws. Riley Goodhind was next with 13 points. The Rams headed for the Round of 16 earlier this week against Rockport.



Riley Goodhind heads down the court.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Raymond Colon heads for the hoop.



Gavin Moreno swings the ball around the perimeter.



Gavier Fernandez looks for a path to the hoop during a first-round state tournament game against Bartlett. Fernandez scored an amazing 47 points in the Granby win.



Cody White tries to control the ball in the middle of the court.

TIGERS from page 6

stole a pass near the mid-court line and his three-point shot bounced off the rim.

Hebenth, who didn't play basketball a year ago, along with Jack Loughrey and Connor Hall, are the only seniors listed on the Tigers varsity basketball roster.

The first overtime period was scoreless until Uxbridge senior guard Darren Oliver (19 points) knocked home a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 1:10 left.

Hambley also made a 3-pointer from the top of the key, tying the score once again 15 seconds later.

James missed a shot from behind the arc in the closing seconds of the first overtime sending the contest into another four minute OT period.

With the help of two 3-pointers, Hambley scored seven of his team's nine points during the second overtime session.

Uxbridge, which was led offensively by junior center Brady Esposito with 22 points, also scored nine points during the second OT and it seemed like it would take all night to determine a winner.

The score was deadlocked at 64-64 entering the third overtime.

The Tigers took a 69-64 lead with 2:30 left following a Tim Loughrey lay-up and a Hambley trey from the right side.

Then a lay-up by Esposito, who fouled out at the end of the third overtime period, kept the Spartans within striking distance.

South Hadley held a 70-66 with 23.1 seconds remaining when sophomore guard Noah Rivera made a free throw. It was his only point of the contest.

After Oliver made two foul shots, Hambley put the game out of reach by sinking two more shots from the charity stripe. It gave the Tigers a 72-68 lead with 7.2 seconds left.

onds left.

The game began with Hambley, Driver, and Jack Loughrey making 3-pointers, as the Tigers raced out to an 11-2 lead in the middle of the first quarter.

The Spartans responded with a 9-0 run, but the Tigers entered the second quarter with a 17-11 advantage.

A 3-pointer from senior guard James Sanford (14 points) with 4:11 left in the first half gave the visitors from the Blackstone Valley an 18-17 lead.

Esposito closed out the first half by hitting a jumper in the lane. It sent the Uxbridge players into the locker room holding a 26-21 lead.

The Spartans held a 31-21 lead a minute into the third quarter before the Tigers began their comeback.

South Hadley, who were trailing 37-32 entering the fourth quarter, never retook the lead in the fourth quarter, but they did tie the score at the end of regulation.

The home fans were able to celebrate one of the biggest victories by the boys' basketball team in many years twelve minutes later.

"It was a gutsy all-time win for us," Gerber said. "We put a lot of pressure on them defensively in the second half, which turned out to be the difference maker. We gutted it out and we just made one more play than the other team."



Noah Hambley gets the layup.

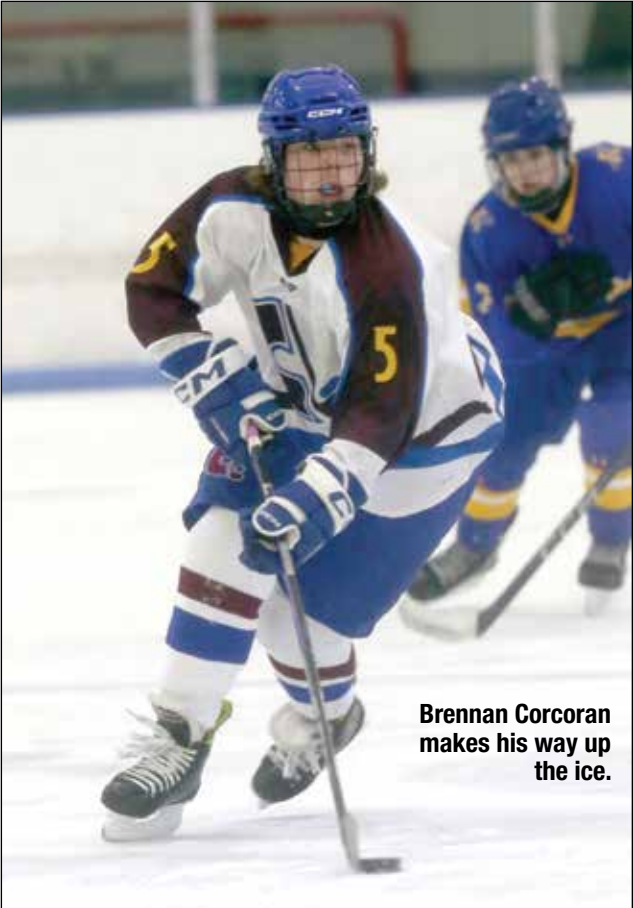


Isiah James drives toward the hoop.



Noah Rivera attempts a three-pointer.

Season concludes for improved Pacers co-op



Brennan Corcoran makes his way up the ice.

CHICOPEE – In the first year of a five-school co-op ice hockey team, Chicopee only managed one win all season long. But this year, the Pacers found themselves just one game out of reaching the state tournament. The Pacers did struggle to get wins early in the season, but came back to record four straight wins to conclude

the season with an 8-10-2 record. One additional win would have squeezed the Pacers in with a .500 record. The Pacers season ended with 5-3 and 7-1 wins over Assabet Tech and McCann Tech, respectively. The co-op includes Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Granby, and PVCIC.



Tyler Denison take a shot on goal.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Julian Lee-Choi reaches out to try and steal the puck.



Jake Fournier tries to break away from the wall.



Abiel Aponte goes after the loose puck.

T-Birds take the win in a shootout over Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-19-2-4) dispatched 2-0 and 3-2 deficits en route to a 4-3 shootout win over the Providence Bruins (30-17-4-2) on Saturday night at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The game's scoring began with a flurry in the final three minutes of a first period that had been quiet until that point. Vadim Zherenko had a tremendous highlight-reel moment past the period's midpoint as he stretched out the right leg to make a break-away save on a Vinni Lettieri backhand bid.

Providence, though, got back to work and took advantage of a 5-on-3 situation when Oliver Wahlstrom beat

Zherenko as the first penalty expired to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 17:04. Wahlstrom's goal marked his first in the AHL in nearly five years, as he was playing his first game in the league since March 11, 2020.

The Bruins lead grew to 2-0 just two minutes later as Riley Tuftie crashed the net to tip a Patrick Brown centering attempt by the skate of Zherenko. In the process, however, Tuftie was penalized for interference on Zherenko after the puck crossed the line.

While Tuftie's goal stood, the T-Birds' power play got a pivotal answer with just 12 seconds left in the first as Dalibor Dvorsky snapped a five-game goal drought with

a sizzling wrister from the right circle off a cross-seam pass from Nikita Alexandrov.

The Springfield power play continued its potent night just 2:07 into the second period, as Matthew Peca deflected a Matt Luff snapper past Michael DiPietro to tie the game, 2-2. Peca's goal tied his career-high in a single season (23) and tied Adam Gaudette for the longest goal-scoring streak in team history, as the captain has tallied a goal in six straight contests.

The Bruins generated most of the chances the remainder of the middle frame, but Zherenko stood firm in his crease, turning aside all

17 Providence attempts to carry the 2-2 game into the final period.

Tuftie made things difficult on the T-Birds again when he broke in and beat Zherenko on a forehand chip shot 22 seconds into the final period, restoring the Providence lead to 3-2.

From that point onward, though, Zherenko made sure the home team would not get any insurance, keeping the deficit at a single goal. After getting a clutch penalty kill with less than 3:30 remaining in regulation, Corey Andonovski picked a fantastic time to net his first goal as a T-Bird. The newly acquired

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

Town of South Hadley Center Street Neighborhood Improvement Project

The Town of South Hadley wishes to receive responses for construction administrative services for drainage and roadway improvements on all of Center, Graves and Warner Streets, approximately 900 linear feet in total. The fee for services sought will be negotiated and shall not exceed \$51,831. A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM beginning on March 12, 2025. To request an electronic copy of the RFQ, please contact Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org or Evan Mastroianni at emastroianni@pvpc.org. The RFQ will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below. The Town of South Hadley reserves the right to reject any and all responses if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so. The South Hadley Selectboard will be the awarding and contracting authority.

Completed proposals are to be submitted no later than 2:00 PM, Friday, March 28, 2025, to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104.

Classifieds

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Need experience in Management, Public Outreach, and Social Media
Four-day work week; 5 weeks vacation; 5 days sick/personal time; holidays \$60,000 salary
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Must have driver's license in good standing. Call **413-507-1949.**

HELP WANTED

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:
Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
Subject line: Employment
Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
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Public notices

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=tcbF0nKVarqb7Z3kqm31-tRAFu5U8U.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

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

URL to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81902402093?pwd=tcbF0nKVarqb7Z3kqm31-tRAFu5U8U.1

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

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

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Spe-

cial Permit' under section 'New Ludlow Road (500) - Adult Entertainment' or can be viewed at: https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/07, 03/14/2025

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:

2003 Mazda Protégé JM1BJ225430125002
Jose Batista
277 Main St., Apt 1
Springfield MA 01151
2009 Honda Civic 2HGFG12689H513911
Amanda Beaton
31 Colton Ave
W. Springfield MA 01089

2008 Ford F-150 1FTRX14W18FA66072
Vincent Porfrio
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

1999 Chevrolet Tahoe 1GNEK13R5XJ431638

Marco Cazarin
300 Walnut St., Apt 604
Holyoke MA 01040

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 1HGCM72686A008816
Dymphana Jeffers
221 Bay St., Apt 202
Springfield MA 01109

2002 Honda CR-V JHLRD78882C062684
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 3FA6P0VP2HR281134
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

2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J4GW48S21C560882
Wilma Albelo Arce
120 Applewood Dr
Chicopee MA 01022

2010 Acura TSX JH4CU2F63AC012909
Neftali Ramirez
323 Main St., 2nd Fl
Indian Orchard MA 01151

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 Dubois St
Springfield MA 01151

2003 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

2000 GMC C7500 1GDJ7H1B9YJ505177
Bianco Landscaping Nominee Trust
1120 Churchill St
Pittsfield MA 01201

2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 1GCHK23K37F552153
All Railroad Services Corp
44 Fink Dr
Ottsville PA 18942

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 1FVACWDU0UGHGZ3859
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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0084EA Estate of: Lorraine A. Kiontke Date of Death: October 24, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mark K. Kiontke of South Hadley, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Mark K. Kiontke of South Hadley, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/07/2025

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF GRANBY

The Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 17, 2024, at 5:45 PM** at the ****Senior Center Building located at 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA** to grant permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Carver Street - National Grid to install 1 SO pole on Carver Street beginning at a point approximately 480 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Munsing Ridge. National Grid will be installing new pole# 59-84 across from P59 to replace an old tree guy wire that is being removed, Granby, MA. Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked — Carver Street - Granby, Massachusetts. No.# 31109177

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

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

Copies of proposed Plans- #31109177-Carver St Granby MA are available in the Board

of Selectmen's Office 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Friday located at 10-B West State Street, Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor.

Granby Selectboard
Crystal L Dufresne
David Labonte
Glen N. Sexton
03/07/2025

Town of Granby Legal Notice

1. Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that the Granby Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.** at 10-B West State Street (Senior Center Building) 1. to consider the transfer of a retail Section 12 Wine and Malt Beverage (On Premises) License from Martidis Pizza, Inc., d/b/a Pizza Palace to Aymur, Inc., d/b/a Pizza Palace 2. to consider Murat Cont as manager for Aymur Inc.. Premises described as follows: One story building with, two (2) bathrooms, main entrance in front of building, exit in rear located at 31 West State Street, Granby MA 01033

Anyone interested, and wishing to be heard, should appear at the time and place designated.

Crystal L. Dufresne
David A Labonte
Glen N. Sexton
Granby Selectboard
Licensing Commissioners
03/07/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw to consider a request for an Order of Conditions filed by South Hadley Electric Light Department for an upgraded distribution line within the privately owned roadway of The Meadows. The project proposes abandoning the existing underground distribution line off Amherst Rd, installing four new poles and above ground line to connect to an underground distribution line proposed along the existing paved roadway of The Meadows, and relocate the transformer. The proposed activities are within the 50-foot Conservation Zone and 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and inland Bank. (Map 52, Parcels 15, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, and 253).

The hearing will be held on **Wednesday, March 19 at 6pm virtually.** Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website.

A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
03/07/2025

NOTICE

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

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CHURCH from page 1

ley, creating a connection between the two towns and this church that was lost.

Comeau, after finding these pieces of information, took his childhood interest in genealogies from his childhood, on a new mission to give these seventy lost brothers and sisters names, and identities.

Over the course of 400 hours across seven years, Comeau found 66 of the 70 peoples’ birth and marriage certificates, and presented them at the talk on Wednesday.

“The most interesting part is the death records, and it is really the only tangible connection for most relatives. This is one tangible way I can really see a relative,” said Comeau.

The original site of the church in Holyoke is still there to this day, even if now only the convent and rectory are standing, and Comeau gives tours around the campus, teaching the history of the Precious Blood Church and its tragedy.

For the past eleven years, Comeau has been dedicated to the history of the church, and give talks at libraries, and if asked, private talks and in-



Robert Comeau welcoming the guests to his presentation, sharing the history of a community church that was lost.

structions.

“To me it’s a lot of fun, but it’s a lot of work. I really like to do it. I’m the type of person to want to keep it positive, even in the sad parts,” said Comeau.

A woman that attended the church and later died from her injuries, was eight months pregnant and gave birth. Records later showed that her child returned to her homeland of Quebec, where she lived out her days until the 1940’s.

“I went over some of the good things that happened,

like the campus prospered, and 430 people survived, and they made a great campus for themselves,” said Comeau.

This is the first of three events on the anniversary of the fire, and there will be an event at the Holyoke library in May, as well as a bus tour between the campus where the church was to the cemetery in South Hadley.

You can find more information about Comeau’s tours and what he does at his website, <https://www.holyoke-canal-tour.org>.

The Paranormal - Ghosts with Local Psychic Medium Lisa Lanno



GRANBY—The Granby Free Public Library is hosting a night of ghost talk and evidence with local psychic medium, and ghost hunter, Lisa Lanno on Thursday, March 27 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an interactive ghost-filled night with real evidence including audio, video and photo. We will answer questions about who and what ghosts are, if they are bad/harmful, what they can or can’t do. Space is limited, so please call to pre-register at 413-467-3320.

For more information, visit granbylibrary.org or queenparanormal.com. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby MA 01033.

Local nonprofit offers \$1,000 scholarship to two high school seniors

BELCHERTOWN/GRANBY – Local charitable organization Nick’s Waves of Change is holding a special scholarship program of \$1,000 towards college for two students.

Nick’s Waves of Change was created for Nicholas R. Boileau who passed away from acute myeloid leukemia in 2021, and in his memory, the organization strives to create “waves of change” throughout the community.

One student from Nick’s alma mater, Belchertown High School, and one to another high school senior in Western Massachusetts that matches the qualifications will receive the scholarship.

The application can be found on their website, www.nickswavesofchange.org under the “Scholarship Opportunities” tab, as well as requirements for the grant award. Applications are due to be completed by April 17, 2025.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn’t just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they’re used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There’s no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here’s a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - *YMCA*

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - *Statista*

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - *American Camp Association*

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - *American Camp Association*

50: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - *CampMinder*

58 to 63: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - *American Camp Association*

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. - *CampMinder*

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - *CampMinder*

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - *CampMinder*

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

PACKARD MOUNTAIN Learning Center

We have summer enrollment options for school age children.

Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$350/wk. Accepting vouchers.

Structured daily schedule to include curricular content, free play, and arts and crafts.

Lots of outdoor and weather permitting water play.

www.packardmountain.com

Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org

Greene Acres Equestrian Center LLC.

April Vacation Riding Camp - April 22-24

2025 Summer Riding Sessions

June 23-27 • July 14-18

July 28 - August 1 • August 18-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291

53 Ware Road, Belchertown

Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com

Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY

Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS

KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 23RD-AUGUST 22ND
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!
*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439

belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com

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THE MACDUFFIE SCHOOL VERITAS 1890

Race Into Summer at Camp MacDuffie!

Be part of this year’s camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

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

Co-ed • Grades 1-8

June 30 - August 15

Space is limited so don't wait!

Kelley Romano Receives 2025 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award

GRANBY—Kelley Romano has been selected by the Granby Public Schools as a 2025 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award Winner.

Kelley Romano, a dedicated educator at Granby Junior Senior High School since 2018, has been honored with the prestigious Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award.

Teaching 10th and 11th graders across a range of subjects including history, English, and Advanced Placement courses, Kelley’s impact extends far beyond the curriculum.

As the advisor for the high school student council, she fosters leadership and community spirit among students.

Kelley is widely celebrated for going above and beyond for both staff and students, building strong connections, and consistently modeling inclusive teaching practices that create a welcoming and supportive learning environment for all.

Kelley will be honored at an in-person banquet at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on



Kelley Romano receives her recognition for Excellence in Teaching at Granby Junior Senior High School.

April 30, 2025.

The program will feature a festive awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and a check for \$250, along with generous tuition

incentives and scholarships offered by eight major colleges and universities in the region: American International College, Bay Path University, Elms College, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield

College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive a 3-month membership at the Springfield Jewish Commu-

nity Center or one of the six regional YMCAs.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 22nd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the American International College, Arrha Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

“Teachers are some of the hardest working people. We are privileged to honor and celebrate these extraordinary individuals whose dedication and impact reaches far beyond the classroom and who deserve all our appreciation and acknowledgement.” - Uli Nagel, Program Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation

For further information about the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program, contact Program Coordinator Michelle Roberts (mroberts@hgf.org)

Read to a dog at the Granby Library

GRANBY— Looking for a fun way to practice your reading skills? Want to snuggle a dog while reading to him? Sign up for a time slot to read to Gwen the Greyhound. She is a perfect listener as you work on your reading skills or as you practice reading out loud. Bring a book from home or pick one at the library before your time slot. Gwen loves every book.

Upcoming dates are: Thursdays between 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 20, April 3 and 17

Visit the library or call to reserve your 20-minute slot.

Granby Library hours: T,W,F 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thurs. 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sat.10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Telephone 413- 467-3320

Visit granbylibrary.com and Granby Library Children’s Room Page on Facebook.

T-BIRDS from page 7

winger stopped at the bottom of the left circle and proved to be in the perfect spot as a MacKenzie MacEachern rebound off DiPietro's pads found his stick. Andonovski

snapped it by DiPietro, setting the stage for Springfield's third straight overtime game.

The visitors carried the play in the extra session with five of the six shots on net, but DiPietro fended off each bid, including a breakaway effort by Luff. For a third straight

contest, the game advanced to a shootout. After neither team converted on the netminders in the first two rounds, Tanner Dickinson finally elevated a backhand under the crossbar to give Springfield the edge. Needing a goal from John Farinacci to extend the

shootout, the Bruins got just that, as the centerman faked beautifully to the backhand side and forced a fourth round.

Alexandrov had his chance at redemption after coming up short on a game-winning attempt on Friday, and the T-Birds' jack-of-all-trades made a magnificent backhand-to-forehand maneuver to beat DiPietro. Tufte

was unsuccessful in his bid to solve Zherenko in the bottom of the round, and the T-Birds completed their comeback and victory. Zherenko finished the night with 42 saves in regulation and overtime, followed by three saves on four shootout attempts. In defeat, DiPietro stopped 31 attempts in 65 minutes before the shootout.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Town Reminder

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

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2025 Fly Fishing Expo

Hosted by: Western Mass. Fly Fishermen
Established in 1971

Monday, March 17th



6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Speaker at 7:30 p.m.
Ludlow Elks Lodge 69 Chapin Stree, Ludlow, Mass
ADMISSION: \$8.00; Free for children under 12 years

Guest Speaker: Harrison Anglers!

We target trout, pike, shad and smallmouth bass on the rivers on Western Mass and Southern VT.

We'll focus on our winter fisheries but will discuss our warm water options as well.



Exhibitors: Fly rod builders, fly fishing/material vendors. Mass State and Wildlife experts, other related exhibitors, and WMFF member demonstrating fly tying.

Giant Raffle: Many fishing items, a complete fly-tying kit. Bucket raffles for custom tied flies. Door prize is a fly rod combo.

Refreshments/Food for sale

Mention where you saw this advertisement or show your WMFF membership card and get \$1.00 off your admission

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South Hadley Public Library

2 Canal St., South Hadley • www.shadleylib.org • 413-538-5045

MARCH EVENTS

Adult Programs

Spring Craft: Rock Painting with Carla
Saturday, March 8 at 10 a.m.
Come enjoy rock painting with Carla in the Community Room. All materials provided. Sign up at the front desk, by calling 413-538-5045 or sign up online.

Conversation with a Judge: Hon. Charles Belsky
Wednesday, March 12 at 6 pm in the Community Room
The Honorable Charles Belsky, First Justice of Franklin/Hampden Juvenile Court will be at the South Hadley Public Library to talk about what to expect when attending court, and the what the ramifications are of appointed judges for State and Federal courts. Thank you to the Massachusetts State Judicial Outreach program for sponsoring this talk.

Nibbling on Native Plants: In Your Backyard and Beyond
Wednesday, March 19 at 6 p.m.
Native plants aren't just for insects; many people find them delicious too! Plants that can nourish both groups provide an additional incentive for us to plant them in our yards and landscapes, benefiting all. Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten, for a tour of at least two dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your own landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with details about edible portion(s), season(s) of availability, preparation method(s), and propagation. Russ Cohen's "day job" was serving as the Rivers Advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration. Russ operates a small nursery outside of Boston, where he grows/keeps hundreds of edible native plants, and collaborates with a wide variety of landowning organizations (including the Town of Lexington) to plant them in appropriate places on their properties – a modern-day Johnny Appleseed for wild edibles.

USS Glacier AGB-4 Naval Ship Expedition
Wedesday, March 26 at 5 - 7 p.m.
Learn about Rich Normandin time onboard the Scientific Navy Ship: The USS Glacier AGB-4. Normandin will talk about his time on the ship traveling from Boston to the Panama Canal and down to New Zealand and Antarctica. Expect close-ups of penguins and navy personnel. You will also see three Navy Icebreakers in action moving an iceberg the size of a city block!

