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### **New trust** advances affordable housing efforts

By Tina Lesniak Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY years.

is to preserve and create affordable housing in South Hadley," said Anne Capra, director of planning and conservation. "The strategic plan aims to establish the trust's mission, identify its goals, and lay out a clear path for action. Rooted in the community's values and priorities, as identified in past community plans (specifically the 2020 Master Plan Update and the 2023 Housing Production Plan), the plan should be finalized by June 2025."

As part of this process, the Trust held a working session in February, inviting other town boards and committees to collaborate on a shared vision for the Trust's future. The session focused on identifying key barriers to affordable housing and proposing innovative solutions for funding and implementation.

The creation of the

Please see HOUSING. page 12

"The students thought it was important to walk out, but to walk back in, and go back to close, to show how serious they were about their action and their message," said SHEA President Amy Foley.

Students raise their signs up to share their desire for change for their school.

High schoolers

rally together to

call for change

**By Emily-Rose Pappas** 

Staff Writer

epappas@turley.com

Monday, a group of high

schoolers organized a walk-

out in order to call attention

to the dangers of the cuts to

they named the Walk Out to

Walk In, happened around

noon on Monday, March 31,

where students with signs

led a march out of the build-

ing with teachers and faculty

and around the perimeter, and

walk-out, which

the schools.

The

back inside.

SOUTH HADLEY - Last

The Walk Out to Walk In event was meant to be a way for students to show everyone how important their education was to them, and to not only walk out in protest, but return to a place that matters to them.

"It was really great to be there, because even before the walk-out, we had a meeting with about a dozen students who have been working to organize the walk-out," said Senator Jake Oliveira.

> Please see WALK-OUT, page 14



"Paws Off Our Education."

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

DUT-to-Walk-In "I think it's a real privilege to represent these students." - AMY FOLEY

South Hadley is taking significant steps to address its housing challenges with the establishment of an Affordable Housing Trust. The newly appointed Trust is currently developing a Strategic Plan to guide its efforts over the next five

"The goal of the Trust

### **Ceremonies held to honor Vietnam veterans**

#### **Bv Emily-Rose Pappas** Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - The work of honoring our veterans is never enough and are essential to recognize the sacrifice of these men and women and thank them for our freedom.

The South Hadley American Legion was a part of two special Vietnam Veterans Ceremonies last week, one on Thursday March 27, and the other on Saturday March 29, which is Vietnam Veterans Day.



Mike Slater, the Post Commander of VFW Post 3104 and Brian Willette, Commander of American Legion Post 260, presenting the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War pins to veterans.



#### Submitted photos On Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, there was a ceremony for a Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Flag to be raised.

The March 29 meeting was hosted by both the South Hadley American Legion and the South Hadley Veterans Services for a first-time ceremony to raise both a new American flag and a Vietnam Veterans Ceremonial flag.

The flags were hung at the old American Legion flagpole at the base of the South Hadley side of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, and time was spent by those in attendance to remember the veterans who fought.

The March 27 meeting was held at the library, and the Legion has spend the past 10 years putting together these ceremonies in order to honor the fallen heroes of the Vietnam War. "It's always an honor for me to be able to organize and lead these ceremonies and we plan to continue for as many years as possible. We have absolutely no plans to stop," said Brian Willette, the South Hadley American Legion Commander and Purple Heart Afghanistan Veteran.

The ceremony at the library told the story of U.S. Air Force Captain and South Hadley's first of eight service members, Valmore Bourque, to give their life in Vietnam.

Bourque graduated from South Hadley High School in

> Please see VETERANS, page 9

### Hearings set on Center development, bylaw proposals

#### **By Walter Hamilton** Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Two proposed development projects - one that could allow a significant expansion of the Village Commons and another that would create a Mount Holyoke College Energy Center have been scheduled for Planning Board hearings in April.

The corporation that owns The Village Commons has asked the town to consider amending zoning bylaws to create a new "Village District" bylaw that would enable further development of its

7.8-acre property, The unified property that consolidated eight former separate residential and business parcels was approved in January by the Planning Board.

A hearing on the proposal will be held on Tuesday, April 28

Another hearing, set for April 14, will be held to consider a site plan review for a proposed 6,158-square-foot Energy Center building on an existing parking lot at Woodbridge Street and Dunlap Place. The site, part of

> Please see **HEARINGS**, page 9



Submitted photo

A representation of a proposed Energy Center building connected to the Mount Holyoke College campus geothermal project was submitted as part of a Site Plan Review narrative to the Planning Board by engineering and consulting firm Salas O'Brien.

SHPD free

community

shredding

event May 3

SOUTH HADLEY—A

Free Community Shred-

ding event will take place

on Saturday, May 3rd

from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in

the Newton Street parking

Monetary donations

The Proprietors of the

South Hadley Falls Cem-

etery (Village Cemetery)

will be conducting its an-

nual meeting on Wednes-

day, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.,

in the small conference

room at the South Hadley

the meeting as their input

is always welcomed. The

meeting will elect Offi-

cers and Trustees, review

reports and discuss the fu-

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quested to check their adver-

the space occupied by the item

in the advertisement.

ture of the cemetery.

The public is invited to

Public Library.



### Get to Know Your Town Employee: Jenny Arch

are featuring town employees to recognize and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

These town employees are what help keep our communities running, providing resources, help, information, fun events, organization, and more for us to enjoy.

Here is an interview with South Hadley Free Public Library's Children's Director, Jenny Arch.

#### What is your favorite thing about the town?

"Most of my time in the town is spent right here in the library, where I'm surrounded by books and book-lovers (and a fabulous view of the river). I also love browsing at Odyssey Bookshop."

#### What do you do in your position?

"Everything! I'm the only children's librarian in the building, so I am responsible for all the programs, collections, displays, and outreach. Fortunately, I have great co-workers in the building and through a statewide listserv of youth librarians, and I have a lot of support for trying new ideas, whether that's a new program like a Stuffed Animal Sleepover or developing a new area of the collection, like Early Readers."

#### Describe an average day at the office?

"There is no average day. We have a full slate of programs for kids every week, including Rhyme Time, Story Time, Lego & Games, and more, so a lot of my time is spent promoting, planning,

SOUTH HADLEY - We and leading programs. I also select and purchase new books for all ages from infants to middle school - board books, picture books, chapter books, fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. I create fresh displays regularly - National Poetry Month is coming up in April. And I greet everyone who comes in and help them with whatever they need!"

#### Tell me a bit about you. Are you a resident? What's your education?

"I live in Amherst. I earned my BA at Hampshire College - I took classes at all of the Five Colleges, including Mount Holyoke here in South Hadley - and my MLIS from Simmons in Boston. I'm also certified as a School Library Teacher."

#### What other departments or committees/boards do vou work closely with?

"I coordinate with the children's librarian at the Gaylord Memorial Library, the South Hadley Public Schools, Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, the South Hadley Farmers' Market, the Senior Center, and Odyssey Bookshop."

#### What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

"Listening to people who come into the library and helping them find whatever kind of books they're looking for - talking about books and connecting people with books is the best. When families come in on a regular basis I get to know them and what kind of books they like. Introducing a new program and seeing people show



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Jenny Arch in her Very Hungry Caterpillar dress ready to help you find your next read.

up is gratifying too - Pajama Storytime and Graphic Novel Book Club were popular right away, so I knew there had been a need for those things."

#### What inspired you to take on the position?

"I've been in public libraries for most of my career. I worked in school libraries for a couple years and decided to return to public libraries. South Hadley needed a new children's librarian due to a retirement, and it worked out!"

Where is your office located? What are your office hours?

"I share an office with the teen librarian, but I'm rarely in there - if I'm not leading a program, I'm at the boatshaped desk right in the children's room, ready to help whoever comes in."

What is the history of your department? What makes it unique from others?

"There have been dedicated children's libraries in the U.S. since the 1800s. Early

literacy begins at birth, and all are welcome at the public library, where we foster a love of reading. We have board books and a special baby storytime program for infants, and music and storytimes for toddlers and kids. We also have play spaces, because play is one of the five essential early literacy practices, along with reading, writing, singing, and talking. The library is also one of the few public spaces where, to quote Caitlin Moran, "you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead." It's free to be here, and anyone can get a library card!"

### community to know about your position?

"I'm here for you! I'm open to ideas - in person, by phone or email, even via desk mailbox. I love connecting people with books and resources, and I want the library to be a safe, friendly place for our youngest patrons and their families. Everyone should be able to find "windows and mirrors" books here; as Rudine Sims Bishop wrote, everyone deserves to see themselves reflected in literature (that's the mirrors part), and stories are a way to get a window into others' experiences. Stories build empathy - and the library is full of stories."

If you or someone you know would like to take part in these Town Employee interviews, please contact Emily-Rose Pappas at epappas@ turley.com.

lot at South Hadley High School. It is sponsored by the South Hadley SALT Council - TRIAD. will be gratefully accepted to support programs which benefit our senior citizens. Cemetery annual meeting April 30 What do you want the SOUTH HADLEY-

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### **INSURED AND CERTIFIED**

# Library hosts **toy swap**, **stuffie clinic**

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

SOUTH HADLEY Finding that perfect toy can be a challenge, as there are so many to choose from on the shelves at the store.

Between birthdays and holidays, to special occasions and more, there are many ways the toys can be acquired, and slowly build up over time.

With spring cleaning on everyone's minds, the library hosted a special opportunity for kids to donate their old toys and pick out a few new ones to enjoy.

"People could bring their old toys in, and take something new home with them," said Children's Director Jenny Arch. "It's a way to bring in new things and keep things out of the landfill."

The toy swap began as a suggestion put in Arch's suggestion box, and she liked the idea, and passed it on to create an event.

For a week, the library accepted toy donations for the swap, and then advertised for a need for people who could stitch or mend for a Stuffed Animal Clinic.

Puzzles, board games, cars and trucks, baby toys, stuffed animals, baby dolls, and more were donated to the swap to find new homes to love on them.

The library reached out to the community to invite them to bring their old toys to the swap, as well as their stuffed animals in need of stitching.

The library sent out a call for volunteers to come and offer their stitching skills for a special Stuffed Animal Clinic, where the kids could bring in their beloved stuffed friends to get rips repaired,



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Nicole Newell-Marces, Thomas Weir, Kate Farmer, and Gwendolyn Fern with their stuffies they are helping to repair for the kids.

and even a tail replaced on a too.' unicorn.

"We really loved to be here," said Kate Farmer who came to volunteer with the Clinic volunteers. "I get to do what I love, and I get to help these cute stuffed animals,

"I just love mending," said Thomas Weir. "And seeing the kids happy is the best

part." The toy swap was a success, and kids got to have their wonderful stuffed animals repaired and made new once again.

The toy swap was a great success, and the other toys were donated to the children's rooms at the South Hadley and Gaylord Memorial libraries.



Little Winslow with her moms, Anna and Biz Holley playing together.

The event will happen again before the holiday season for the chance to swap

some toys, and give a new home to dolls, games, and stuffed animals galore.



Adelaide smiling and happy to have her unicorn have its new



Naja finding a new toy to play with that has lots of moving pieces.



Little Ida Rose getting ready to show her dad which toy she wants to come home with.









### **HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS** SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS

### 2025-2026

Hadley Public Schools grades PK-12 is now accepting School Choice Applications. They can be found at www.hadleyschools.org. The cut-off date for applications is April 16th.

Hadley Public Schools Offers the following advantages:

### HADLEY ELEMENTARY

- Small Class Sizes
- Art, Band, Chorus •
- Tech & Makerspace Lab
- World Language Lab •
- 7:30am Homework support (free) •
- Afterschool Clubs: • Newspaper, Robotics Equestrian, Board Games
- Inclusive Special Ed Services
- New Playgrounds

### **HOPKINS ACADEMY**

- Small Class Sizes
- Advanced Course Offerings
- AP, PLTW, Early College
- Career Pathways in:
- Business, Clean Energy, Public Safety, Engineering, Computer Science, Health Care, Environmental Science
- Extracurricular Offerings: Athletics, Band, Chorus, Drama, Equestrian, Leadership
- Internships, Service Learning
- Travel Opportunities



### THANKSGIVING REVIEW "Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump

meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time." - Beth from Belchertown

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— Jeanette & Paul Johnson

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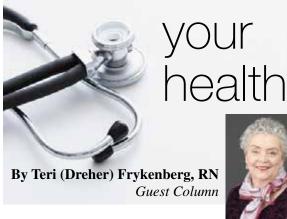
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### NON





### How to advocate for yourself at the dentist

If you feel like you're seeing a dental office on every street corner, you're not wrong. Corporate dentistry is growing as a delivery model for dental care.

Just two decades ago, more than 90 percent of dentists owned their own practices. Today, that number has dropped to about 75 percent as more younger dentists, women and people of color opt to join a DSO – dental support organization. The thinking is that a DSO takes care of the business side of running a practice so dentists can concentrate on their patients.

One of the unfortunate side effects of this trend is that you may not see the same dentist. This can have an impact on continuity of care when someone new is always peering into your mouth.

That said, there's no clear evidence that dental care delivered by a DSO is any different from that delivered by a solo practitioner. But in a world where it's unlikely that you will see the same dentist over a period of years, I think it is important to practice self-advocacy, just as you would at any other medical appointment.

Dr. Amit Kumar, a dentist with Smile More Today, recommends preparing for dental appointments with some of these key questions and concerns:

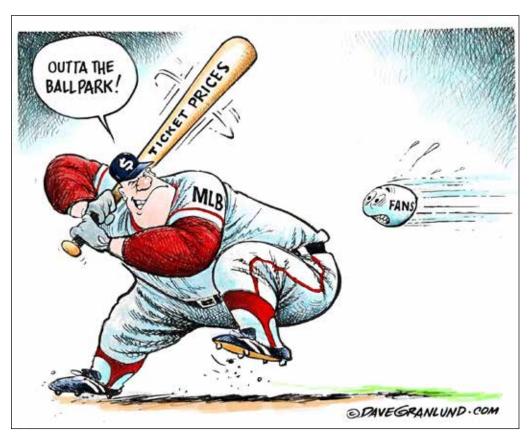
Check that the practice accepts your dental insurance. This is particularly important for those with

mar says. There should be a written treatment plan outlining a schedule, benefits and drawbacks, and your potential costs so you can make an informed decision and not feel pressured into taking action. "Don't hesitate to ask for alternatives or inquire about the necessity of each step in

the plan," he says. The treatment plan should show what your insurance will cover and what you will be expected to pay. These are sometimes eye-opening figures, running into thousands of dollars. (And they wonder why a lot of people want to avoid going to the dentist!) Many practices offer payment plans if you can't cover the costs up front. You might also be able to schedule the procedures over a period of months to spread out the cost.

Like you, your dentist would rather prevent problems than fix them later, so ask about at-home care: proper brushing, mouth rinses, flossing, dietary recommendations. Our gums usually recede as we age, so avoiding gum disease, also known as periodontal disease, is critical to oral health. Hate to floss? Too bad. Do it anvwav.

Finally, Kumar recommends knowing when to seek a second opinion. "If a recommended treatment seems invasive, costly or unnecessary, consider getting a second opinion from another dentist," he says. "A good dentist will respect your de-



### Germination tests give way to garden experiments

Although the temperatures did not cooperate this past week, I have to say that spring vibes are all around me.

I saw my first blooming crocus, and even some early daffodils. The phoebe bird that makes a nest above our porch door is back, and hanging around, much to my husband's dismay!

My pepper plants are almost in need of transplanting from their seed pack, and the tomato seeds I planted last weekend sprouted in under a week. It is all so exciting! I don't think that I will ever not be amazed at the miracle of it all.

The other day I was going though my seed stash and I found two year old seeds of Loofah Gourd, Mini Popcorn, Mouse Melon and a variety of "climbing" Zucchini all of which I never planted. These purchases were "impulse buys" I guess you'd call it. I bought them but when it came time to actually plant them, I decided that my garden square footage was too precious to waste on frivolity.

But here we are and my frugal nature shines through once more Since I bought

and still living at home. therefore they will be added Growing them was a project for my parents and I.



Before the first frost we harvested the fat, wrinkly looking cucumbers and allowed them to dry before peeling off the rind. What was left was fibrous matter, looking already very much like a scrubby sponge. It was a fun experiment then and it will be reminiscent to repeat it.

Next comes the Mini Colored Popcorn. This was the first to sprout in my germination test pack with five of the six seeds popping up.

I have never had extra space to grow corn, but I thought it would be fun to try these for both decoration and food. I am going to start them ahead of time, indoors in six packs and plant them out around the three week mark.

They will be spaced about foot apart in rows about two and a half feet apart. Corn likes fertile soil, so I will amend the soil well with aged compost.

popular, I was a young adult a bit, but they finally did and to my garden this spring.

This variety, known as "Incredible Escalator" has a vertical habit. Funny enough, there are all sorts of videos online about training zukes to grow upright, but this variety seems

particularly suited to upward mobility. Zucchini are not true "twining" plants, however, so they will

need to be tied to a strong trellis or stake to maintain their vertical nature. Because the plant is off the ground, there appears to be improved disease resistance, too.

Stay tuned as to whether this zucchini lives up to the hype in terms of productivity and increased vigor.

Last on my list is Mouse Melon. I saw these for the very first time at the Hardwick Fair in 2022, hence my purchase. Also known as Mexican Sour Gherkin, these fruits grow to about the size of a grape, but tase somewhere between a cucumber and a watermelon, growing more sour as they mature.

The seeds were tiny, not what I expected at all and only half of what I planted came up, so I will definitely

### **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.

Medicare Advantage plans, which often include dental, or standalone plans as a Medicare supplement.

Be ready to share any pain or sensitivity you may be experiencing. When you call to make the appointment you may be asked if you have any particular concerns; if not, volunteer that information while you're with the dentist.

If you have fears about going to the dentist, share those as well. "Speak up about your pain tolerance and preferences," Kumar savs. "Dentists can offer various options, such as local anesthetics, sedation, or numbing gels to make procedures more comfortable."

Also ask about X-rays. Some in the dental field believe X-rays are way overused, exposing patients needlessly to radiation (even if the dosage is very small). Data reveals that the number of dental X-rays performed annually exceeds the number of Americans. The American Dental Association recommends that X-rays be taken only after the dentist has done an examination.

If X-rays are performed, be sure to ask the dentist to look at them with you and explain what they're seeing. "A good dentist will take the time to explain things in terms you understand," Kusire to ensure you're getting the right care for your situation.'

I recently advocated for myself when I insisted my dentist do some X-rays for new tooth pain. He found an abscess in a lower molar and started talking about tooth extraction, bone graft and implant. Second opinion time! I went to an oral surgeon, who reviewed the X-rays and sent me to an endodontist who said all I needed was a redo of an old root canal. This is why second opinions from experts are so important, especially since dental insurance barely covers anything.

Corporate dentistry is making it harder to build and maintain trust with a longtime dental provider. Protect yourself by practicing advocacy in the dentist's chair.

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 Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvoca*teEntrepreneur.com* 



them I might as well try and plant them; maybe one will end up being a new favorite.

But alas, does one risk planting two year old seed? What if the seeds don't germinate? Partaking in germination testing gave me a chance to get my hands in the soil, (albeit indoors) and the outcome will help me determine how much I should "over-plant" or if that will even be necessary.

Wasting a few seeds now will save time later on.

First up, the Loofah Gourd. I planted four seeds as a trial and three popped up! That means I will be adding this to my garden come springtime.

Grow it like you would any other gourd or squash. It loves fertile soil, heat and a strong support.

When loofahs were first

This type of corn will dry right on the plant, until the husks are brown. Then the ears will be harvested, shucked and dried some more. I have seen people remove the kernels first by using a blunt instrument such as the back of a spoon to start the kernels moving, then it looks somewhat easy to get the rest to push off.

Another fun thing to try, just to say I did it.

If you are growing sweet corn in your garden be sure to time these apart from one another, so that cross pollination won't taint the taste of your sweet corn.

I was really hoping that the climbing zucchini would sprout in my test pack. It took



### Can my wife and I get spouse benefits from each other?

#### **Dear Rusty:**

My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security.

We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget. A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half of the other

spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: Can we both collect on each other's SS? And Are there any pitfalls?

Signed: Seeking an Increase

#### **Dear Seeking:**

Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social

be sowing double the normal rate. The vine grows long upwards of 10 feet, so be sure to trellis to make the best use of space.

I know little more than you do about this one, but I can't wait to try it out. Will it remain a curiosity or will Mouse Melon become a regular? Will any of these?

We'll have to wait to find out!

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 sub*ject line*.

Security retirement benefit at their Full Retirement Age is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher about 25% more than you are both currently receiving.

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your

Please see **SSI**, page 12



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> SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com



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### Page 5 South Hadley

### South Hadley Senior Center

### Upcoming events for April 2025

SOUTH HADLEY-Thank you to our volunteers - this month and always.

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our Senior Center, bringing warmth, kindness and enthusiasm to everything they do. Thanks to their commitment, our Senior Center remains a welcoming and vibrant place for all who walk through the doors

In honor of National Volunteer Month, we are hosting a special a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the end of April. Invitations will be sent to all our incredible volunteers – this is just a small token of our gratitude for everything they do.

We truly couldn't do it without them.

#### **Community Office Hours**

Monday, April 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursday, April 24 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SHPD – Chief Gundersen will be holding Office Hours at the Senior Center

Monday, April 21, 10 a.m

State Rep Homar Gomez 16, 3 to 4 p.m.

will be holding Office Hours at the Senior Center

#### **Events:**

Thursday, April 10, 2:30 p.m. - Chef's Demo: Smokey Mountain Simple Fare.

Join Chef Maggie for a taste of country cooking at this best. Demo is FREE and open to all, includes samples and cooking suggestions.

Thursday, April 10, 5 p.m. - Song and Stories of Appalachia and Rural America.

Michael and Carie Kline will present an immersive journey through Appalachian life. Sponsor by the Mass Cultural Council and the South Hadley Cultural Council.

Fridays, April 11 to May 9, 2:30 p.m.

NEW! Intro to Mosaics series ---in this five-part series, you will learn about the history and techniques of mosaic art from Brian Schrauf. Mr. Schrauf has 50 years of experience. You will complete a project of either a house number or a gardening steppingstone. All supplies included. Total cost is \$20 per person.

Fridays, April 11 to May

NEW! Learn Conversational French \$3 per person.

Learn conversational French with Mrs. Ingrid Vega, M.Ed., World Language Department chair and French teacher from Holyoke High School- North Campus. This group will meet weekly in this size-part series.

Mark your calendars for the events scheduled for the end of April.

Thursday, April 24, 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Senior Living Options Fair: Meet staff from local Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Independent Living communities, and learn about the services and programs they offer. Plus enter for a chance to win a raffle prize.

Monday, April 28, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

#### **Navigating Through** 'the last chapter of Life

Gain expert guidance on end-of-life care from medical professionals and holistic practitioners. From Hospice to palliative approaches and beyond. Our panel will provide practical insight and compassionate discussion to help you navigate this sensitive journey.



Submitted photo

Jim Bosman, Ann Rocchi and Paul Dobosh at the Democratic Caucus on March 29.

### **Residents represent South Hadley** at Democratic State Convention

local residents will represent South Hadley at the Massachusetts Democratic Convention on Sept. 13, 2025.

The ten delegates, elected at the Town's Democratic caucus on March 29, 2025, are Jim Bosman, Paul Dobosh, Lucia Foley, Lisa Longpre, David King, Emma Messier, Marion Pascone, Ann Rocchi, Nate Therien, and Emily Young.

Susan Newton, Kathy Davis and Christie Reardon will

SOUTH HADLEY-Ten serve as South Hadley's alternate delegates.

Ann Stockton co-chair of the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, will serve as the Town's ex-officio at the convention.

Paul Dobosh, the other Town Committee co-chair, ran the March 29 caucus. State Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Homar Gómez were also present at the caucus.

This year's Democratic state convention will be held at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. Delegates to the convention will be responsible for helping to adopt a new platform for the state's Democratic party.

For additional information about the Democratic State Party and the September convention, please visit massdems.org. For additional information about the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, please visit southhadleydems.com or facebook/SouthHadleyDTC.

### Less is more, strategies for decluttering

SOUTH HADLEY—All are welcome to "Discover the Art of Decluttering", being presented on May 1 at 4pm at the Senior Center. Stephanie Baird, LMHC will share expert techniques using the KonMari method

to help you create a more organized and stress-free

Enjoy her inspiration-

Fluorescent Bulbs, Engine Oil, Radiator Fluid, Latex Paint, empty containers from hazardous products, asbestos, gas cylinders, radioactive material, explosives (including ammunition & fireworks)

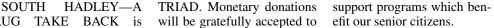
drinks.

Tickets are \$5 and are available for purchase at the Senior Center. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 21. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the South

### SHPD Drug Take Back on April 26

DRUG TAKE BACK is scheduled for April 26 from Hadley Police Department.

will be gratefully accepted to efit our senior citizens.





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TRIAD Ofc. Emily Tebow joined South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Coordinator Sue Cook in hanging banners throughout the town to promote National Drug Take Back Day.



Submitted photo

### **Guided Vernal Pool Trek at** Lithia Springs on April 13

### Brad Trimm to lead hike

SOUTH HADLEY - On Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. South Hadley's Conservation Commission and Bike/Walk Committee will host a guided Trek at Lithia Springs Reservoir, a beautiful spot that once provided water to the town. The free, family-friendly Trek will be led by Brad Timm, wildlife ecologist and founder of the Northeast Wildlife Team. Come explore with Brad on this leisurely guided hike as we stop at several vernal pools along the trek and look and listen for frogs, toads, salamanders, and much more! For example, did you know that some frogs produce their own anti-freeze, lots of salamanders can regenerate their tail and entire limbs, and that Blue Jay and Bluebird feathers aren't actually blue (they're brown!).

Participants of all ages and new Trekkers are welcomed. Attendees will be able to take home a free copy of "A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools" and do some hands on exploring of vernal pools of the Holyoke Range. Wear clothing and footwear suitable for hiking in wet and muddy areas. Signed copies of Brad's book, Wildlife Out Your Window: Fascinating Facts About

100 Animals Commonly Seen in the Northeastern U.S. will also be available for purchase, \$20 at the event.

Please register in advance. To access the online registration form, which includes additional details about the Trek, parking, and the shuttle, go to: bit.ly/LithiaSpringsVernalPoolTrek.

Please arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. due to parking and shuttle service constraints. Trek organizers plan to leave at 10 a.m. from the Gate at 8 Lithia Springs Road (located at the end of the road). Please try to carpool as there is limited parking on Lithia Springs Road, and in the Hiker Parking Lot on Amherst Road (next door to 502 Amherst Road), which is about a halfmile from the Lithia Springs Road Gate. A 10-person school van will be available to shuttle participants from the Hiker Lot to the Gate, and back again at the end of the Trek.

Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please be sure to check the Bike/Walk page on the Town website for any cancellation notices or other information: www.southhadley.org/bikewalk. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 8:00pm the night before the hike.

### SHELD recognized for reliable electric service

SOUTH HADLEY SHELD has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2024. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"Year after year, data consistently demonstrates public power utilities provide highly reliable service." said APPA Director of Research and Development Paul Zummo. "The utilities recognized here are truly elite



when it comes to keeping the lights on. Their communities should be proud of the hard work and dedication of their local power providers as they earn this truly deserved recognition."

Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the amount of time that customers of other types of utilities do.

'We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep South Hadley powered," said Sean Fitzgerald, General Manager at SHELD.

In 2024 in South Hadley, the average outage time

was 10.8 minutes compared to 82.6 (region), 96.3 (size class) and 149 minutes (all US utilities). In addition to our responsive team, our Town-wide AMI rollout is a contributing factor to our safe and reliable electric service supplied to the residents and businesses in South Hadley.

### Library to screen Indie Lens Documentary 'Free for All: The Public Library'

SOUTH HADLEY-Indie Lens Pop-Up, presented by ITVS, Independent Lens, and the South Hadley Public Library will host an event featuring a shortened, preview version of "Free for All: The Public Library" on Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion on the current state of local public libraries.

"Free for All: The Public Library" tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries

who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all. The public library is one of America's most valued yet endangered institutions. Director Dawn Logsdon travels the United States, discovering historic and modern-day figures, especially women, who contributed to the library's integral position within democracy. "Free for All: The Public Library" chronicles the evolution of

the nation's public libraries, tracing the battles over who can enter, what belongs there, and who makes these decisions, while exploring how public commons are defined and defended.

For more information, contact South Hadley Library Director Joseph Rodio at 413-538-5045. "Free for All: The Public Library" will debut on April 29, 2025, at 10 p.m. on PBS. Check local listings.

### Pack 507 bottle and can drive

BELCHERTOWN-The Cub Scouts Pack 507 is having a bottle and can drive on April 5.

Bring your returnable cans, bottles and if available the box flats to hold them.

The items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pride Station on 165 State St., Belchertown. Email questions to belchertowncubscouts507@ gmail.com.

### All Saints' Church Grab 'n Go Lent Lunch continues

SOUTH HADLEY -Please join neighbors as Lenten Lunch Fridays continue, April 11 at All Saints' Church South Hadley. This is All Saints' 55th year of this community fundraiser, and since 2021, they have collaborated with St. Patrick's Parish in town, serving Grab 'n Go lunches during Lent on alternating Fridays. In years

past, with the community's support, proceeds have been directly distributed to fund high school scholarships, and support local community outreach and non-profits, such as The Food Bank of Western Mass.

You are invited to support this endeavor. Please place orders in advance, Monday-Thursday, via email

(AllSaintsChurchOffice@ gmail.com) or call 413-532-8917, between 1-5 PM. This year's menu has three choices: #1 Lobster Roll\*, soup, chips and Brownie\*; #2 Tuna Salad Roll\*, soup, chips, and Brownie\*; #3 A Cup of Clam Chowder or Vegetable Soup, crackers, and Brownie\*. (\*gluten free rolls and brownie are available on

request, for a \$1 upcharge) Prices will be available on request.

Orders will be ready on April 11 using convenient drive-thru pickup between 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street., back parking lot (off Rt. 116 and Dunlop Place).

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### **South Hadley** baseball readies for season

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY There are only two seniors listed on the South Hadley varsity baseball roster, so the annual senior day celebration, which is scheduled to be held on May 6 against Mt. Greylock, shouldn't take very long. The ceremony will probably last a little bit longer next year, as there are eight juniors on this year's varsity team.

"We only have one returning senior starter, but most of the juniors have been starting for the varsity team since they were freshman," said Matt Foley, who's entering his 29th season as the South Hadley varsity baseball coach. "We're a younger team, but we do have a lot of experience."

The two seniors are Jackson Keller and Taylor Rogers.

During the past three seasons, Keller was the starting right fielder. He has moved over to center field this spring. Rogers is a reserve player.

The members of the junior class are Memphis Huertas, Logan Carpenter, Gavin



Ryan Netkovick fields a ground ball.

Carpenter, Ryan Netkovick, Noah Carillon, Griffin Soderbaum, Caiden Drohan, and Justin Moskal.

The other Tigers varsity baseball players are sophomores Lincoln Belsky, Brody Keller, Cooper Wall, Josh Willett, and Matt Butler.

While most varsity teams have captains, it's something that the longtime Tigers head coach hasn't done very often in the past.

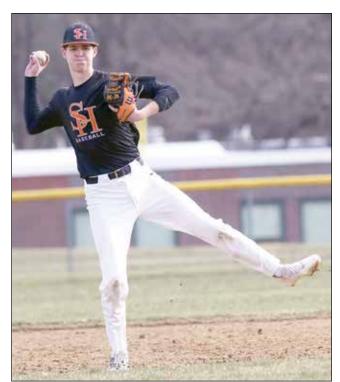
"I've only named captains a couple of times during my coaching career," Foley said. "I think all of these guys are very good leaders."

South Hadley finished the 2024 campaign with a 15-6 overall record. They also captured the Suburban Central Division league title with a 9-1 mark. Their only league

> Please see **BASEBALL**, page 8

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

ORTS SUBMISSIONS



Griffin Soderbaum makes an off-balance throw.

### **Tigers stun Brownies** in softball opener By Tim Peterson third base line from fresh-

Sports Correspondent

acebook.com/turleysports

RTS

AGAWAM - Sometimes a decision made by a coach works out and sometimes it doesn't.

South Hadley varsity softball coach Junior Perez made a couple of decisions in the season opening game against Agawam that helped his young squad pull out an exciting 3-1 non-league road victory, last Thursday afternoon.

The first decision made by Perez came in the bottom of the fifth inning

With two-outs, Agawam sophomore right fielder Sam Izzo hit a line-drive single to left center and sophomore catcher Madelyn Pajer blasted a double to center field putting the tying run at second base.

With first base open, Perez elected to intentionally walk junior shortstop Alexina Lentes, which loaded the bases. The move worked out, as junior Avery Gordon, who was the Brownies starting pitcher, hit a ground ball back to South Hadley senior pitcher Isabella Schaeffer ending the threat.

The Brownies had another scoring opportunity in the bottom of the seventh inning. Agawam's rally began with a perfect bunt hit up the

man second baseman Madison Georgina with one-out. Izzo followed with a popup that was dropped by the shortstop for an error. Junior Taylor Stairs, who took over behind the plate in the previous frame, grounded out moving both runners into scoring position. That set the stage for Lentes, who stepped into the righthanded batter's box probably thinking that she would be intentionally walked again.

www.sports.turley.com

"We had the tying run on second base with our best hitter coming to the plate," said Agawam head coach Kathy Georgina. "All we needed there was a hit, but it didn't turn out that way. The South Hadley pitcher is very good."

After holding a meeting with Schaeffer, sophomore catcher Ryley McMahon, and the entire infield, Perez decided not to internally walk Lentes this time. Schaeffer threw her an off speed pitch which she popped up. The ball was caught by senior shortstop Sophia Butler for the final out of the game.

"Their final batter (Lentes) of the game is one of the best hitters in Western Mass.," Perez said. "Before she came up to bat in the seventh, I went

> Please see **SOFTBALL** page 8

### **Orioles get** leg up on Rams in





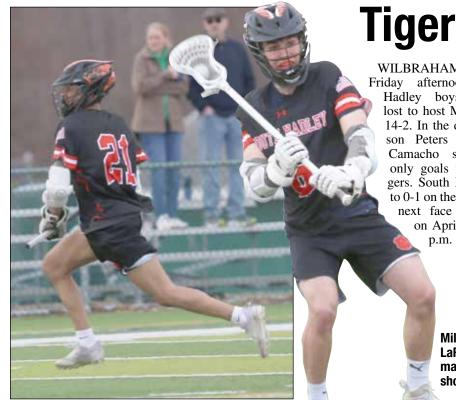


### opener

SOUTH HADLEY -Last Friday evening, the Belchertown High School boys lacrosse team opened up the regular season with a matchup against neighboring rival Granby, which now has a co-op program with Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School. The Orioles got their season off to a great start with 14-4 win over the Rams. The game was held at South Hadley High School's turf, which Granby lacrosse has been using for some night games the past few years.

Tristan Moe gets ready to clear the ball out of the defensive end.

Daniel Brown starts to hustle up the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Chris Walczak heads up the sideline.

### Tigers suffer season-opening loss

WILBRAHAM - Last Friday afternoon, South Hadley boys lacrosse lost to host Minnechaug 14-2. In the defeat, Mason Peters and Rush Camacho scored the only goals for the Tigers. South Hadley fell to 0-1 on the season and next face Wahconah on April 4 at 4:30

> Miller LaRochelle makes a short pass.



Goalie Brayden Blais prepares for a shot.



Julius Hebenth rushes up the field.

### Sports

### Quabbin League holding open practice for new players this weekend

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

The league is looking for at least six more players to sign up to play in the league this year.

Coming up this Sunday, April 6, practice will be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. Both practices will begin at 10 a.m. and following the April 6 practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

**Two late goals help T-Birds stun Bruins** PROVIDENCE, R.I. -The Springfield Thunderbirds (33-26-2-4) stunned the Providence Bruins (36-22-4-3) with two goals in the final 90 seconds to pick up an astonishing 3-2 win on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. The victory shaves Springfield's magic number to just 4 in pursuit of a Calder Cup playoff berth.

The starting goaltenders had a busy first stanza on this Sunday, as the T-Birds were quick to test Brandon Bussi with 18 first-period attempts, while the Bruins pressed the gas for 11 shots on Vadim Zherenko.

Springfield broke the ice first when MacKenzie MacEachern, fresh off of being robbed by Bussi on the prior sequence, chopped a rebound over Bussi's pad at the net front following a point slapper by Nikita Alexandrov. MacEachern's third goal in as many games made it 1-0 for the visitors at 13:12.

In a penalty-free period, one of the T-Birds' few miscues wound up costing them their lead in the final minute when Tyler Pitlick blocked a point shot and raced in on a breakaway before beating Zherenko over the blocker to even the slate, 1-1.

Zherenko needed to be at his best in the middle period as the Bruins outpaced Springfield on the shot board by a 13-4 margin. The thirdyear netminder made his best stop of the frame in stonewalling Oliver Wahlstrom on a breakaway in the back half of the period. Springfield got the game's first power play at 4:45 of the second, but the Bruins had the best scoring chances, including a 2-on-1 shorthanded, but Fraser Minten missed the target on a left-circle attempt.

In the final minute, the T-Birds found themselves hemmed in their own end, but Zherenko was there to save the day with back-toback saves on Brett Harrison at point-blank range to get the game into the third period deadlocked.

Springfield finally took its first two penalties in the opening half of the third, and on the Bruins' second power play, the home team gained its first lead of the night when Matthew Poitras cleaned up a Georgii Merkulov rebound off Zherenko's right pad to make it a 2-1 game at 7:16 of the third.

The T-Birds struggled to regain its first-period form, as they had managed just seven

shots over roughly 35 minutes from the start of the second. However, when it mattered most, and with Zherenko on the bench for an extra skater, Alexandrov took it upon himself to turn the game around. It began when he raced through neutral ice and cut to the slot off his right-wing side. After his initial shot was blocked. Alexandrov followed through on the second chance to put the puck behind Bussi, tying the game with 1:24 remaining.

The star winger was far from finished, though. With time dwindling on regulation, Alexandrov won a puck battle on the left-wing boards and moved to the front of the net after the puck got to Leo Loof at the left point. Loof flipped the puck into traffic, where Alexandrov deflected it across his body and under Bussi's legs, giving Springfield the 3-2 lead with just 18.6 seconds left.

The Bruins never recovered, and Alexandrov's 20th and 21st goals of the year proved to be the difference. Zherenko finished a fantastic night of his own with 35 saves, including 12 in the final period.

### **Worcester Railers fall** to Lions in road match

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (32-29-2-4 70pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (43-14-6-2, 94pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 2,346 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Cool Insuring Arena against the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Just 24 seconds into the game Anthony Callin (1-0-1) found the back of the net for the Railers quickest goal of the season making it a 1-0 game. Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) got the action going in the second period with a goal making it 2-0 Railers. Trois-Rivières had a quick start of their own in the third period scoring back to back goals tying the game up 2-2 early. Then the Lions completely broke it open by scoring 3 more goals within 3 minutes of each other making it a 5-2 for Trois-Rivières.

The Railers got straight to work just 24 seconds into the start of the game. Anthony Callin (21st) ripped one into the net over the shoulder of Luke Cavallin in net for Trois-Rivières off of assists

from Anthony Repaci and Mason Klee. Callin's goal gave the Railers a 1-0 lead and was the only goal in the first period. Worcester's Michael Bullion had 5 saves on 5 shots while Trois-Rivière's Luke Cavallin had 7 saves on 8 shots.

The Railers doubled their lead in the second period with a goal from Tyler Kobryn (10th) 6:01 into the second period making the score 2-0 Worcester. Kobryn deflected a shot from Cam McDonald at the point for his eighth as a Railer. The Railers had 11 shots on net while the Lions had 5.

Trois-Rivières started the third period off hot with back-to-back goals just over 2 minutes into the third period. Anthony Beauregard (25th) and Morgan Adams-Moisan (21st) tied the game up for the Lions 2-2. Trois-Rivières continued to take control of the game by scoring three more goals making it a 5-2 game. Tyler Hylland (14th), Andrew Coxhead (4th) and Morgan Adams-Moisan (22nd) were the three goal scorers for Trois-Rivières as the game ended in a 5-2 final.

#### **BASEBALL** from page 7

loss was at Ware in the second game of the regular season. They then reeled off twelve consecutive victories.

The other four teams in the Suburban Central Division are Ludlow, Granby, Monson, and Palmer.

We're hoping to compete for another league title this season," Foley said. "All the teams in our league are very good."

The Tigers, who didn't qualify for Western Class B tournament last season, began the Division 4 state tournament with a 2-0 shutout at Winthrop in a preliminary round game. They then lost at Lynnfield in the round of 32.

Matt Drobiak and John Viola, who were outstanding starting pitchers, graduated last June.

Moskal, who's а righthander, also started several games for the varsity team as a sophomore. He's expected to become the ace of the pitching staff this spring.

We graduated our top two pitchers," Foley said. "We're looking for Justin to become our number one starter. He worked very hard during the offseason and came into this season in very good shape."

Moskal faced opposing batters for the first time in a home scrimmage versus Minnechaug Regional on March

It was a homecoming game for Minnechaug varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovick, who graduated from South Hadley High School. Ryan Netkovick, who's the Tigers starting second baseman, is his nephew.



"This is the first time that Gavin Carpenter fields a grounder to third.



Justin Moskal pitches in a scrimmage for South Hadley.

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we've scrimmaged South Hadley since Ryan has been a member of the varsity baseball team. It was a cool experience," Mike Netkovick said. "I also played baseball for coach Foley many years ago."

Soderbaum, who's the starting shortstop, and Carillon, who starts in right field, are also members of the Tigers pitching staff. Willett also pitched in the scrimmage against Minnechaug.

Logan Carpenter, who's

#### **SOFTBALL** from page 7

out and asked Ella if she could get her out. She told me that she wanted to challenge her. The decision paid off and this is a very big win for us."

Schaeffer, who's one of the best pitchers in Western Mass., defeated the Brownies for the second time during her varsity softball career. A year ago, the Lady Tigers celebrated a 4-2 home win.

In the only meeting of this season between the two teams, the hard throwing righthander allowed one run on six hits with one walk and 11 strikeouts.

"Ella is just an outstanding pitcher," Perez said. "I do have a lot of trust in her."

Schaeffer, who recorded more than 300 K's as a junior, was given a 1-0 lead to protect in the top of the first inning.

After Agawam junior righthander Avery Gordon struck out the first batter of the game, senior centerfielder Karli Carmody grounded a single between the shortstop and third baseman into left field.

starts in left field, was one of the Tigers leading hitters a year ago.

South Hadley was scheduled to start the regular season at home against Palmer on Monday afternoon. The Tigers will be playing Hampshire Regional at Dunkin' Park in Hartford Connecticut on May 8.

"We also played Hampshire at Dunkin' Park last year," Foley said. "It was a great experience for the kids."

Carmody, who stole sec-

Gordon ended the first in-

ond base, scored on Butler's

ning with a pair of strikeouts.

She also struck out the first

two batters that she faced in

the second. She hit sopho-

more second baseman Natlie

Quinn with a pitch, but she

was tagged out by Lentes try-

tom of the second inning,

sophomore Sammy Eisen-

berger was safe at first base

following a fielding error.

She stole second base, but

Schaeffer escaped that jam

with a strikeout and a come-

of the third, McMahon hit a

hard ground ball off Gordon's

right knee. She was helped

off the field and was replaced

by junior righty Toni Vassal-

knee, but it was just a bruise,"

Georgina said. "She was

pitching very well. Toni also

"The ball hit her right

With one-out in the top

backer.

lo.

With one-out in the bot-

ing to steal second base.

RBI single to center.

varsity baseball coach is Jason Bourque.

"I couldn't ask for a better junior varsity coach than Jason," Foley added. "He coaches the golf team in the fall. He's also a teacher at the middle school, so he knows all the kids. I do have a very good coaching staff. They make it very easy for me and the players are great. It's a lot of fun coaching this team."

Tim Jacques.

After throwing several pitches behind the third base dugout, Gordon returned to the pitcher's circle in the fifth inning.

At that point, the Lady Tigers were holding a 2-1 advantage.

Schaeffer walked leading off the top of the fourth inning. A swinging bunt by sophomore third baseman Grace Matyszewski moved Schaeffer to second base. She went to third on another ground out by eighth grade right fielder Sienna LaFlesh. She scored when senior left fielder Sevilla Kinnety's slapped a single into left.

Lentes lined a single to center leading off the bottom half of the frame before crossing the plate on Eisenberger's RBI single.

South Hadley added another run in the fifth inning.

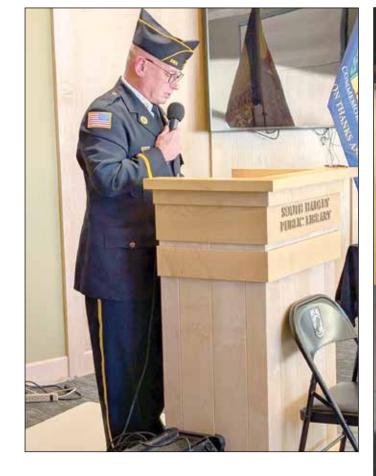
Eighth grader Violet Carillon, who started at first base, drew a leadoff walk and scored on a Butler groundout.

Schaeffer managed to hold onto the two run lead the rest of the way.

pitched well before Avery came back in." Gordon was checked out

by Agawam Athletic Trainer





Post Commander Brian Willette addressing those gathered at the library.

#### **VETERANS** From page 1

1955 and played soccer and baseball. During a baseball game, Bourque's father ran onto the field with a telegram announcing his acceptance to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"He made the decision right away to give up his dream of playing professional baseball, and to serve his country. Valmore Bourque was the first cadet to be sworn in to the newly formed Air Force Academy. He is also the first USAF Academy to be killed in action," said Willette.

The ceremony honored all Vietnam Veterans that were present, as well as the fallen from Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby. A wreath was laid, and Taps was sounded, and Greg Willaims of Granby sang "God Bless America".

'[The most memorable part was] laying a wreath for the fallen, alongside my

purple heart recipient, Russ McKenna," said Willette. "It is important that we

friend, Vietnam Veteran and

come together, always, to demonstrate that we have not forgotten. This is active participative patriotism. We are not just sitting home, remembering--we are actively coming out and remembering together, as a community, said Willette.

Willette has known Vietnam Veterans his whole life, known them as "the generation that welcomed home my generation of veterans from war, even though they themselves did not enjoy the same welcome home from their country when they returned from Vietnam. It is a welcome home that I will never forget and still cherish."

Between the two ceremonies on March 27 and March 29, the legacies of the veterans of Vietnam, those who came home and those who

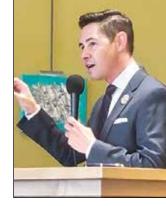


A poster with folded flag and wreath to commemorate the South Hadley veterans lost.



**State Representative Homar** Gomez also came in support of the veterans and to share his thanks.

did not, lives on in ceremonies like these to honor them.



Senator Jake Oliveira came to share a few words to thank these veterans, a chair to honor the POW's and those who were MIA.

The ceremony will be held again next year, and the years



Brian Willette, an Afghanistan veteran and South Hadley Legion Commander, standing at attention with South Hadley Resident

The 50th anniversary lapel pin was also presented to the Gold Star Family in honor of their loved ones who gave their lives in the Vietnam War.

memorializing and honoring

after that, as we work towards those who gave their lives for us.





Submitted photos

Saluting the American Flag, Brian Willette offering taps on the trumpet.

A lineup of five Vietnam Veterans who were honored at the March 27 ceremony.

#### **HEARINGS** from page 1

the ongoing MHC geothermal energy project, would also include two pad-mounted transformers and safety backup pad-mounted generator.

The MHC Energy Center site plan is detailed in an 82-page document containing drawings, diagrams and technical specifications. No descriptions of the building's proposed interior spaces, nor the specific purposes for which the building will be used, were included in the site plan document.

The proposed Village District bylaws would enable development of the property to the rear of the existing Commons as it slopes toward a stream separating it from Evergreen Cemetery. The proposed bylaw changes are summarized in a March 12 letter and narrative submitted by Center Redevelopment Corporation Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Labrecque to Selectboard Chair Andrea Miles and Town Administrator Lisa Wong.

The letter and proposed zoning changes were subsequently forwarded to the Planning Board. Creation of the proposed district bylaws would require Town Meeting approval.

trict is to encourage mixeduse development" of "office, retail, entertainment and residential uses consistent with the traditional scale, density, design, and mix of uses that characterize South Hadley's historic village centers in a manner that is pedestrian-friendly through high-quality site planning, architecture, and landscape design," according to the letter submitted by the corporation.

"The purpose of this dis-

Proposed new regulations under the proposed bylaw would permit two-, three- and multifamily dwellings for more than three families as a component of mixed-use development described, in part, as follows:

"The Village District is intended to accommodate the incorporation of buildings with an internal mix of businesses and residences as well as free standing buildings which are exclusive to business or residential uses on a single parcel. However, the intent of the Village District is to have development in which varied uses are integrated together and are mutually supportive," the narrative continues.

"No dwelling units would be allowed on the first floor of any building fronting on Route 116. A waiver would

allow dwellings on the first floor if it is located at the rear of the building, the grade is more than eight feet below the front, and the entrance is not visible from Route 116."

As part of the proposed new bylaw, dimensional requirements that set maximum building heights reflect the lower ground elevation of buildings toward the rear of the site when compared to the higher elevation of Route 116. The variable story height limitation" for "portions of buildings occupied by dwelling units or business uses shall not exceed five stories."

The proposed building height requirements continue with qualifying details: "One story providing drive-under parking and/or enclosure of building support equipment may also be provided."

And, "use of an enclosed 'story' exclusively or primarily for housing of mechanical equipment or other facilities necessary for the building's operation shall not be counted as one of the permitted 'stories'."

"Parking needs for the residential dwelling units may be partially satisfied by the parking provided for the commercial space" if the Planning Board determines the shared parking is sufficient for both.

The submitted documents do not include any specific descriptions of plans for new buildings.

Also, "To enhance the aesthetic appearance of the building and/or to better enable use of the roof for solar energy ... use of an enclosed 'story' exclusively or primarily for housing of mechanical equipment or other facilities necessary for the building's operation shall not be counted as one of the permitted 'stories'."

Also, "No building or portion thereof lying within 150 feet of Route 116 shall exceed four stories except "where a

building is located on grades which diminish as the site gets further away from Route 116, the building height may vary with the portion further away and not visible from Route 116 being allowed to be one story higher than the portion of the building nearest 116 up to the maximum height." That maximum height for new buildings in the proposal is 65 feet.

The Center Redevelopment Corporation's Articles of Organization were filed with the Mass. Secretary of State on May 23, 1986. The four incorporators listed at

that time included Elizabeth T. Kennan, former Mount Holyoke College president and three others.

That document states that the purpose of the corporation, is "to receive, hold, develop and manage commercial and other properties, including properties around the Center of the Town of South Hadley, and to otherwise assist in the economic revitalization of South Hadley."

In its annual report to the state in August 2024, James F. Carey is listed as the current corporate president.



## Spring CARE CARE & DRIVING

### Vehicle maintenance schedule improves function



Listed are some mileage-based guidelines related to vehicle maintenance.

Modern vehicles have surpassed their predecessors thanks to innovations that make driving and maintenance safer, easier and more convenient. In spite of the most impressive advancements, vehicle ownership still requires that drivers maintain their cars and trucks so they perform as designed. Such upkeep also helps to improve safety and save people money by heading off more costly repairs. Following a recommended maintenance schedule can ensure vehicles function properly. Below are some mileage-based guidelines related to vehicle maintenance.

• Every 3,000 miles: This is a good time to check up on all fluids in the car to be sure the levels are where they

should be. These include coolant, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid, and engine oil, among others.

• Every 5,000 miles: Change the vehicle's oil and fuel filter if using conventional oil. Vehicles using synthetic oil may be able to go further between changes. Many vehicles will use an internal computer system to alert when it is time to change the oil. This may be a good time to also change the cabin and engine air filters. Look under the hood and give the battery terminal a check, looking for any corrosion or loose cables.

• Every 10,000 miles: It's time to take the car in to have the tires rotated. Rotating the tires at regular intervals

helps avoid uneven wear and tear. The vehicle also may need a tire alignment, especially if drivers notice it is pulling to one side. Brake problems tend to be self-alerting, but drivers also may want to visually inspect brakes at this time just to be sure there isn't too much wear.

• At 36,000 miles: New vehicle owners may want to have their vehicles looked over thoroughly before the standard three-year warranty expires. This way they can have any issues corrected before they will cost more to repair.

• At 50,000 miles+: Inspect the exhaust, emissions and suspension systems at this time. One also can drain and replace transmission fluid. Tires may be in need of replacement at this time as well.



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# Spring CARE CARE CARE & DRIVING

### How to reduce your risk of being in an auto accident

Driving a car or truck is part of daily life for most people. Commutes to work or school, leisure trips or time spent behind the wheel as part of a profession compel people to drive each and every day. Although most trips to the office or the store are uneventful, the risk that something may go awry is present any time a person gets behind the wheel, and drivers need to plan accordingly.

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis says there were approximately 16,200 automotive accidents per day in the United States in 2022, the most recent year for data. This number has steadily risen over the last decade and may be attributable to a number of factors, including increased vehicle usage. Diamond and Diamond Lawyers in Canada says approximately four Canadians die and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes every day. Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

• Stick to the speed limit: Speed limits are posted on roadways for a reason. Exceeding speed limits significantly increases the risk of getting into an ac-



Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

cident, and many accidents are directly related to speeding. Slowing down can make roadways safer.

• Eliminate distractions: Smartphones, GPS devices, passengers, pets in the car, or anything that causes a person to take his or her eyes off of the road, even for mere seconds, can increase the risk of being in an auto accident. Accident Care and Treatment Center, Inc. says distracted driving is the primary cause of car accidents each year. Smartphones are a modern distraction, and keeping phones turned off and out of reach can keep drivers safer.

• Change your perception: It is important to think of a car or truck as what it truly is: 3,000 pounds or more of fast-moving metal that can cause a lot of damage. Those who do not drive responsibly, or feel they are invincible behind the wheel, could be on a crash course for an auto accident. Treating a vehicle with respect is a must.

• Leave a space cushion: Tailgating and aggressive driving maneuvers that do not leave an adequate distance between vehicles can compound the problem of accidents. Travelers insurance company urges drivers to stay at least three seconds behind the vehicle ahead of them, and longer for those driving heavier vehicles. The timing also should be extended when weather conditions are bad. A significant cushion enables drivers to stop safely or maneuver around to avoid an accident.

• Improve visibility: A cracked or dirty windshield or dim headlights can diminish visibility. Being able to see and be seen when on the road is a major contributor to accident risk reduction. • Brush up on skills: Newly minted licensed drivers and older drivers may need a driving skills refresher course. Oftentimes learning how to avoid accidents comes down to experience and defensive driving techniques. Those who feel they may need a little extra practice can enroll in a course. An additional upside is that such a course also can help reduce insurance premiums.

• Know your limitations: Geico notes the risk of a fatal crash is three times higher at night than in the day for every mile driven. Although it may not be possible to avoid nighttime driving entirely, limiting it, particularly for those who have challenges seeing at night or in dim conditions, can help reduce accident risk. The same can be said for staying off of roads in inclement weather.

• Don't drive impaired: Driving while under the influence of drugs (both illegal and prescription), alcohol and/ or other substances greatly increases accident risk.

Various strategies can help drivers reduce their risk of being involved in auto accidents.

### Defensive driving benefits your vehicle



By maintaining awareness of one's surroundings, directing focus to the road and preparing to act quickly, drivers can greatly reduce their risk of being involved in accidents.

Defensive driving is a technique and set of skills that is designed to make roadways as safe as possible. Defensive driving teaches drivers how to anticipate potential hazards and respond to them accordingly. By maintaining awareness of one's surroundings, directing focus to the road and preparing to act quickly, drivers can greatly reduce their risk of being involved in accidents.

Although defensive driving is important from a personal safety perspective, it also can be good for vehicles. Here's a look at some of the advantages to driving defensively.

• Decrease the number of vehicle

**repairs.** Driving defensively could help keep a vehicle out of the repair shop. When a person stays focused on the road, he or she can steer clear of debris, potholes and other vehicles that might normally cause damage. If there are no bumps and bruises to a vehicle, a driver will make less frequent trips to a mechanic or auto body shop.

• Reduce the frequency of maintenance. Defensive driving can mean driving more smoothly. This can help drivers extend the life expectancy of brakes and tires, saving them money along the way.

• Reduce fuel consumption. Driving

steadily and smoothly also can translate into greater fuel economy. This means a driver may not have to fill up at the gas pump as often.

• Lower auto insurance premiums. People who drive defensively and get into fewer accidents could be rewarded with lower insurance premiums. Money saved on car insurance could be used to finance vehicle upgrades. Savings also can be repurposed for exterior and interior detailing, helping to retain the value of the vehicle for longer.

Defensive driving offers many benefits to the person behind the wheel and the vehicle itself.



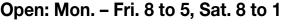




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#### **TOWN** Reminder

### **South Hadley** social ride

HADLEY-SOUTH Starting Monday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. through the summer. South Hadley Bike/Walk committee member Jake Woodruff will be leading a social bike ride, leaving from the parking lot of Rocky's Ace Hardware, 487 Newton St.

All people and bikes are welcome, rides will be 3-6 miles at an easy pace.

Contact SHsocialride@ gmail.com with any questions. See you there

### **Friends of the Granby Free Public Library** announce upcoming Spring Book Sale

### Book lovers and bargain hunters

GRANBY-The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Spring Book Sale during the month of May in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, softcover, paperback books, teen books and children's books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks. The Library is now accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale.

The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage.

Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave

Ms. Conde has been con-

donated books outside the library or in the book return. Donations accepted until April 29.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E. State St. in Granby. The Book Sale will be held during open library hours throughout the month of May.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Library, who support library programming.

Call for more information 413-467-3320 or visit granbylibrary.org.

### Art in the Graveyard talk set for April 16

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society presents a talk by Ta Mara Conde on "Art in the Graveyard" illustrating imagery on historic gravestones. The event is Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at the Chicopee Public Library Bazan Community Room, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, Mass., at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

#### HOUSING from page 1

Trust was a direct recommendation in the 2023 Housing Production Plan (HPP). "In 2016, Town Meeting voted to adopt the state enabling legislation allowing the Town to establish an Affordable Housing Trust, but thereafter, the effort lost momentum and no further action was taken," Capra explained. "The HPP identified several pressing housing needs within the community, most notably that approximately 30% of South

Public art can be found in town squares across the U.S., but the earliest public art is found in the burial grounds of early America. This presentation will look at the artwork of early gravestones and their meanings as they changed through time. Some works by famous artists are memorials to the dead or a temporary exhibition in a large city ceme-

Hadley households are paying more than they can reasonably afford for housing, and approximately 40% of households would qualify for hous-

ing assistance if available." To support the development of the Strategic Plan, the Town is working with housing consultant JM Goldson LLC, with funding provided by a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. "During the first phase of our MVP 2.0 Grant, we conducted exserving and restoring historic gravestones since 1998, beginning as an apprentice with Fred Oakly, who was the head of conservation for the Association of Gravestone Studies (AGS). She continued studying conservation techniques through several institutions including AGS, the National

tensive community outreach

to understand how the most

vulnerable members of our

community are impacted by

climate change," Capra noted.

"We found that housing inse-

curity was the greatest burden

on a household's ability to be

resilient to climate change. If

your housing costs are one of

the big stressors in your life, it

makes it more difficult for you

to manage extreme weather

events, making it more likely

that events such as heat waves

or intense storms will create

hardships.'

tery.

Parks Service and Cathedral Stone Products Certification Program. Ta Mara has taught conservation workshops through Greenfield Community College and continues to use hands-on workshops to educate cemetery employees and the public about proper conservation techniques across the U.S. and Canada.

call for members has been strong. "We had applications from a range of residents with experience in housing, real estate, and financing," said Capra. The seven-member Trust includes the Town Administrator, a Selectboard representative, and four residents with professional qualifications, with one open seat reserved for a person currently or formerly living in Affordable Housing.

Looking ahead, the Trust will finalize its strategic plan by June while identifying The response to the Trust's funding sources and initial

projects. "There remains very low vacancy for both ownership and rental housing units," Capra said. "Housing construction remains constrained by high costs, supply chain issues, and labor shortages. South Hadley also lacks smaller housing typologies like duplexes and triplexes, which we are working to make easier to build through zoning amendments."

**SSI** from page 4

current monthly amounts.

If either of you are getting

a benefit which is less than

half of the other's amount,

it's possible that the one

with the lower benefit may

be entitled to more as a

spouse. And note, only

one spouse is eligible for

benefits; you cannot both

get spouse benefits from

plore this is for the spouse

with the lowest monthly

Social Security benefit to

contact Social Security at

1-800-772-1213 to ask if

spouse benefits are avail-

able. Noting that contact-

ing SS these days can be

a time-consuming process.

Another way is for you

to provide us (the AMAC

Foundation's SS Adviso-

ry Service) with both of

your current monthly SS

benefit amounts before

any deductions and the

exact ages when each of

you claimed. Using that

information, we can do the

math to see if either of you

might be entitled to more

Another way to ex-

each other.

Exciting developments are on the horizon, including Wayfinders breaking ground later this year on a 60-unit apartment building at 99 Lyas a spouse.

But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

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.

man Street. "People have been following this project closely and are looking forward to its completion," Capra said. "We hope it may be a catalyst for other new housing developments in appropriate locations in South Hadley."

Additionally, the Town is offering grants of up to \$1,500 to income-eligible households for energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment through the MVP 2.0 Grant program. South Hadley Electric Light Department is also providing additional rebates

### Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampshire **Probate and Family Court** 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS18P0331 EA Estate of: Josephine Joan Shevlin Also known as: J Joan Bocon, J Joan Shevlin Date of Death: 09/21/2017 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by John M. Bacon of Blandford, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** 

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/30/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thir-

ty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

**A Personal Representative** appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 31, 2025 Mark S Ames, Register of Probate 04/04/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

25, Parcel 102).

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00pm 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 - 4:00 P.M. Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at

Please check the accuracy of vour 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.

The Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw to consider a Request for Determination filed by Dina Bevivino to repair a retaining wall and erosion within buffer zone of a bordering vegetative wetland. The project location is 7 Overlook Rd (Map

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 04/04/2025

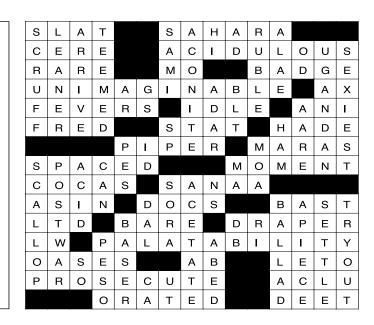
### Town Reminder **OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time Chief of Police. \$75,000 \$90,000 yearly salary based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www. huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Deadline to apply is 4/28/2025. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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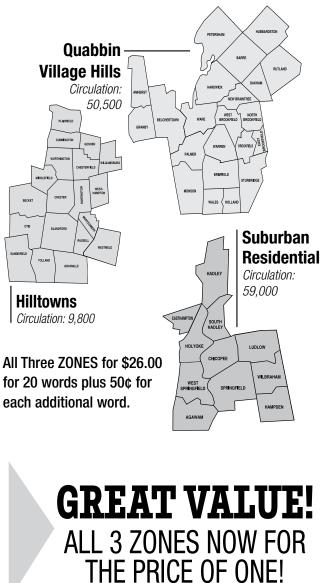
For application and more info. visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 4/11/2025

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

**DEADLINES:** FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEG	ORY:						
1		2		3		4	
5		6		7		8	
9		10		11		12	
13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20	Base Pri \$26.
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Pri \$28.0
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Pri \$30.
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Pri \$32.
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Pri \$34.
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00	39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Pri \$36.
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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!** 

## ALK OUT to Walk In

#### WALK OUT from page 1

Oliveira, as well as Representative Homar Gomez, Amy Foley, School Committee Members Eric Friesner, Danielle Cooke, and Jackson Matos, as well as Superintendent Mark McLaughlin and many other teachers and staff walked with the students.

In a meeting before the Walk Out to Walk In event, the students both on and not on Student Council, who organized it presented Oliveira and Gomez with a binder of 1,000 letters from students, faculty, parents, and community members, calling for a change.

"Democracies are formed by engaging, and seeing students travel to Boston is a big thing, and I'm hoping to see them there," said Oliveira.

"I think it's a real privilege to represent these students," said Foley. "They are students who want to take action, and their main message that really impressed me was that their concern was that the cuts would be limit the experiences they had coming up through the South Hadley school system.'

Oliveira shared that he originally got involved in politics in high school regarding serious cuts facing the Ludlow High School, and went to the State House himself to talk about the cuts to Chapter 70 at the time.

Talking to them before [the walk], it brought me back to my advocacy days," said Oliveira. "These students aren't just thinking about themselves, they're also thinking about the future of South Hadley, and education in general.'

After the walk, the students returned to the school the entire school was present, to listen to their peers share speeches regarding the cuts.

"What I was really impressed with was the passion the speakers had, but you could also hear a pin drop when the students spoke," said Foley. "It was really amazing to see them pay such close attention to what they were saying."

"The most memorable part was seeing all the students that participated, but it was the rally that was closed to the press where many of the student leaders I met gave eloquent speeches for more funding," said Oliveira. "It was the level of attention and respect that the student body gave to the student speakers that really impressed me." Oliveira will be taking a

binder of copies of the 1,000 letters the students gathered to the State House for a hearing for a Supplemental Budget in order to spend surplus Fair Share money for education and transportation to the Secretary of Administration and Finance, Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Transportation.

"What I'm advocating for along with other members of the Western Mass Legislative Delegation, is changing that formula, and meeting with staff and teachers and students, they feel the same way," said Oliveira.

In the coming weeks, the House of Representatives will be working on preparing the final FY26 budgets, and in May, the Senate, where the communities and schools impacted will share their voices.

The Ways and Means Committee has been holding meetings across the state, and on Tuesday, April 8 will hold a public meeting for people

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas Senator Jake Oliveira and Representative Homar Gomez walking in support of these courageous students. to testify in Boston, and there

South Hadley going out to

can feel voiceless in politics,

this is an example of how pol-

itics and democratic speaking

is alive and well," said Olivei-

ra, who also shared his desire

to make a specific point to go

out to support the students at

less support system, and Amy

Foley is also working to help

these students get out to Bos-

ton, and work with MTA to

ensure they don't have to wait

ful voices are student's voic-

es, and we have about three

students going to the State

House, and I think their voic-

es will have a huge impact,"

said Foley. "I think its really

great they want to share their

voices and represent not only

South Hadley, but also West-

"I think the most power-

The students have an end-

this meeting himself.

in line long.

ern Mass.'

"In a time where people

Boston themselves.

week was an outstanding testimony of the dedication of these students to their education, but also the selfless determination to fight for the younger students to have just as much of a positive school

The Walk Out to Walk In will be several students from

event at the high school this







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