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## Town celebrates groundbreaking

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

SOUTH HADLEY Buttery Brook Park is home to Big Rig Day, pickleball games, a playground, con-

For the past few years, the Friends of Buttery Brook Park and many other members have worked tirelessly to create funding for this park to make it even better, creating more accessibility and more.

Kim Prough and the Friends, Town Administrator Lisa Wong, Director of Human Services Andy Rogers, Senator Jake Oliveira, State Representative Homar Gomez, members of the Chamber, Select Board, and many, many more people worked together to make this possible.

"This is such a great project," said Wong, sharing her pride and gratitude to the community and all of its vol-



The smiling faces of the proud supporters, volunteers, and hard workers on the park.

"We couldn't do what we do without these amazing volunteers, and their support," said Prough. "We have

all of these people committed, and I truly believe we've been able to get so much done because of these people's support."

The last major investment in the park in 2013 includes the bathroom, playground, and spray park, as well as creating green space.

Ghana, and the other in Yoru-

size about the drumming cir-

cles is its healing nature, and

how it can really bring you

peace and clear your head,"

said Tara Murphy, one of the

dancers. "The presence of

the other people and vibrations of the drums can help

that, as well. I feel so honored and blessed with being

"What I want to empha-

ba, from Nigeria.

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

"This project would not have happened without the assistance from the state,

Please see **PARK**, page 7

## **Police** issue safety protocols

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

SOUTH HADLEY/ GRANBY - In a time of contactless deliveries and the ability to order transportation or food from anywhere, it is also important to always be aware of your surroundings, and safety guidelines.

Online apps like Grubhub, Uber Eats, Door Dash, and Instacart can deliver food, drinks, and other items to your front door. Uber and Lyft provide transportation services for individuals and groups.

While these apps have features that allow you to know if the person delivering your food is a man or woman, there are some unfortunate cases

Please see **SAFETY**, page 3

## Kids participate in drum circle at library

By Emily-Rose Pappas

Staff Writer epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY -Learning about other cultures is a wonderful opportunity to grow and explore the world around you, as well as

the other people we come in contact with.

The South Hadley Public Library, sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council, hosted drummers and dancers from Ammaya Dance and Drum.

Children and their friends

and family got to participate in a drumming circle and dance and make some new friends while making music together.

The drums, called djembe one in the Twi language of

drums, originated from Mali, West Africa, and sang songs,

> able to share this." Murphy has been drumming and dancing for a long time, starting in college, and dancing and drumming for 35 years now. She took a trip to Ghana where she first learned and came back to find African artists in Boston to learn more from that focused on West Africa.

> The dancing and drumming communities in Boston had artists from Senegal, Guinea, and Mali, and it was from there that she began to dive deeper in to the art form.

> "At first it was about my heritage, and it was at first really about exploring my roots and I was really hungry to learn more about Africa, and studying outside of Western Culture," said Murphy.

Please see **CIRCLE**, page 12



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

The West Street Building Committee ready to take questions.

## Residents decide on STM warrant articles

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

GRANBY - The West Street Building Committee has put forward a \$15.7 million proposal for the purpose of renovating and enhancing the old West Street School building into a new space for town offices, community center, and senior center for the whole community.

On Tuesday, April 8, the West Street Building Committee, Finance Committee, Selectboard, Town Clerk Kathy Kelly-Regan, Interim Town Administrator Christopher Martin, and Town Attorney Christopher Costa came together for a Special Town Meeting.

WSB Committee Chair, Lynn Mercier, moderated the meeting, leading the talk and answering questions alongside the Finance Committee.

The Special Town Meeting was meant for a vote on two articles for the purpose of appropriating funds for Articles I and II in the warrant for the meeting.

Regardless of the final votes, the final decision to vote on the approval of the WSB Project itself will be on the ballot at the Annual Town Meeting on May 19.

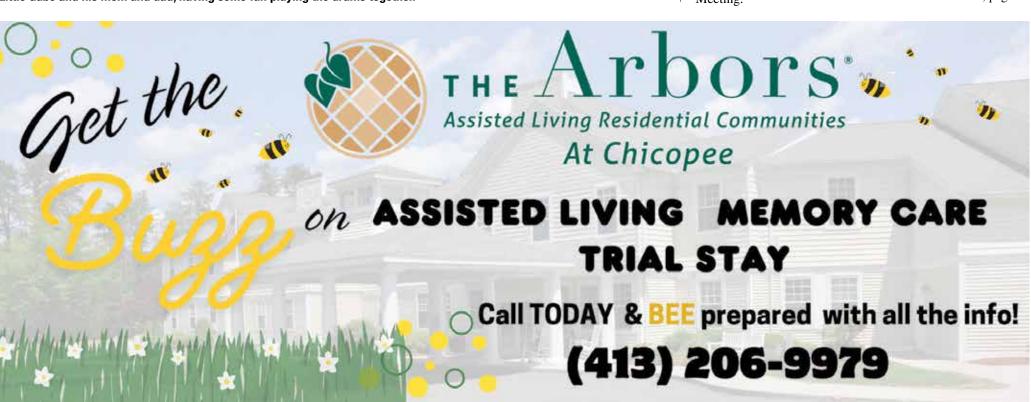
### **Overview of the Project**

The West Street School Building was vacated and closed in 2017, and has been

Please see **STM**, page 6



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas Little Gabe and his mom and dad, having some fun playing the drums together.



## South Hadley

## South Hadley customers cash in on energy savings through popular rebate program

By Tina Lesniak Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — Local residents looking to upgrade to energy-efficient appliances and systems can take full advantage of a popular rebate program offered by the South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD). The program, designed to promote energy conservation and reduce utility bills, has seen strong community engagement, with appliance rebates topping the list in popularity.

"I would say that all of our rebates get use," said Kelly Frazier, marketing and customer service manager for SHELD, "but appliance rebates seem to be the most popular."

SHELD's rebate offerings include incentives for a variety of energy-efficient upgrades, ranging from appliances and air conditioning units to heat pumps and insulation improvements. The overall goal, Frazier said, is to encourage customers to make choices that not only benefit their wallets but also reduce energy consumption across the board.

"Our rebate program is important as it helps us achieve our goal of encouraging our customers to purchase energy efficient systems," she explained.

Participation in the rebate program is open to all SHELD customers who meet the specific requirements for each equipment category. According to Frazier, eligibility varies depending on the type of system or appliance being purchased, but the program is widely accessible.

"Each program has eligibility requirements based on the equipment purchased," she said. "But all of our customers are welcome to apply for all of our rebates if they meet the guidelines."

Applying for a rebate is a relatively simple process. Customers have the option to submit either a paper or electronic application, accompanied by a dated receipt of the qualifying purchase. SHELD aims to keep turnaround times short and efficient.

"From receipt to approval, it takes a few business days," said Frazier. "All of our rebates below \$750.00 are reflected on the customer's monthly billing invoice for efficiency purposes."

While SHELD encourages repeated participation in the program, there are caps in place depending on the rebate type and equipment category. Additionally, rebate amounts vary to reflect the cost and energy impact of the product.

"Yes, there are limits for each different rebate/equipment type," Frazier noted. "Rebate amounts do vary by product to align with the cost of equipment."

Funding for the rebate program is allocated through SHELD's annual budgeting process, which is reviewed and updated each year. Though Frazier didn't announce any immediate expansions, she emphasized that the program is continually assessed for improvements and growth.

As energy costs fluctuate and environmental concerns grow, programs like SHELD's continue to play a vital role in community sustainability efforts — and judging by its popularity, South Hadley residents are eager to do their part.

For more information about the rebate program or to apply, customers can visit SHELD's website or contact customer service directly.

## Real estate, personal property and sewer bills mailed to residents

SOUTH HADLEY-Fiscal Year 2025 Qtr. 4 Real Estate & Personal Property bills as well as Fiscal Year 2025 Sewer bills were mailed out to residents on April 1.

The due date for Real Estate and Personal Property bills is May 1, 2025. Sewer bills are due May 15, 2025.

If you have not received your bills, please email our office at: collector@southhadleyma.gov or call 413-538-5030, ext. 6189 and we can send you a new bill.

Bills can also be viewed/ printed through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from our website.

Payment can be made online through the Town of South Hadley's website, southhadleyma.gov, by mail, dropped in our Dropbox located behind the Police Department

on Bridge Street or you can pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Spring 2025 yard waste collection

HADLEY— South Hadley's 2025 spring yard waste curbside collection will take place from April 21 to May.

Paper bags or open top containers only; must be curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Each route will have one collection, brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four (4') foot lengths, leaves, grass and brush only no plastic bags.

Please keep yard waste barrels separate and apart from trash barrels

Questions, please contact The DPW at 538-5030 ext.

## **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.

## **Art in the Graveyard 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.

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 cemetery.

Ms. Conde has been conserving 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 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.

## Community shredding event May 3

SOUTH HADLEY—A Free Community Shredding event will take place on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Newton Street parking lot at South Hadley High School.

It is sponsored by the South Hadley SALT Council - TRIAD.

Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to support programs which benefit our senior citizens.

## CORRECTION

– An April 4 story in the Town Reminder stated an incorrect date for a Planning Board public hearing of proposed bylaws for an expansion of

SOUTH HADLEY the Village Commons. The public hearing is scheduled for April 22. A Planning Board discussion of the proposal is scheduled for April



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# all about Town

## Get to Know Your Town Employee: Janice McArdle

GRANBY - We 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 Granby Free Public Library's Children's Director, Janice McArdle.

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

"I think the people. I felt very welcome when I moved here thirty-five years ago,

### What do you do in your position?

"It involves planning and presenting a diverse range of programs for children birth through eighteen- I do the children and the teens. I also provide reference and reader's advisory services, selecting and maintaining collection materials for youth and their parents, and much more. It's different in youth services because we have so many different ages, and I like to keep things nice and separate from the teens because they deserve their own space, and I try to make it special for each age

### Describe an average day at the office?

"I would say I'm constantly changing book shelves to pique an interest and to highlight different genres and authors. I'm also on hand to help patrons, and I recommend and find books. I plan programs and research new materials to



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas Children's librarian Janice McArdle at her Spring display with the teen section ready to be browsed.

purchase like books and audios. It's always busy."

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

"I've lived in Granby for 35 years, and I became active with the library when I had my children, and my background is in education."

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

"I work with the Granby Public Schools, local childcare centers, and the Collaborative for Education, mostly to promote literacy and to provide the needs of the town residents. I also work with the

### hands-on Nature Storytimes." What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice, and they come and do

'I think the most fulfilling part is seeing families utilize all the library has to offer, and see the little children love books, and then become readers. It's so cool to see the children start to read on their own. I love to see youth of any age get excited about reading, and to make each experience of coming into the library fulfilling. The kids run up to you and they know you by name. It's special."

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

"When I started, Granby didn't have a youth services librarian, and I utilized the library a lot, and a position became available. I knew the library, and I was passionate about it, and I applied for the position."

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

"I have a circulation desk in the children's room and that is where I stay to be accessible to people during all regular library hours."

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

The old library building had a small children's room in the lower level, and our young adults area was simply a hallway, so when we were building this new building, it was so wonderful to have this space for the young adults and then the children's room and program room. I think its unique because it caters to the youth of every age. The kids start with the board books, games, puzzles, early readers and chapter books, and then we have the young adults. It's always evolving."

### What do you want the community to know about your position?

"I consider it a privilege to work with families of the community and my goal is to empower life-long readers."

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

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

SOUTH HADLEY -On Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. South Hadley's Conservation Com-mission 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 ac-

tually 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/LithiaSpringsVernalPool-

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 half-mile 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

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.

## Cemetery annual meeting April 30

SOUTH HADLEY— The Proprietors of the South Hadley Falls Cemetery (Village Cemetery) will be conducting its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m., in the small conference room at the South Hadley Public Library.

The public is invited to the meeting as their input is always welcomed. The meeting will elect Officers and Trustees, review reports and discuss the future of the cemetery.

### cially when perpetrators can However, despite the lie about their identities, like in this horrible case. "I think the companies need to make sure who they are dealing with and the person is who they say they are," said O'Grady. "The police

## **Support Buttery Brook Park** bottle & can drive

SOUTH HADLEY— April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Friends of Buttery Brook Park will be conducting a Redeemable Bottle & Can Drive to benefit programs and renovations at the Park. Start gathering your

redeemables now and bring them to the high school parking lot.

The high school students will be having a car wash at the same time to benefit Make A Wish Foundation. Two good causes.

### **SAFETY** from page 1

where people with bad intentions can pretend to be someone else.

On Feb. 9, the Wilbraham Police Department responded to a call from a resident reporting they were a victim of sexual assault that occurred at their residence after receiving an Uber Eats delivery. The suspect, Roiber Andres Rodriguez-Melendez, was arrested a few days later and held pending a dangerousness hearing.

Granby's Police Chief, Kevin O'Grady, offered some advice regarding the incident, and how other women can make sure they are safe when

ordering food, groceries, or transportation through these

"The police department would advise people to have the food delivered and left in a secure location and you can go out and get it after the driver leaves," O'Grady said.

The woman ordered food from the app, and the suspect wrote in the app that he was a woman and then attacked the are actually talking to and victim when he arrived at her home with the food.

"If the delivery person is different from what the app says, don't answer the door and please contact the police department and an officer can talk to the delivery person and ask what is going on," said O'Grady.

safety measures these apps may offer to see the name and sometimes photo of your driver or the deliverer of your food, you should still practice awareness and safety guide-

"As with any online transaction whether through an app, an email or website you must be cautious of who you working with," said O'Grady. "If the app picture and the driver aren't the same person you should not have any contact with the person and call the police."

While the apps themselves have some precautions, they are not perfect, and can cause more harm than good, espeare here to help. If someone different comes to the door than who the app says is coming, don't open the door and please contact the police.

This case is a horrible testimony to the evils people are capable of, so ensure that when you do order, to use caution when answering your door, and to have someone in mind to be in contact with when you travel.



### The Roadhouse Cafe is Now **Under New Management**

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches NOW OPEN DAILY FROM 7 AM TO 1 PM

Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates

## **South Hadley Residents**

### **Smith Educational Fund**

Applications for financial assistance through the Smith Educational Fund are available in the Superintendent's Office, South Hadley Public Schools, 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075 & southhadleyschools.org

**Applicants must be:** 

A resident of South Hadley

Under twenty-one years of age

Registered to attend a post-secondary school

**Application deadline:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## Easter is Sunday, April 20th

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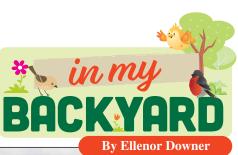
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**Green-winged teal** 

Brimfield resident makes regular trips to ponds to look for waterfowl often in Warren.

On March 19 he saw five Canada geese, six mallards (three pairs), three American black ducks, six greenwinged teal (three pairs) and one male, hooded merganser at a pond on New Reed Street.

The green-winged teal is the smallest dabbling duck in North America. The male has a cinnamon colored head and grayish body with a green crescent from the eye to the back of the head. The male has a vertical white strip that extends from the water line to its shoulder. The female is brown. Both sexes have green wing patches, which are visible in flight. They also have a yellowish stripe along the tail.

They have a blocky body, large head and short bill. They are between 12 and 15 inches in length. There tail is high out of the water.

Spring time is a great time to look for green winged teal. They often land in shallow wetlands and are sometimes seen foraging in puddles of water on agricultural fields. They feed on shallow bodies of water on vegetation. They breed in dense vegetation along river

The oldest know greenwinged teal was at least 20 years and three months. A female, she was banded in Oklahoma in 1941 and recovered by a hunter in Missouri in 1960.

### **Great blue heron**

The Brimneia resident said in an email dated March 19, "I visited two ponds in Warren yesterday and saw great blue herons for the second time this spring. However this time, they were at the pond where great blue herons have had nest for a couple of years and an osprey

was back. Both sightings were at the pond South on Street." Other birds seen at the pond included one

ring-billed gull, three rock pigeon, one blue jay and six red-winged blackbirds.

Last year, there were four heron nests, however one nest fell down during the winter. There were two birds standing in one of the nests for a time before one of the birds flew to a nearby

### Osprey

The Brimfield resident said an osprey nest has been at this location in Warren since 2020 and nine young have successfully fledged. here. An adult just arrived in the last day or so. The bird flew to the nest carrying a branch and then moved to the bottom of the nest, tilted forward and then began scratching at the bottom of the nest. He took a picture of this osprey scratching. He said, "In a picture I took, debris can be seen flying over the edge of the nest. A behavior I have never seen before – interesting."

### Worm stealing blue jay

An Oakham resident through his kitchen window an American Robin extract a worm from the ground. He said, "At that moment, a blue jay landed scaring off the robin and stealing the worm." He watched the blue jay flit closer and closer in the shrubbery and swoop in when the next worm was extracted by a robin. He said, "I did a quick check of the literature - nothing like this observed before. Jays, crows, ravens and magpies (Corvidae family) are renowned for their instinctual 'intelligence' and thievery."

### Sandhill cranes

I have not seen the sandhill cranes in my field lately. I did here then early in the morning last week when I put my trash bin out. My neighbor said she heard them in the morning as well.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505 leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@ aol.com or edowner@turley. com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



## **Eggplant parmesan anyone?**

Tust when you think you don't let the calendar dissuade are done planning your J garden you come across something else to grow. What did it for me was a trip to the Dollar Store where I found the seed

packs priced at four for

\$1.25. What a deal! While I wouldn't spend \$3.99 for a package of eggplant seeds, I could shell out approximately 32 cents, and if I end up with a half dozen fruit it would be worth the invest-

We grow eggplant at Old Sturbridge Village, but it is the ornamental type, the kind that looks seriously like pure white eggs hanging from a fuzzy gray-green plant! I plan to grow "Black Beauty," the variety that holds promise of parmesan grinders and saucy pasta dishes.

It's been a few years since have grown eggplant. I stopped growing it because I never seemed to pick it at the right time - either it was too early or too late.

So, why don't we learn together how to grow eggplant successfully and harvest it

Eggplant is a member of the Solanaceae family, making it cousins with tomatoes and peppers. Like its relatives, eggplant seeds need to be started indoors, eight to 10 weeks prior to the last frost.

By sowing the seed yesterday, I just sneak in to the eight week mark. If the thought of growing eggplant excites you, you. Any head start is still a

head start!

The seeds like a warmer germination temperature, with some experts calling for 80 degrees! When the seedlings show their first set of true leaves, transplant them out of the seed pack and into six packs. A grow on temperature of 72 degrees coupled with supplemental light will produce nice, stocky seedlings.

Another trick to stocky seedlings is the brush method. A couple of times a day run the top of your hand gently over the seedlings. Depending on how quickly they grow, another transplanting maybe necessary, this time into a four-inch pot.

Be careful not to disturb the roots too much; while tomatoes and peppers don't seem to mind transplanting, eggplant can be stunted a bit, so tackle this task tenderly.

About mid-May preheat your garden space in preparation for planting out the seedling. I lay down black plastic for peppers and will also use it for my eggplant transplants.

After the plants have been hardened off for a week or so by gradual exposure to the elements, it's time to get them

in the ground. I cut "Xs" in the plastic about 18" apart, and mix some compost into the soil under each X. The seedlings are then installed just slightly lower into the soil than where they were growing in the pot.

If you can cover them with a floating row cover to help modulate the heat and keep flea beetles and Colorado potato beetles at bay, all the bet-

I read that northern gardeners can expect to get four to six fruit per plant. Folks with a longer growing season can sometimes gain 12 to 15!

Once the fruit appear glossy, they can be picked, even before they reach their full size. If you wait until the skin is dull, the fruits are seedy and not at their prime any longer.

I am excited to see if my 32 cent investment will be fruitful. Fingers crossed!

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

### **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

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

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.

### SOCIAL SECURITY Matters **LETTER TO THE EDITOR** "In Shock" By Russell Gloor

To the Editor:

I am an abutter to Mount Holyoke College. I received notice for Monday April 14th at 6:30 pm planning board hearing at the Council on Ageing for the proposed project at 9 Woodbridge Street for a new Energy Center. (https://www.southhadley.org/ 1179/site-plan-

I was "In Shock" when I examined the construction documents and photo for the proposed building.

I have worked in the plumbing, HVAC and mechanical trades for most of my life as well as working for a large mechanical engineering firm in Connecticut for 15 years as a construction administrator before retirement.

I have worked on several projects, new construction and renovations on many College campuses including MHC, Amherst, Smith, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard and many others. I have never seen a building that "Stands Out" of place as this building.

The construction documents do not indicate the end

use. Based on my experience this facility will contain mechanical equipment systems generating a lot of noise operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The rendering of the proposed building does not show the acoustic screening on the roof adding additional height to a total of 38 feet above grade to house additional equipment, and two ground mount emergency generators, all adding additional noise.

I am "In Shock", with all the land that MHC owns, they would choose this residential neighborhood location for this building. This building will be at one of the Gateways to South Hadley.

Please don't get me wrong; the building design is not the issue, it's a nice looking building with good intentions for its use, however it does not complement the neighboring architecture characteristics.

I urge the planning board to appose the construction of this building in this location.

Please vote no. Thank you.

**Barry McPhee** South Hadley

## When is the best time for me to claim Social Security?

### **Dear Rusty:**

I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits.

I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website and I look forward to hearing from you.

Signed: Ready to Claim

### **Dear Ready:**

You can certainly call us on 1-888-750-2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation.

But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of: Born in 1958,

your "Full Retirement Age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach you FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/ month after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .556% for each month early (a permanent reduction).

You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits

(DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this

0-If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is likely your best option.

In the end, only you can decide when you should

Please see **SSI**, page 5





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## Community <

## Wistariahurst Museum sensory friendly egg hunt

April 13th with time slots from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

HOLYOKE—Wistariahurst Museum is egg-static to bring back our Sensory-Friendly Egg Hunt for a second year! This festive egg hunt focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment. Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this egg-ceptional event is tailored so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. This year's egg hunt will take place indoors throughout the halls of Wistariahurst. Weather permitting, outdoor games and activities will add some egg-stra fun to the event. Each child can gather six eggs and choose prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Hop to it and register for one of the available time slots. Registration is available on Wistariahurst's Eventbrite page.

Museum Director Megan Seiler hatched the idea for Wistariahurst's Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt in 2024.



"We saw an opportunity for the museum to offer this city tradition to kids who may not thrive at the large-scale egg hunt downtown. We wanted to be a space that could offer more inclusion for this fun event," Seiler noted. Wistariahurst is egg-cited to bring this event back for April of this year after the success of last year's egg hunt.

Families can sign up for timed entry to ensure smooth check-in between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 13. Families are welcome to enjoy the egg hunt any time during their timeslots, and each time slot will be limited to 10 families. The egg hunt will continue until 1:30 p.m., allowing children to explore at their own pace and enjoy a stress-free experience.

Families are welcome to explore the gardens and enjoy outdoor games, weather permitting, during the event.

Outside of this event, we have open hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and our gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. We hope to see all of our peeps at this egg-stra special event!

## **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

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 Gunder-

sen will be holding Office Hours at the Senior Center

Monday, April 21, 10

State Rep Homar Gomez will be holding Office Hours at the Senior Center

### Events: 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 16, 3 to 4 p.m.

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.

Page 5

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.

## 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 Kon-Mari method to help you create a more organized and stress-free space.

Enjoy her inspirational guidance followed by a delicious dinner featuring stuffed chicken breast, rice pilaf, veggies, dessert, and

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 Hadley Se-

## Friends put together library scholarship program

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library is hosting a special scholarship program for high school students that are making their way towards higher education.

The awards are given to students who have demonstrated academic achievement and community service through volunteer work at the library, and eligible students are required to be high school seniors graduating this spring and wither reside in Granby

or attend the Granby Schools.

The minimum GPA required for consideration is a 2.5, and the student's community service record must also be included, with a minimun of 45 logged library volunteer hours completed during per each junior and senior year.

Students must submit their scholarship application and essay, whuch can be found on the library's website, www. granbylibrary.com, and must be submitted by the deadline of May 1, 2025.

## SHPD Drug Take Back on April 26

SOUTH HADLEY—A the South Hadley Police Department.

It is sponsored by the DRUG TAKE BACK is South Hadley SALT Council scheduled for April 26 from - TRIAD. Monetary dona-10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the tions will be gratefully ac-Bridge Street parking lot of cepted to support programs which benefit our senior cit-

**SSI** from page 4

claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1-888-750-2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional

we will be most happy to respond to promptly.

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 pres-

questions via email, which ents 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.

### iberty PASTURE-RAISED IN LUDLOW 14 to 18 lbs. THANKSGIVING REVIEW TAKING ORDERS "Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump through April 18 meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having pickup April 18-19 leftovers for a very long time." \_ Beth from Belchertown more details on LibertyTurkeys.com HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED No added salt or additives Call or text Raised on a Ludlow farm, our turkeys run 413-426-6636 Raiseu on a Luciow land, our curveys to freely, hand fed on healthful grains and to reserve neery, mand led on meaning grans and extra vegetables. Minimally processed, they have more meat, less water, and extra taste nave more meat, less water, and extra laste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones, or additives are used. IDEAL FOR RESTRICTED DIETS! \_ Jeanette & Paul Johnson COOKS 30% FASTER than commerical birds

## Friends of the GFPL Spring **Book Sale from May 1-31**



Book lovers and bargain hunters

GRANBY - TheFriends 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 back books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video 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 accept-

ed at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave 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 Granhardcover and paper- by Library, who support library programming.

Call for more infor games, and audiobooks mation 413-467-3320 or visit granbylibrary.org.

Greenfield Cooperative Bank Gerry's Music Shop



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

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

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

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

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

## **Holyoke Rotary Club** announces date of Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke

A premier tasting fundraiser & silent auction

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the date of the 2025 Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, May 1. The event will take place at the Holyoke Council on Aging & Senior Center at 5:30pm and will include live music performed by The Earls & Pearls.

Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by Amedeo's, Fame, Pics Pub, Rusty's Place, and Sumo. Beverage tastings will be provided by Quality Beverage and Wine Haus. Tasting samples will include craft beer, seltzers, canned cocktails, and wine.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at https:// edbh2025.eventbrite.com/.

Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke is generously sponsored Holyoke Medical Center, Holyoke Gas & Electric, Carl & Shirley Eger, Holyoke Credit Union, Marcotte Ford, Mountain View Landscapes, Brunault, Proulx & Mc-Guiness, Center School, River Valley Counseling Center, Dowd Insurance, Holyoke

YMCA, and Holyoke Mall

At Ingleside. The Holyoke Rotary Club is still identifying additional event sponsors, as well as food and beverage vendors. Local businesses interested in supporting and collaborating together with the Holyoke Rotary Club for this event are encouraged to visit www. holyokerotary.com.

Proceeds will go towards supporting Rotary projects, mostly within the Holyoke Rotary district of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby, Mass. Ongoing Holyoke Rotary projects include providing several annual scholarships, providing food for those in need through community collaborations, and fostering community engagement with free summer concerts, as well as funding international clean water ini-

Since 2008 the Holyoke Rotary Club has raised over \$150,000 to fund various projects, including the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts Inclusive Playground at Kennedy Field, the media room at the Holyoke Library, K-9 vests for the Holyoke Police Department, and literacy projects with Kelly School and Holyoke Boys' and Girls' Club, among others.



The people gathered raising their cards to begin the vote.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

**STM** from page 1

vacant since then, and served as the elementary school until they received funding from the MSBA for the other elementary school in town.

The project's main goal is to renovate the Council on Aging, as well as provide a single location for all municipal offices, which are currently spread out, making it difficult to operate and communicate.

It will also provide a warming and cooling center, community use of conference rooms, after school programs, performing arts, youth groups, a community kitchen for food security and more.

The current total cost is estimated to be about \$15.7 million for the 22,000 square foot building, and upon completion, it will provide the town with more much-needed

"A major factor in the increase in cost is compliance with MA building codes for accessibility and energy efficiency," said Mercier.

Additions to heating and cooling systems and ventilation upgrades are needed within the building, as well as electrical services, plumbing, and HVAC changes in the estimated amount of \$3 million.

These unforeseen costs led to massive increases from the original proposed \$5 million to \$15.7 million estimated costs that are being seen now.

The project's cost has increased for a number of reasons, most of which were unforeseen and due to costs increasing nationally.

The amount of square footage of the plan has increased from the original plan, and the



The posters detailing the proposed plan for the new West Street Building and a computergenerated image from EDM Studio.

building upgrades required to meet current building codes and accessibility in Massa-

The change in cost is also from the upgrades that were required in order to be in compliance with current energy codes, and to install a new standby generator and fire pump and water cisterns, as well as to take into consideration market conditions like construction prices, labor, and other factors that have all increased in price.

The town also plans to sell COA building which currently houses more municipal offices in addition to the senior center and use proceeds towards the WSB project. The COA building currently costs \$49,000 for the town in annual upkeep.

Between rent and maintenance between both of the properties where the town offices are, the town has to spend over \$100,000 annually to maintain the use of both buildings.

Article I

Article I of the Warrant for the Town Meeting was for the transfer of a total of \$9,989,361 from several town accounts, including the Municipal Building Stabilization Fund, the Capital Needs Stabilization Funds, and then borrow or bond the remaining \$7.9 million.

The Article states that the borrowings would be "for the purpose of funding the renovation of the West Street building into municipal offic-

However, the Article further states, "this borrowing authorization shall be contingent upon the successful passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion vote to be held on May 19, 2025."

Those gathered spent over an hour asking questions and sharing their concerns, complaints, and ideas surrounding the Article.

Article I failed, with 116 votes against, and 94 in favor of the Article.

Article II

Originally, Article II detailed the request for approval to transfer a total of \$2.5 million total from the Municipal Building Stabilization Fund, the Capital Needs Stabilization Funds, as well as other available funds.

Selectboard Chair Crystal Dufresne issued a request for an amendment to Article II, for a sum of \$3 million to be taken from a different account with available funds.

After about a half hour of discussion, the amendment was accepted, with a new statement for the town to transfer \$3 million from the aforementioned account.

Article II, which was designated "for the purpose of funding the remediation of hazardous material, demolition, debris removal, and leveling the site of the West Street Building," was approved and passed by majority vote of those remaining.







## **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



Senator Jake Oliveira, Town Administrator Lisa Wong, Kim Prough, State Representative Homar Gomez, and Andy Rogers giving their appreciation for the hard work of the community.



Standing proudly with shovels to celebrate the construction beginning on the park.

**PARK** from page 1

who is providing a \$500,000 Grant towards the project," said Wong.

Melissa Cryan and the PARC Grant team at the Division of Conservation Services at the State Department of Environmental Affairs, had been a huge help alongside Andy Rogers in securing these grants.

Additionally, the Friends of Buttery Brook Park were happy to announce they were able to fundraise an additional \$200,000 through their hard work putting on special events for fundraising.

"This is really going to be the lifeblood and heart of our community," said Senator Jake Oliveira. "As someone who represents this community, I want to thank the community for allowing us to represent you."



Getting ready to start with construction on the start on a cold day.

"Something that is really important for communities is mental health, and parks like this are so amazing for that

reason," said Representative Homar Gomez. "I am more than happy to represent South Hadley... this place really has a place in my heart, and I really believe we've been able to get so much done because of these people's support."

Both Oliveira and Gomez have found joy in Buttery Brook Park, whether it's at the pickleball courts or eagerly awaiting the new 9-hole disc golf courts.

SHELD also worked hard to donate the \$20,000 for installation and the equipment for the lightning, as well as helping with the installation of WiFi in the park, making it even better for you to get work done at the park while the kids play.

Some of the new features being introduced to the park include new walking trails about a half mile long, enhancements to the playground like poured in place rubber, a new bandshell, repaving on the basketball court, and

Dozens of people attended the ground breaking, and the community is looking forward to the many new features coming to the park in the future to make it a better place for all.

## Local chorus vows 'till the whole world sings'

NORTHAMPTON – Heart of the Valley Chorus, a women's voices barbershop a cappella group, will host a concert on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. at Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity (130 Pine Street, Florence MA).

This annual show invites the community to experience music's power to inspire joy, community, and peace, and to keep the music playing "Till the Whole World Sings" (the theme of this year's show, and the official theme song of World Singing Day written by Scott Johnson and Chad Warren).

"When the world feels divided and unstable, there's something really grounding and comforting about coming together and making harmony," says Stephanie Flinker, a 30-year veteran barbershop singer and director of Heart of the Valley.

Joining them on the stage will be the Cider House Boys, High Definition, the Northampton High School Chamber Choir, the Northamptones, Chill Harmonics, the Wise Guys, and the Ujima Sings.

area," says Flinker. "This show is a wonderful way to introduce the community to a variety of musical genres and styles, as well as all the opportunities to join the singing!"

Tickets are on sale now at the Bombyx box office and at www.bombyx.live for a suggested donation of \$20. A portion of proceeds will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County.

Heart of the Valley Chorus was established 40 years ago as the Mount Sugarloaf Chorus, and is part of Sweet Adelines International. They have recently performed at Rockridge Retirement Community, the Springfield Sheraton, the Granby Senior Center, Pause & Pivot Farm.

On May 10 they will compete along with 13 other Sweet Adeline Region One choruses at Symphony Hall in Springfield. Chorus members include school teachers, medical professionals, college faculty, mail carriers, retirees, bookkeepers, fund development professionals, social workers, pastors and so much more from all over the Pioneer Valley. For information about vis-

## Rummage Sale at St. Paul's **April 26**

HOLYOKE-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke will hold their Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Auditorium.

There will be bargains everyone including clothing, housewares, bedding, towels, books, toys, and holiday and craft sup-

Free ample parking is located behind the church and all are welcome.

For more information, please contact Trudy Monson 413-335-1145 or call the church office at 413-532-5060.

## **American Parkinson Disease Association** to educate and empower during **Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month**

BOSTON—April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, and the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) will commemorate the month with a "Did You Know?" campaign that will educate the public about Parkinson's disease (PD) – highlighting everything from yond, as well as their care statistics and symptoms to partners and loved ones, by personal stories and ways to get involved – while also helping those affected by PD feel empowered with the resources and support they need.

Through a nationwide network of Chapters and Information & Referral (I&R) Centers, APDA works every day to provide the support, education, and research that

will help everyone impacted by PD live life to the fullest. The APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University School of Medicine work in tandem to support people living with PD throughout the Commonwealth and behelping them assemble the resources, support, and medical expertise they need to feel more empowered, connected, and optimistic.

Throughout Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month (and always), the APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University have a variety of programs and events

planned, with many ways for people to get involved. April is the perfect time to register for the 39th Annual Massachusetts Optimism Walk, which will take place on Sunday, May 18 in Framingham as part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness and vital funds for the PD community. The Optimism Walk series is a cornerstone of APDA's efforts to empower individuals living with PD and their families while advancing research towards better treatments and, ultimately, a cure. Additionally, throughout the month, APDA will share education-

> Please see **DISEASE**. page 11



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# SPORTS

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## Tigers fall to Brownies in home match

**By Tim Peterson** Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—First-year Agawam girls' varsity lacrosse coach Taylor DeGeorge was expecting her team's first road match of the regular season against the South Hadley Lady Tigers to be a very close affair. The non-league contest didn't end up being very close.

The Brownies held an 8-0 lead at the end of the opening quarter and coasted to a 16-6 victory, last Tuesday afternoon.

"This was our first road game of the regular season, and I was really expecting it to be very close," said De-George. "The girls were very focused during warm-ups, and I think it translated at the start of the game. They did everything that we asked them to do."

Agawam haven't lost a girls lacrosse match to South Hadley in more than 15 years.

Seven different players scored a goal for the Brownies (2-0), who opened the regular season with a 13-8 home win against Wahconah Regional on March 27.

Leading the way offensively was senior Vivian Gouvin with four goals and two assists.

Senior Gabby Cosentini also recorded a hat-trick and had three assists.

Senior Isabella Spaulding, junior Makayla Rosario, sophomore Gianna Goodrow, and freshman Olivia Govoni each scored two goals. Junior Finn Mahoney scored her only goal during the first quarter.

"We had several goal scorers in today's game, which is always very important," De-George said. "We didn't rely



Ava Asselin takes a shot.

Ava Assellii takes a silot.

on only one player to score goals."

Senior Kyra Bernard was credited with an assist, but she began most of the Brownies ers and

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

"Kyra is one of our defenders and the defense doesn't always get enough credit," De-

George said. "She played very well in today's game with ten ground balls. You can't win a lacrosse game without having the ball in your stick."

The Brownies other defenders are junior Lucia La-Rocque, junior Kaylin Barna, and freshman Morgan Krieb-

Sophomore Megan Outhouse and junior Kilee Barna split the goalie duties for the visiting team.

The Lady Tigers (0-2) began the regular season with a home loss against West Springfield.

"We're a young team with four seniors and one junior, so I think it'll be a building year," said South Hadley head coach Danielle Clark. "We came out flat in the first quarter. We're still figuring out how to work together"

Please see **TIGERS**, page 9



Caitlin Dean shoots over a defender's stick.



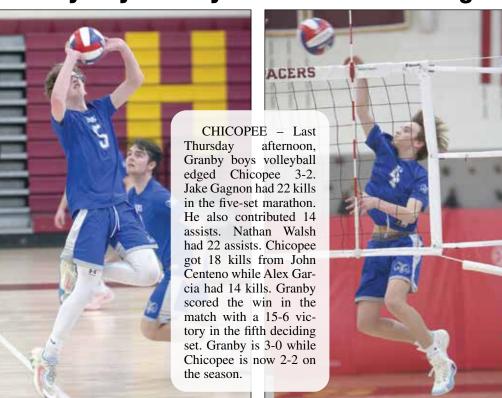
scoring plays.

Lea Agudelo avoids a defender.



Raquel Losty tries to get around an Agawam defender.

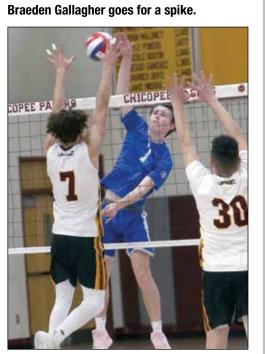
## **Granby boys volleyball wins third straight**



Nathan Walsh sets up a play.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jake Chagnon spikes through a pair of defenders.



Mabel Carillon sends a pitch home.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com **Katie Grabherr stretches to get the out.** 

## **OT goal lifts Thunderbirds** over Lehigh Valley Phantoms

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-28-2-4) received a perfect night from their netminder and outlasted the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (33-27-6-2) in a 1-0 overtime win on Saturday night at the PPL Center. Coupled with Hartford's overtime loss in Hershey, the T-Birds' magic number to clinch a playoff berth has fallen to just 1.

After being pressured for 16 first-period shots on Friday in Utica, Springfield was far stingier defensively in the opening frame against their division foes, keeping Lehigh Valley to just seven shots in the first period and making things easy for Vadim Zherenko to keep the opponents off the board.

Parker Gahagen had a similarly strong start for the Phantoms, turning away the eight Springfield offerings that came his way in the first 20 minutes. Furthermore, neither team could connect on one power-play chance each in the opening stanza.

Springfield had its best chance to break the scoreless deadlock in a mad scramble near the net in the second, but Gahagen managed

to turn away both Dalibor Dvorsky and Nikita Alexandrov despite being on his belly while trying to keep the puck out.

Lehigh Valley's closest call came off the stick of veteran Anthony Richard, who scooted to the right side of the slot to punch a quick attack on the net after the puck caromed in front off the end boards. Zherenko, though, had the answer, pushing his left leg across for the pad save, one of his 21 stops through 40 minutes. Gahagen took a 20-save shutout into the third for Lehigh Val-

A tentative third period saw the teams protect the defensive zone. Lehigh Valley's door of opportunity opened when the Phantoms earned their second power play, but Zherenko and the Springfield penalty kill stiffened. With the game just two seconds away from overtime, the Phantoms nearly won it in the final seconds, but Zherenko flashed out the left leg for a phenomenal intight save on Zayde Wisdom to force the game into over-

Overtime only further derbirds.com.

showcased Zherenko's storybook night, as Lehigh Valley relentlessly fired chances at the Springfield net, but none of their eight tries found their way past the Springfield goaltender.

With just a half-minute to play in the extra period, Dvorsky moved back into the Phantoms zone and awaited a trailer. Calen Addison flew in off the Springfield bench, took a drop pass, and snapped a wrist shot through Gahagen to finally break the ice and give the T-Birds the overtime win on the veteran blueliner's first goal and point as a T-Bird.

Springfield gets a break from game action before taking the ice on Friday inside the Thunderdome at 7:05 p.m. against Belleville. The Hartford Wolf Pack and Hershey Bears square off again on Sunday, and any Hershey victory would punch the Thunderbirds' ticket to the Calder Cup Playoffs.

Fans can get their Thunderbirds tickets for the Calder Cup playoff push today by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or by visiting www.SpringfieldThun-

## Railers take 3-2 win over Adirondack

WORCESTER - It can be really hard to project the outcome of a game between a team that has nothing to lose and one that has everything to lose.

Such was the case Saturday night in the match here between the Railers and the Adirondack Thunder. Worcester won by a goal, of course, 3-2. Each of the Railers' last seven victories have been by one goal including a shootout triumph.

Adirondack is out of the playoff race and using many new faces. The Railers' battle for the final playoff spot in the North Division leaves

them no margin for error. The math is simple even if the task is not. The Railers have three games left, one with Adirondack Sunday and two at Reading next weekend. If they win them all, they make the playoffs with 80 points.

Saturday, the Worcester scorers were Justin Gill, Tanner Schachle and Tyler Kobryn. Ian Pierce and Kaleb Ergang had the Adirondack goals. It was Pierce's first professional goal.

riod, Schachle in the second and Kobryn in the third. At one point the Railers had a 2-0 lead, then backslid in the second half of the second period. Ergang scored with 10 seconds to go in the period and it was 2-2 heading into the third.

Kobryn broke the tie with a shot from between the circles at 14:37.

It was his ninth goal in 23 games with Worcester. Kobryn had two in 18 games with Florida this year before being traded to the Railers and 16 in 145 career ECHL games prior to his arrival

"Any time you get that kind of production out of a player who was kind of a 'nothing' trade," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "that definitely helps, but everybody has to fit a role and he fits his

"And when he gets chances he doesn't miss. Gill, in contrast, has been

Gill scored in the first pe-

role with that line.

a difference maker on offense. He is 7-13-20 in 20 games with Worcester this season and plus-11. The Railers are 12-6-2 when Gill is in the lineup.

Schachle's goal was his first in a Worcester uniform to go along with three as-

The Railers were in control of things until they went on a power play halfway through the second period. The power play was, in a word, inept. Momentum turned in Adirondack's direction and the Thunder dominated the rest of the period.

"It's not anything they did, it's something we did," Tuzzolino said of the power play. "It's self-inflicted. The biggest problem with our power play right now is that it's killing momentum. It's not just that we're not scor-

ing, it's killing momentum." Michael Bullion continued to be a momentum

> Please see RAILERS. page 11

### **TIGERS** from page 8

Agawam took a 1-0 lead when Spaulding put a free position goal into the cage past sophomore goalie Riley Nestor with 9:44 remaining in the opening quarter.

Then Spaulding, Goodrow, and Mahoney scored goals in a span of 25 seconds, as the Brownies built a 4-0 ad-

With a little less than eight minutes left in the opening quarter, Goodrow netted her second goal.

Cosentini added her name on the score sheet with an unassisted goal.

The duo of Rosario and Govoni scored the Brownies final two goals during the opening twelve minutes of the

Following a turnover a minute into the second stanza, Govoni scored another goal giving Agawam a 9-0 lead.

The Brownies led by double digits for the first time with 9:20 left in the first half when Cosentini made a spin move before firing a shot into the cage for her third goal of the match.

The home fans finally had something to cheer about when senior Caitlin Dean scored a goal, which was assisted by senior Ava Asselin with eight minutes left in the second quarter.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Kylie Sierra rushes up the field.

Asselin also scored a goal, as the Lady Tigers were trailing 10-2 with 6:40 remaining in the first half.

The final two goals of the second quarter were scored by Rosario and Gouvin, as the Brownies held a 12-2 halftime advantage.

While the outcome had pretty much been decided at that point, South Hadley outscored Agawam, 3-2 in the third quarter. The three Lady Tigers goals were scored by

senior Margaret Watkins, senior Raquel Losty, and Dean, who also scored another goal four minutes into the fourth

Gouvin scored Agawam's first three goals in the second half. The Brownies' other goal was scored by Cosentini which extended the lead to 16-6 with 5:30 left in regula-

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



This year's Showcase will bring top-flight local, regional, and national talent to South Hadley across a wide spectrum of arts and culture, plus many family fun activities and performances for all ages. Most activities and performances are free of charge.

## **SHOWCASE South Hadley** returns April 26 & 27

SOUTH HADLEY — South Hadley will again celebrate its many diverse cultural and business communities with SHOWCASE South Hadley 2025.

The festival will take place on April 26 and 27, with performances and activities across South Hadley. On Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the town center will host events at the common, local churches, and Mount Holyoke College, culminating in an evening concert by Grammy-winning blues and soul artist Ruthie Foster at Abbey Chapel on the MHC campus.

On Sunday, April 27th,

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

Special thanks to our lead sponsors for their critical support: Republic Services, Arrivability Car Service, Mount Holyoke College, and Private Financial Design.

Showcase South Hadley is also made possible thanks to the generous support of the Town of South Hadley, the South Hadley Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, MASH (Music and Arts South Hadley), and dozens of individual donors, participating business, and countless volunteers.

More detailed information, including all scheduled performances and activities. Gospel Brunch registration, sponsor and donor support, volunteer opportunities, and general inquiries can be found by visiting the SHOW-CASE South Hadley website at https://southhadleyarts.org.

## Open practice rescheduled for Quabbin Valley players

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.

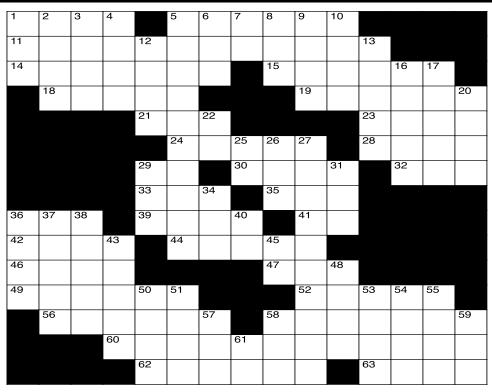
The open practice scheduled for Sunday, April 6 was rained out. Players can still register for the season and the next open practice is scheduled for Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley. Following that practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the

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.

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.



### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Garden tool 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Domestic sheep 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liauid
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Ocular protection index
- , former
- 23. Phil CIA
- 24. Icelandic poems 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- 30. Actor Rudd 32. A pituitary
- hormone 33. Focus on an object **CLUES DOWN**
- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association

- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor 42. Furniture
- 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew 47. A way to
- communicate 49. Almost last 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality 62. Fully shaded inner
- regions 63. Short convulsive intake of breath
- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option 2. Oil cartel 3. Agile

- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety 6. Indicates badly 7. Popular Mr. T
- character 8. Consumed 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees 16. Fungal disease 17. Tall, slenderleaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang) 22. A passport is one 25. Two outs in
- baseball (abbr.) 26. Swiss river
- 27. Deferential

lives

29. Where a bachelor

screen material

- 54. Region 55. Famed Scottish Loch

34. A crying noise of

amorphous

37. Starchy dish of

dried tubers

40. Partner to "Ma"

45. The Bay State

48. A well-defined

track or path

51. Defined period

53. Group of toughs

50. Substitution

38. Type of acid

43. 16 ounces

substance

a bird

36. Sticky,

- 57. Blood relation
- 58. Not around
- 59. Recipe
- measurement
- 31. Portable computer 61. Father to Junior

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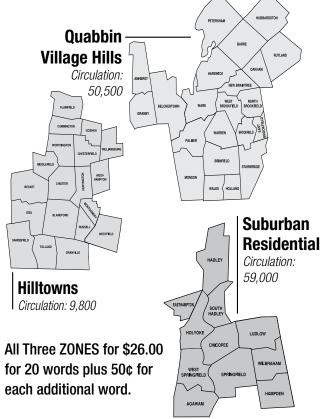
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### **DISEASE** from page 7

al information and resources on all APDA social media channels using #DidYou-Know.

With approximately one million people living with PD in the United States – 21,000 of which are in Massachusetts – and 90,000 new diagnoses every year, it is critical to engage, inform, and support the PD community and raise public awareness about the disease. Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month is the perfect time to shine a spotlight on this issue.

"With a new diagnosis every six minutes, nearly 7,200 people in this country will learn they have PD in April alone," states Cathi Thomas, RN, MS, Program Coordinator at the APDA I&R Center at Boston University. "Here in Massachusetts, we are the boots on the ground. From support groups

and exercise classes to educational events and access to PD experts, APDA is here for every member of our local PD community, working tirelessly to help make their journey more positive."

Beyond Massachusetts, APDA offers extensive virtual programming and a robust resource library - with many resources available in Spanish and Mandarin/Simplified Chinese – to ensure that all members of the PD community have access to high-quality information and services no matter where they live and to help them to feel connected to the community even from a distance. From popular webinar series like Dr. Gilbert Hosts, Unlocking Strength Within, and Let's Keep Moving with APDA to a variety of virtual exercise and movement classes, there is something for everyone.

Support from the public is crucial, and Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month

is an especially meaningful time to take action to help those coping with this progressive neurodegenerative movement disorder. People can support by raising awareness of PD and/or by making a donation that will enable APDA to continue their critical work and fund research that will lead to better treatments and ultimately, a cure. Every effort makes a difference.

The APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University offer a wide range of Parkinson's disease programs, resources, education, and support. To learn more, visit www.apdaparkinson.org/ma, email apdama@apdaparkinson.org or call 800-651-8466.

### About the American Parkinson Disease Association:

The American Parkinson
Disease Association (APDA)

is a nationwide grassroots network dedicated to fighting Parkinson's disease (PD) and works tirelessly to assist the more than one million people with PD in the United States live life to the fullest in the face of this chronic, neurological disorder. Founded in 1961, APDA has raised and invested more than \$313 million to provide outstanding patient services and educational programs, elevate public awareness about the disease, and support research designed to unlock the mysteries of PD and end this disease. To join in the fight against Parkinson's disease and to learn more about the support APDA provides nationally through a network of Chapters and Information & Referral (I&R) Centers, as well as a national Research Program and Centers for Advanced Research, please visit us at www.apdaparkinson.

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SETTLEMENT
A Petition for Order of
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including the allowance of a
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**CITATION ON** 

PETITION FOR

ORDER OF COMPLETE

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 05/07/2025.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 08, 2025

Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate

may be requested in the Petition. Register

04/11/2025

### **RAILERS** from page 9

creator in net, though. He stopped 22 of 24 shots and is 7-1 in his last eight starts

7-1 in his last eight starts.

Worcester's playoff push is largely a result of a recent great record at the DCU Center. The Railers did not play well at home during the early part of the season but are 14-3-2 in its last 19 games here.

That is good for a .789 winning percentage.

Overall, Worcester is 24-13-3 in its last 40 games.

The victory was the Railers' 34th of the season and brought them to 74 points. They will finish above .500 for the first time 2018-19, their second season in the ECHL. Worcester was 32-29-11 for 75 points that year.

### **NOTICE**

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### Town Reminder

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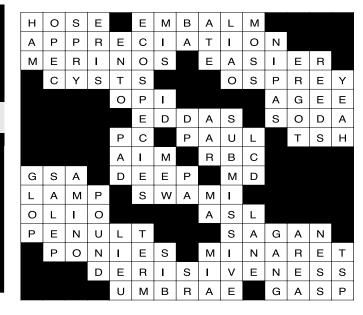
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Glenn Smith, Tara Murphy, Kabisko Kaba, and Chris Keniley, the instructors for the drumming circle.



"Slap, slap, tone, tone, bass, bass." Can you keep the beat?



African drumming circles are a fun a welcoming experience for all.

**CIRCLE** from page 1

Murphy's experience in public schools growing up lacked non-Western teaching, and as she grew up with her parents representing two cultures, she wanted to explore more.

"When I started doing the dancing and drumming, I found I had a natural ability for those art forms, and the more I did it, the more I realized they were very healing art forms, and that African drumming can be brought into many settings to be very therapeutic for groups," said Murphy.

Murphy and other dancers and drummers got together to create Ammaya Dance and Drum, which travels across Massachusetts to teach in drumming circles.

Murphy leads drumming and dance circles for adults, families, people with disabilities, and seniors, as well as going to elementary and middle schools to educate kids about West African culture through dance and drum circles.

"Its powerful how it brings people together, and how it can be healing on a physical, mental, and emotional level," said Murphy. "Part of what I think is so therapeutic is people coming together and jamming together. There's a social and community aspect that is really powerful, and very healing in the sense of how it can be very uplifting in a group."

Murphy has also found that through teaching these dance and drumming circles and bringing it to different groups and sharing her joy in the art, has seen the difference it can make in spreading knowledge around diversity within other cultures.

"Using art to do the anti-racism work is sometimes much more effective- you appeal to people's inspiration and love of music and dance and costumes, and that can really transform people much more effectively," said Murphy

The work of diversifying our education systems can help kids learn about their heritage, which is something Murphy shared she wished she could have learned sooner.

Tara showing a little girl how to keep the beat.

"When I was growing up, there wasn't any diversity, and I think that really hurt me because I didn't get to learn anything about my heritage, so its really important for kids to learn about all cultures," said Murphy.

African culture is a culture that is close, and filled with a beauty and wisdom Murphy strives to share with all she meets, sharing the benefits also of learning about other cultures in our own western culture.

In an age of AI and people becoming addicted to devices, its important to find identity and belonging in culture and in your neighbors, rather than technology, which affects anxiety and depression.

"I think every culture has something good to offer, and we can all learn from each other," said Murphy.

You can find more information about upcoming drumming circles and Ammaya Dance and Drum on their website, www.ammaya.org.



Singing some traditional African music in West African languages.



Move your feet to the beat.

