

TOWN Reminder

FREE
April 5, 2024
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INDEX

Viewpoints	4
Sports	12
Car Care	15
Classifieds	18
Notices	19

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBERED

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Local veterans gathered at the Public Library on March 28 to remember those who served the U.S. in Vietnam, both living and deceased.

The ceremony served as a poignant reminder that all who bravely serve their country ought to be recognized for their valor and sacrifice, and as an important opportunity to show this well-deserved honor to those veterans still with us.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed annually on March 29 as a day to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans and their families during the Vietnam War, bringing attention to those who served in the United States military anywhere in the world between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975. The day was first proclaimed by President Barack



Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

Please see **VETERANS**, page 11

Veterans and members of the community gathered to remember those who served in Vietnam at the South Hadley Public Library on March 28.

School Committee approves FY 25 budget

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – After listening to the concerns of a number of parents, educators and residents, the School Committee voted unanimously in favor of approving the proposed budget for the coming school year at a public hearing on March 20.

Members of the public raised objections primarily over the re-

duction in paraprofessional staff proposed in the budget, as Superintendent Mark McLaughlin sought to demonstrate that his administrative team was balancing the needs of both students and the district's bottom line as best as possible.

The budget, as presented by McLaughlin and Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Voyik, will still need to be approved at the annual town meeting before it can take effect for fiscal year

2025.

For the first part of the meeting, McLaughlin and Voyik outlined difficulties being faced by the town in this current budgeting cycle, with an abnormally small increase in aid funding from the commonwealth being cited as a main driver of the need for cuts. However, McLaughlin strove to make clear that staffing decisions in this budget were

Please see **BUDGET**, page 8

Frustration grows about 3 Corners Package Store

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – At its April 2 meeting, the Selectboard once again continued a public hearing for the owner of the proposed 3 Corners Package Store at 450 Amherst Road.

Frustration from both Selectboard members and nearby residents has only grown since the public hearing began this past summer to discuss revoking or suspending the site's liquor license because it wasn't being used. However, the issue hasn't been resolved and has actually grown in scope.

"This is more complex than just about a license," said Lisa Wong, town administrator of South Hadley. Wong explained that she had received an update shortly before the meeting that Hamid Habib, owner of the site, intended to sublease the site now.

She said that both Habib and the intended lessee planned to attend the April 16 Selectboard meeting.

"We've let this go a very long time," said Jeff Cyr, Selectboard member, who added that he was very concerned about reports of trash at the site and that there has been no resolution to the board's concerns for months now. Cyr noted that if having a lessee will extend the issue more than he is inclined to say

Moody Corner has been neglected. The town has turned a blind eye to it."

HATTIE FINKEL,
South Hadley resident

no at the next meeting.

Wong responded that there are "economic concerns" because if the license is lost for the site then the site will lose value.

Two residents spoke at the meeting voicing their concerns about the derelict condition of the site and expressing their hopes for what will become of it.

Hattie Finkel, who lives behind the site at 450 Amherst Road, said that there is a collection of garbage and large items in the back of the building and that people tend to congregate there. She advocated for taking down the building and changing the roadway to make it safer.

"Moody Corner has been neglected," said Finkel. "The town has turned a blind eye to it."

Finkel added that she feels the board has been "played" by Habib since no real progress has been made at the site, but the board keeps giving him chances.

Please see **BOS**, page 3

KIDS N RIGS

Matthew and his mom pose with a cool race car. The community event featured 15 businesses who brought vehicles of all kinds for kids to enjoy and explore.

Turley Photos by
Emily-Rose Pappas



SEE MORE
PHOTOS ON
PAGE 10.

South Hadley Players debuts with 'Mary Poppins'

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – In its debut season, South Hadley Players will stage “Mary Poppins” as its very first production the weekend of April 12 to 14.

“Why ‘Mary Poppins’, you ask? Because it’s a fun show that everyone loves,” said Cynthia Strycharz, director of the show. “It includes both children and adults and the whole family can get involved together. The cast is fabulous! Very talented and dedicated.”

Based on the Mary Poppins children’s books and the 1964 Disney film, the musical tells the story of nanny Mary Poppins and her charges Jane and Michael Banks as they go on adventures and try to improve the disposition of the parents.

In the titular role of Mary Poppins will be Tara McKenna. Starring as Bert, the chimney sweep, is Sam Hicks, who many in the area watched grow up on the Eddie’s Furniture commercials. This is Hicks’s first lead role after roles with the Exit 7 Players and Opera House Players.

Just off her role in Michael E. Smith Middle School’s “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”, South Hadley seventh-grader Lily O’Connor plays the role of Jane Banks.

“I am most excited to be in the first South Hadley Players show and I hope I can keep doing it for years to come,” said O’Connor. “I hope everyone enjoys the show!”

Castmate Zoe Ferguson, a member of the kids ensemble agrees, saying “It’s fun to be in the play with my friends and my dad. My favorite part is singing Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.”

In its first-ever season, South Hadley Players is hoping to connect people who love community theater.

“South Hadley Players is a brand new theater group that has been reborn from a long history of community theater in South Hadley,” explained Strycharz. “Last year, Black Cat took their final bow which left a void in the world of theater in South Hadley. With the help of Dan Mashia and John and Pat Gelinas, I formed South Hadley Players with the hope it would reach cast members and audiences of all ages, hoping they would fall in love with the magic of theater.”

Back in 1983, Strycharz formed South Hadley Community Theatre in memory of her brother Jon Sibley, who died young in a car accident. Sibley had been an actor and alumni of South Hadley High School “who loved to perform, make people laugh and believed in the magic of theater,” recalled Strycharz.

That theater group became very successful, putting on a range of shows including “Bye Bye Birdie”, “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Sound of Music” and “Grease”. The group changed its name to Black Cat Theater and also put on many shows until it ceased operations last year.

When that happened, Strycharz decided to once again honor her brother’s memory by forming another community theater group, with the support of the South Hadley community and businesses.

“We have great support from community businesses and individuals who are reaching out to help us pay the rights for this show. Musical theater is expensive,” said Strycharz.

SHOW TIME:

Friday, April 12 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 14 1 p.m.

at South Hadley High School



Turley Photos by Tina Lesniak

Director Cynthia Strycharz directed a scene with Sam Hicks, Lily O’Connor and Cooper Pearson.

Right now, the group is firmly entrenched in putting on the best show it can, but it does have hopes for the future.

“To quote a line from the show ‘Anything can happen if you let it.’ We are hoping the community comes out and supports this show so that we can look to the future,” said Strycharz.

Shows run Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 13 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 14 at 1 p.m. at South Hadley High School.

General admission tickets are available online at www.south-hadleyplayers.ludus.com or will be available for purchase at the door. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$12 for students and senior citizens.



Avery and Michele Kostek rehearsed for the show.

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTH HADLEY

Come join us to talk about how extreme weather events such as heat waves, flooding, and more frequent large storms are impacting you and our community.



4/25/24

South Hadley Public Library 6-8PM

5/15/24

South Hadley Council on Aging 6-8PM

6/4/24

Location TBD in South Hadley 6-8PM

Attendees will receive dinner + \$10 gift card!

Can't join in person, complete the survey online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SouthHadleyMVP>

QUESTIONS??

acpra@southhadley.ma.gov | (413) 538-5030 x6128

Road closure for 3 months

SOUTH HADLEY – Attention South Hadley residents who travel on Main Street to Chicopee. Beginning Friday March 29, James Street hill from Syrek Street in Chicopee moving up the hill will be closed to thru traffic during work hours, Monday-Friday, 7a.m. to 5 p.m. This area will be closed to truck traffic completely, 24/7, during the duration of the work, estimated at this time to be 3

months. Trucks will be asked to seek alternate routes during this time. Note that both Britton Street and New Ludlow/Ludlow Road which connect Chicopee to South Hadley do not allow truck traffic.

Regular vehicular traffic can access Britton Street Chicopee via Spring Street and Smith Street in South Hadley. Detour signage will be placed.

COME AND SEE!!!

FREE SUNDAY MOVIE MATINEE!!!

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15 School Street
South Hadley, MA

Two Episodes a Week,
Sundays in April at 2 p.m.
April 7 - Episodes 1 & 2
April 14 - Episodes 3 & 4
April 21 - Episodes 5 & 6
April 28 - Episodes 7 & 8

Popcorn & Light Beverages
Will Be Provided.



THE CHOSEN
SEASON FOUR

Spring yard waste collection schedule

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley DPW will begin curbside spring yard waste collection on April 1 through April 26. Paper bags or open containers only. The waste must be curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Each route will have two collections. Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four feet in length. Leaves, grass and brush only, Pno plastic bags. For any questions or more information please contact the DPW at 413-538-5030.

Registration pick up in April

SOUTH HADLEY— Plains Elementary registration packet pickup for Pre-K, K and 1st grades will be during the month of April. Please stop by the office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOS from page 1

Neighbor Marc Desrosiers agreed, saying that the board has been too lenient.

“He’s given the town nothing,” said Desrosiers, who later advocated for returning the site to residential zoning.

One of the issues that makes it difficult for the site to have a successful business is the unique zoning it has, with business in the front and agriculture in the back.

Several members of the board expressed their desire to make the April 16 public hearing the final one for Habib and this site.

In addition to the public hearing, the board approved several warrants for the annual town meeting in May. Among them are three articles that would increase exemptions and asset limits for residents who are blind, changing the opioid stabilization fund to a revolving account that needs board approval to spend money and a citizen petition for hybrid planning board meetings.

The board also approved a change to Wong’s contract. Wong requested a \$10,000 cut to her salary for fiscal year 2025 as a way to help the town’s budget.



Submitted Photo

Daffodils for Meals on Wheels

The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors continue their annual spring tradition of putting together bunches of daffodils for South Hadley’s Meals on Wheels clients. The daffodils were delivered to WestMass Eldercare whose drivers delivered them with the meals. Pictured left to right: Marsha Hutchinson (WME driver), Myra Robles (WME staff), Kim Prough (Friends of the South Hadley Seniors) and Angel Luna (WME driver).

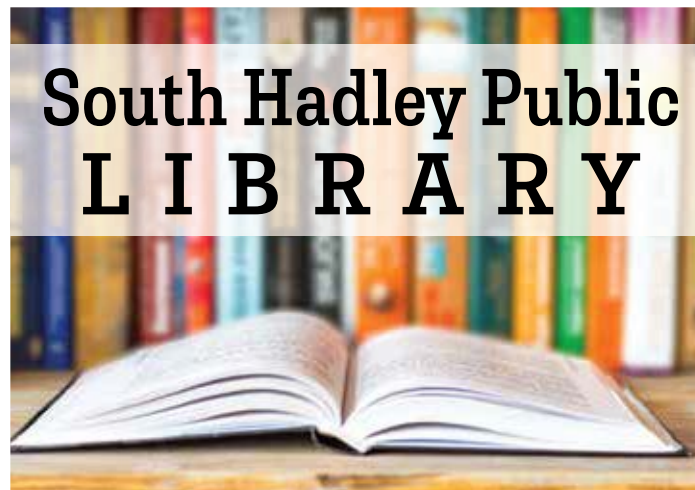
April events

SOUTH HADLEY – Spring is here, and stop by the South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Memorial Library to see what’s new, borrow some books, attend a free program, or just enjoy the unique settings at both locations.

Adult Programs at SHPL

One of the hardest trials in life is navigating the death of friends, family, and pets. The Visiting Nurses Association of Northampton will be here on Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m. to Navigate the Journey of Grief and Loss. Learn about the natural stages of grief and loss, from preceptory to post-grief and the resources that are available to you and your family.

Do you find yourself looking at the stars while thinking about the upcoming solar eclipse? On Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m. we’ll host a virtual program. Are We Alone in the Universe? presented by Scott Flaig. He will talk on the arguments both for and against life on other planets. Click here to register.



Perhaps a series of romance novels? Whether you are already a romance reader or new to the genre, join our Between the Covers book group for a monthly get-together of romance novels that offer happy endings and often are part of a series. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 9

at 3 p.m. at the library. Copies of The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, by Taylor Jenkins Reid, are available at the library.

On Wednesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. the National Park Services will give us a Virtual Tour of the Black Heritage Trail in Boston. Shawn Quigley will showcase the residences and community buildings associated with the Black Community that thrived on and near the north slope of

Class of 1974 plans 50th reunion

CHICOPEE— It’s the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road.. The reunion party will begin at 5 p.m. with cocktails and dinner.

Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach out to as many as possible. If individuals have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marcil Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larabee at penrose43@comcast.net. The committee will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

Beacon Hill before, during, and after the American Civil War.

Attention local history buffs and train lovers. Will Melton will give a local history talk on Rescuing Richardson’s Station: Holyoke’s 1855 Train Depot on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Come on down to the Community Room and find out about how this old railway station will be revitalized as a takeout and ice cream shop.

Earth Day is celebrated each April and the Kestrel Land Trust will show the new biographical film Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty on Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. Udall left a profound legacy of conservation and environmental justice as Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. His social and environmental successes stemmed from his ability to bring together people with disparate interests, and in-

Please see **EVENTS**, page 9

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Opinion

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Asparagus plants- upkeep, harvest and oddities

It was so much fun to be outdoors on Easter Sunday.

I enjoyed just sitting on the deck, talking with family and moseying around the yard while the little kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. It's funny that being outside is one of those things that once you do it, you want to do it more often.

It got me thinking of some of the tasks back home I have to do to get the gardens ship-shape.

One of the tasks concerns my asparagus bed. The grocery stores are teasing us lately, with spears from Mexico making an appearance in the sales circular.

I usually hold off buying it, preferring my home-grown to anything store-bought. I never did get to cut back the foliage in the fall after the first frost.

Presently, its laying down in the beds, making a catch-all for leaves. I'll to get in there with a pair of sharp clippers, cutting away the foliage, then with a rake to further tidy up.

Once complete, I'll sprinkle lime on the beds, followed by some compost, since asparagus prefers fertile soil on the alkaline side.

It'll be a few weeks still before the spears start to poke through the surface. Since my beds are several years old at this point, I will be able to harvest for a good eight weeks.

Be on the look-out for the asparagus beetle midstream and the black eggs that are laid horizontally shortly thereafter, usually apparent on the upper portion of the spears. I monitor my beds often and flick the bugs into a yogurt container of soapy water while squishing the eggs in-situ.

I don't do more than that in terms of pest control and I'm able to keep populations down.

Weeds are another foe. It's important to keep the beds weeded - especially free of perennial grasses, and you will likely have a productive asparagus patch for decades to come.

I usually harvest asparagus with a knife, so that the cut is clean. If the spear has gotten a bit too tall, but the buds haven't opened too much, I will still harvest it at the appropriate length of 6-8" long, and cut the rest of the stem off at ground level.

If the buds have opened and are too far gone to be edible (at least in terms of looking like traditional asparagus) I will just allow the foliage to grow, figuring that the photosynthesizing will benefit the roots in the long run, just as later foliage does after the harvest period is over. I usually let really skinny spears go to foliage as well - they are usually kind of tough.

Speaking of tough, what about those really thick spears, the kind that are "thumb-thick?"

If you notice the base of these spears to be woody and tough in appearance, get out the potato peeler and remove the outer skin, revealing a much more tender interior portion. An old friend taught me this trick, and it works out pretty well.

I'd be in remiss if I didn't address the stinky smell associated with eating asparagus.

Yesiree, it can happen even 15 minutes after ingesting it. Use the bathroom and voila, your urine will have a pungent, asparagus-like smell. Only maybe worse.

Our bodies convert asparagusic acid into sulfur-containing chemicals that are volatile enough to fly from the toilet up your nose, that is, if you have the ability to perceive it. Some people don't.

Call them lucky, perhaps. I consider myself lucky to have such an amazing vegetable growing right in my backyard, stinky or not.

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



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When should we claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits.

We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is two years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be?

Signed: *Almost Ready*

Dear Almost Ready:

The first thing to understand is that Full Retirement Age for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount.

The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some or all benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe

for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up to age 70.

So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages. And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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.

Voice

YOUR VIEW!

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

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



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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

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Oliveira fundraiser kickstarts re-election campaign

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW - The re-election kickoff fundraiser for State Sen. Jake Oliveira took place on Monday in front of a packed dining hall at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

Senator Michael J Rodrigues, current Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, spoke for his former padawan Oliveira.

"It is great to be here especially to spend some time with my good friend Jake Oliveira," said Rodrigues. "It was a little over 15 years ago that I actually hired Jake for my office because I realized at that time the amount of talent that this young young man had. He has since proven himself to be someone I can rely on."

Rodrigues said Oliveira cares about the issues going on in the district, and that he is a great spokesperson for the area at the State House.

"I can assure you that your issues, your voices, your concerns could not be better expressed by someone other than Jake Oliveira," Rodrigues said. "It is so good to see so many friends here. Jake and I speak regularly all the time while sharing our commutes to the state house and I continue to support him."

Oliveira appreciated the comments from Rodrigues, and recalled their time together many years ago.

"What he (Rodrigues) did not tell you is that 15 years ago, I was working on the State Rep's campaign over near my alma mater of Framingham State, and we met at an event like this, a fundraiser," Oliveira said. "We had dinner afterwards and from then on, when I was looking for a job after the campaign ended, obviously he saw my last name, a Portuguese last name. What he didn't tell you is that was the number one job requirement in his office at that time. So, I think I had a little bit of an advantage working for him at that point in time."



Two of Oliveira's biggest supporters, his mother Carol, and sister Georgie, were all smiles at the re-election fundraiser.



Turley photos by Harrison Giza
Seen here: Oliveira bolstering support for his campaign by doing what he does best, speaking from his heart.

Oliveira asked the supporters in attendance to vote for him again this year.

"I am again asking you humbly to if you have not already done so," Oliveira said. "Sign my papers in the back of the



Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, Senator Michael J Rodrigues, spoke for his longtime friend.

room to get me on the ballot, and then in September for the Democratic primary, I'd appreciate your support and vote. Hopefully in November we are successful in continuing the work that we've started."

Oliveira spoke about major wins he has been a part of; from legislature that made universal school lunch permanent for every child attending K - 12 schools, continued efforts to help healthcare workers get the financial support they deserve, and seniors struggling to get the proper medication they need to function.

"But there is more work to be done," Oliveira said. "We have a major economic development bill with projects here in Western Massachusetts that we need to continue to invest and build upon. To invest in our gateway cities like Springfield or Chicopee and in Holyoke, but also making sure that some of our smaller projects, that are in each one of our cities and towns, things like the Ludlow Mills, Belchertown State Schools, clean up for certain sites for the disastrous effects on climate change, we have an opportunity to invest in those programs now and at the same time make Massachusetts a much more affordable state to buy a house or place to live with our housing bill that we rewording on now."

The candidate expressed the importance of democracy and emphasized he needs his constituents to make it happen.

"Democracy is a two way street," Oliveira said. "Without you advocating to us, we do not know what to fight for. We don't have all the answers. It is about interaction and that is what I promise to do as a State Representative and that is what I promise to do as a State Senator, but I need your help sending me back there for another two years."

The event was catered by Ludlow staple Villa Rose and the recently opened Brazilian restaurant, Monster's Den.

Interested parties that were not able to attend but still wished to support the campaign were suggested to consider making a virtual contribution through a secure email link Oliveira's team provided.

The Jake Oliveira Re-Election Committee may be reached at PO Box 302 Ludlow, MA or email committeetolect-jakeoliveira@gmail.com.



The event was packed with a diverse array of Ludlow residents, all feasting on cold booze and fresh hot food.



The Senator posing with his mother in front go the podium at the Gremio Lusitano Club.



Open House
Saturday, April 6
9:30-12:30

www.macduffie.org to register




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The cut-off date for applications is April 17th.

Hadley Public Schools provides a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, integrity, and a love of learning.

South Hadley Council on Aging

45 Dayton Street, South Hadley • 413-538-5030 • www.southhadley.org/324/Council-on-Aging
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Community Table:

Mon-Fri Served by 12:15 p.m.

Breakfast-To-Go:

Mon- Fri Pick-up at Noon.

Breakfast Meals are intended to be warmed for the following day. Reserve meals by noon the day before. A suggested confidential donation of \$2.50 for guests 60+. Those under 60 are charged \$6.50 per Federal Regulations. The title III-C Meal Site program is provided by WMEC through funding from EOEA. For nutrition questions call WMEC 413-538-9020. x313

APRIL 2024

Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m.

Luncheon Outing to the Tigers' Den

Tickets \$12.00 pp. Limit of 24 must be reserved at the welcome desk. Join our own Chef Maggie for a wonderful lunch at the SHHS and support our wonderful culinary students.. Luncheon menu choices will be available when you purchase your tickets

Friday, April 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Gentlemen's Breakfast (Free!)

Hosts - Steven Laplante
and Jameson Glanville

ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate

April Culinary Lessons

For those who have completed kitchen safety orientation Meatloaf (3-ways) Limit 30 cooks. Supply fee \$10;

Prep & Culinary Lesson:

Mon., April 22 2 p.m.

Final Firing & Meal:

Tuesday, April 23 2:00 p.m.

Traditional meatloaf, South African Boboti, and Cajun Shepherds pie.

Tuesday, April 30 at 5:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Refreshments provided. An intergenerational runway extravaganza of Sustainable Fashion pieces crafted by South Hadley Senior Center makers, PVPA sustainable fashion 7th-8th grade students, and designers, Petula Bloomfield and Aimee Charlesworth. Runway show at 5:00 p.m.

Live music by the fabulous Michael Wilbur, saxophonist. Sign up to present your fashion or participate as a model for the show. In addition there will be items for sale at the event!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

New! Ukelele Group Sessions

Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Beginning April 2nd; Intermediate level group playing in a Round Robin setting.

New! Chair "Line"

Dance with Jennifer Jones

Thursdays at 3:15

Beginning on April 4th

Join Line dance instructor Jennifer for a fun, energetic exercise workout, choreographed to music for all levels and all abilities!

Senior Living Options Fair

Tuesday, April 9 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Come meet and ask questions of local Assisted Living and Independent Living programs. All participants will be eligible for a raffle.

Tech Help series with Sandy Cahillane:

Cutting the Cable: Pros and Cons

Part 1 April 4 and

Part 2 April 11 at 1 p.m.

Join Technology Instructor Sandy Cahillane for this two part event: Part 1 will focus on deciding to remove your television cable subscription by exploring pros and cons of doing so. In Part 2, learn how to access your favorite channels and streaming apps, such as Netflix, once you no longer subscribe to a cable television service.

Socials with MacDuffie Students

Wed., April 10 and April 17 at 2 p.m.

The MacDuffie students return for a rematch corn-hole competition and join our dance club! Stop by and say hello!

Veterans Memorabilia

Poster Workshops

April 10 & 17 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

In May the South Hadley Senior Center will be displaying Posters and Memorabilia of Veterans of all Military Branches depicting their time in service. To participate please contact Gene Maag, genemaag@yahoo.com or Kathy Florence at the Senior Center.

Celebrate National Library Week

with Staff from

The South Hadley Public Library

Thursday, April 11 from

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Library staff will have information about upcoming library programs, home delivery service, recommended reading lists, library card registration, and more!

Holistic Health Series:

Astrology 101 with Ben Kibby

Tuesday, April 16 at 5 p.m.

Learn about the four major components that go into a reading (signs, planets, houses, and aspects), and begin using your chart as a map to an authentic and fulfilling life. Ben will provide you with the tools to interpret the various parts of your birth chart, which provides a symbolic mirror of the contents, purpose, and destiny of your soul.

National Healthcare Decision Day

Tuesday, April 16 from

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Karen Buscemi, PMH-NP will be here to talk with folks about advanced care planning. National Healthcare Decision Day is a day for patients or healthcare receivers to make known to health professionals the kind of adequate care they wish to receive, and have those wishes respected and met.

Monthly Social Dance Club

with Richie Mitnick!

Wednesday, April 17 2 -4 p.m.

Cost \$4.00

Richie plays all the songs you want to hear, and dance to! Two hours of great music to get you moving and feeling great!

Monthly Birthday/Anniversary Party

Thursday April 18 at 2 p.m. FREE!

Join us as we celebrate our Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month with refreshments and entertainment by

Frank Sinatra tribute. Sponsored by the

Friends of the South Hadley Seniors

Coffee & Conversation

Friday, April 19 at 11 a.m.

Join us as Assistant Town Administrator, Chuck Romboletti, discusses the Senior Tax Work Off Program.

Spring Fling Bingo

Tuesday April 23 at 1 p.m.

Join us for a free Bingo with special Spring themed prizes and gift cards! Sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

TRIAD'S Sand for Seniors

Container Pick up

Pick Ups will begin on

April 30 at 10 a.m.

Sand will be picked up by the SHFD 1 & 2 through out the day. Please call Sandy at the Senior Center if your sand was not picked up.

2024 Summer Senior Farm Share

Application Deadline is June 1st

The South Hadley Senior Center is offering farm shares through Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA). The cost is a one-time payment of \$10.00 for the opportunity to have fresh vegetables over a 10-week period. Once again, we are excited to partner with Dave's Natural Garden in Granby!

Applications will be collected during the months of April and May. Weekly delivery to the Senior Center from the farm will begin in mid July. Applications are available at the Senior Center or by emailing Ann at aandras@southhadley.ma.gov. On June 1, thirty (30) names will be randomly drawn and those applicants will be notified. You must be 60 years or older to qualify. In addition, you must be able to answer yes to one of the four criteria:

- I receive SNAP benefits (Food Stamps), Medicaid, SSI, AFDC, or Veterans Aid benefits.
- I participate in the Food Bank's Brown Bag Program.
- I live alone and my income is below \$29,160; or
- The total income of my household is below \$39,440 (only one share per household please).

TRAVEL CLUB

Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

& Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Susan: 413-536-2106

Huguette: 413-530-6162.

April 17, 2024: American Country Classics with Dee Riley & her Band / Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA. / Self- Drive Package Includes: Luncheon and Entertainment. Cost \$90. Call Huguette

May 14, 2024: (SOLD OUT / WAIT LIST). Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT – Neil Diamond – SWEET CAROLINE. Join us for a fun afternoon with great music and friends. Cost \$130 – Call Susan

June 13, 2024: Newport Playhouse and Cabaret, Newport, RI. "Cemetery Club". A comedy where three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Enjoy this unique Dinner Theater experience. Cost \$145. Call Huguette

Please see **SENIORS**, page7

Small Grants Available to South Hadley Falls Businesses

Grants up to \$10,000 now available!

Applications due: April 30th at 3 p.m.

The Town of South Hadley is offering grants to commercial businesses, nonprofits, and commercial property owners in South Hadley Falls for eligible storefront façade enhancements or other eligible business improvements.

Grant application and more information online here:

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

South-Hadley-Falls-Business-Improvement-

Devine Overhead Doors




There's nothing better than dealing with someone who truly loves his job. Gerry Devine of Devine Overhead Doors certainly does. Talk with him and you'll agree.

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Seniors

South Hadly Senior Center events

SOUTH HADLEY— South Hadley senior center, 45 Dayton St., events for the week of April 8 through April 12. It's National Volunteer Month at the Senior Center – check out the Facebook page daily to see whom we're highlighting. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers. For more information or questions please call 412-538-5030. The Senior Center will be closed, Monday, April 15 in recognition of Patriot's Day.

Tuesday, April 9

10 a.m. - Low Vision Group – Any senior who has received a medical diagnosis of legal blindness, visual impairment or low vision can join.
 11 a.m. - Office Hours for Rep Carney and Sen Oliviera
 11:30 a.m. - Big Y shopping – call and schedule a ride.
 12:30 p.m. - BINGO Time Change
 12:30 p.m. - Diamond Art class
 Laura Dubreuil leads this group. Choose from many different projects to make with bling.
 From 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. – Senior Living Options Health Fair.
 Come meet and ask questions of local Assisted and Independent Living programs. All participants will be eligible for a raffle.
 4 p.m. - Ukulele Group is back.
 Intermediate level group playing a Round Robin setting.

Wednesday, April 10

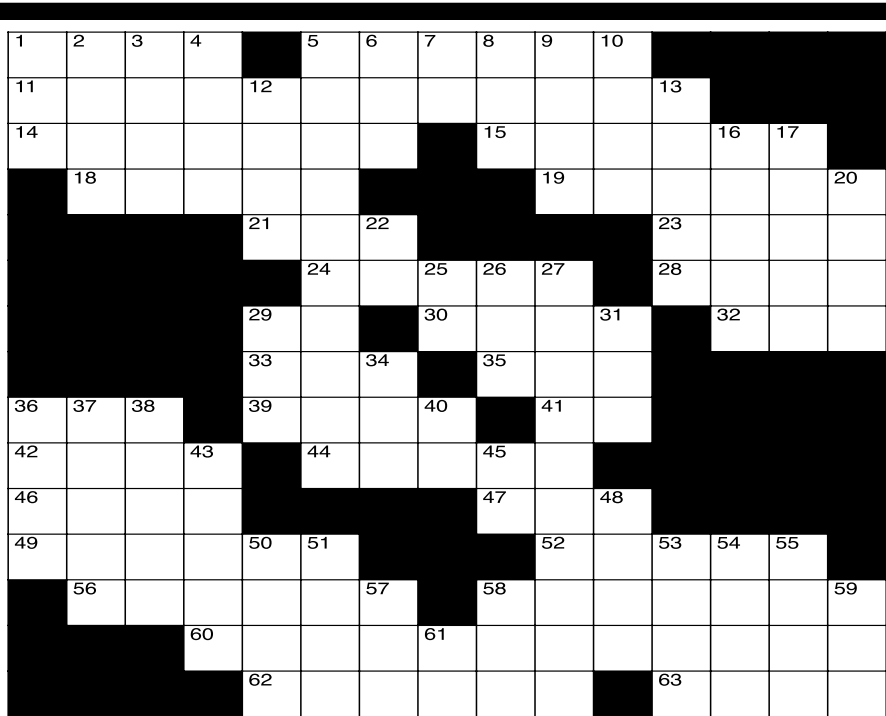
9 a.m. - Veterans' Social Hour
 2 p.m. – MacDuffie School Social
 The MacDuffie students return for a rematch cornhole competition.

Thursday, April 11

No Healthy Bones Today
 11 a.m. - Pet Therapy – Hello Riley!
 11 a.m. - South Hadley Library
 Library staff will have information about upcoming library programs, home delivery service, recommended reading lists, library card registration and more. It's National Library week.
 1 p.m. - Tech Help Series Part 1
 Join Technology Instructor Sandy Cahillane for this two-part event. Part 1 will focus on deciding to remove your television cable subscription by exploring the pros and cons of doing so.
 1 p.m. - Public Health Nurse
 Marge Bernard, RN will be here 1 to 3 p.m.
 2 p.m. – Community Companion Outing
 We will be visiting with our community friends at Hubert Place. Stop by for refreshments & friendship. Contact Kathy if you want to become a volunteer. kflorence@southhadley.ma.gov. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.
 3:15 p.m. - Chair Line Dancing,
 Join Line Dance instructor Jennifer for a fun, energetic exercise workout, choreographed to music for all levels and all abilities.

Friday, April 12

1 p.m. - Board and Brush
 Tickets at \$25 and must be purchased at the COA. Limit 20. Choose from 4 different Spring themed single board signs, your stain and then put the stencil on and paint them with help from the South Hadley Board and Brush staff.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. A minute amount (British) | 41. Commercial | city | 37. Doctor ___: children's book author |
| 5. Mystical or magical | 42. Spots where golfers start | 4. Clip | 38. Hebrew calendar month |
| 11. Shortening | 44. Polite form of address (Indian) | 5. In a way, misleads | 40. Designated hitter |
| 14. More satisfying | 46. French river | 6. Human gene | 43. Norther Poland village |
| 15. Other side | 47. Reduce the light | 7. The Golden State (abbr.) | 45. A passport is one form |
| 18. Philippine island | 49. Blood-sucking fly | 8. Lizard genus | 48. Hand (Spanish) |
| 19. More unnatural | 52. A way to categorize | 9. Parasites that invade the skin | 50. Hit with the open hand |
| 21. Mutual savings bank | 56. Procrastinates | 10. Took apart | 51. Actor Idris |
| 23. Famed designer Chanel | 58. Tall slender tower | 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese | 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The ___" |
| 24. Makes less wild | 60. Where researchers work | 13. S. California town | 54. Northern U.S. lake |
| 28. At some prior time | 62. Office of the Pope | 16. Suffix plural | 55. Marvin and Horsley are two |
| 29. The cops who investigate the cops | 63. Office furnishing | 17. Painting technique | 57. Soak |
| 30. Immune system response | | 20. Small Eurasian deer | 58. Partner to cheese |
| 32. Distress signal | CLUES DOWN | 22. Mr. T character | 59. Expression of disappointment |
| 33. Engine additive | 1. Possesses | 25. Microsoft | 61. College dorm employee |
| 35. "No Scrubs" trio | 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery | 26. Shock therapy | |
| 36. Very fast airplane | 3. Ancient Syrian | 27. Able to be sold | |
| 39. A reward | | 29. A doctrine | |
| | | 31. These three follow A | |
| | | 34. Pulse | |
| | | 36. Quantitative fact | |

Obituary

Tracy Marie Mascaro

Tracy Marie Mascaro, 51, Johnstown, passed away March 28, 2024. Born July 31, 1972, to Stanley and Barbara (Tracy) Palmer. She is preceded in death by her mother, Barbara Palmer; sister, Kimberly Pontz.



Tracy is survived by children, Stacy Comeau, James Seymour and Kacy Mascaro; father, Stanley Palmer. Tracy was a member of the Army National Guard, and a loving mother to her children. She enjoyed spending her time with her children and family. Family will receive friends April 4 from 2 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 3 p.m. at Hindman Funeral Homes & Crematory Inc., 146 Chandler Ave. Johnstown, PA. Pastor John Mondirin will be officiating the service. Arrangements in care of Hindman Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc., Condolences may be made at HindmanFuneralHomes.com

DEATH NOTICE

Tracy Marie Mascaro
 Died March 28, 2024
 Services April 4, 2024
 Hindman Funeral Homes

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 \$225, 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.

SENIORS from page 6

July 16, 2024: Friesians of Majesty - Townshend, VT & Cathedral of the Pines – Rindge, NH. Equestrian performance & guided tour. Includes: transportation, show, tour and luncheon. Cost \$145. – Call Susan

July 26 – August 4, 2024: NCL – Bermuda Cruise from NY Pier. For all inquiries on this cruise call The Ship Shop @ 1-800-243-1630 or Huguette

August 18 to 21, 2024: The Fabulous Finger Lakes & 1000 Islands, NY. This 4 day / 3 night / 9 meal getaway is packed with lots of fun and adventure. We'll be staying one night in Geneva, NY and two nights in Alexandria Bay, NY. Cost \$1,275. pp (double occupancy); \$1,599. (single); \$1,175. pp (triple). Call Susan

September 6, 2024: CT River Quest Cruise, Griswold Inn & Florence Griswold Museum. Cost: \$153. Call Huguette

October 9, 2024: Boston Duck Boat Tour/Waterfront dining at Venezia's & Winery. Cost \$150. Call Susan

November 7, 2024: Salem Cross Inn, Quabbin Tour & Entertainment. Cost \$125. Call Huguette

December 11, 2024: Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT – With Buddy Holly & Elvis. Cost \$135. – Call Susan



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 55 Taylor Street, Granby
 Alphabet Soup Preschool Plus of South Hadley
 5 Ferry Street, South Hadley

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April 3, 2020



TEACHER PARADE AN UNEXPECTED HIT
 A parade of teachers from the South Hadley School district drove around town to greet students during COVID remote learning. At the tail end of the parade, was Pat Lemieux, the high school vice principal with the ceramic tiger which is usually located in front of the high school displayed in his flatbed truck for the parade.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in April and May.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs,

rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.

Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

On Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed with a moderate 4.4 mile looped group

hike near Muddy Pond.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Route 122 rest area parking lot in Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jWsgofmrd-6NDyGzB6>)

The route climbs/descends roughly 140 feet in elevation. The foot path hikers will travel on is non-technical.

The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail. The hike begins/ends north of Muddy Pond.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4mi-loop-near-muddy-pond-from-rest-area/>.

Register here: [https://app.smart-](https://app.smart-sheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4fd-9847662dfe78286)

[sheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4fd-9847662dfe78286](https://app.smart-sheet.com/b/form/ab0e732a488d4fd-9847662dfe78286).

Exploring Quabbin Park

On Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., exploring Quabbin Park via the Tower Trail and Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown.

The hike will begin at the Tower Trail parking area which is located just inside the Middle Gate off Route 9 in Belchertown.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMJm-KDSjjMFz8>)

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 9

BUDGET from page 1

made with the needs of students front of mind, and were not made solely for fiscal reasons.

The staffing decision that seemed to draw the most attention from members of the public was the proposal to eliminate 29.8 full-time equivalent paraprofessional support staff from across the district.

Throughout the meeting, McLaughlin explained that this reduction in paraprofessional staff was meant to be part of a larger restructuring of the district's delivery of service. Though he did not detail the nature of this reorganization in depth, he did suggest that identifying alternative solutions over immediately referring students for special education at the first signs of difficulty would be a key component.

In response to an early question, McLaughlin said, "The way that we're trying to reorganize our school district is, like I've been trying to say, a reflection of the fact that we are thinking differently now."

Referring directly to the cuts to paraprofessional staff, McLaughlin continued, "We needed them, perhaps, before; we are saying that things have changed, the way we teach is changing, and those changes are requiring less of that support."

Later in the meeting, he gave a more specific example of what this restructuring would look like.

He explained that, for a considerable amount of time, schools across the country had been utilizing a reading educa-

tion model known as "Balanced Literacy," which he said was a widely popular concept that came to be found as lacking in the way that students were educated, leading to students with reading deficiencies.

"The tendency has been to refer a student – again, not just in South Hadley – but refer a student for an evaluation, because there seems to be a reading deficit," he said. "The question then becomes, is it a reading deficit inherent with the child, or does it appear to be a reading deficit based upon the curriculum that was provided to the child? That's where the question comes."

He went on to say, "What we're trying to do is try to advance our thinking about service delivery and curriculum... and then employ more research-based methods in teaching students at the classroom level, and thereby maybe diminishing the need for special ed services and supports."

However, members of the public did not always seem entirely supportive of this restructuring during the hearing. Amy Foley, a longtime educator in the district and president of the South Hadley Education Association, the district's teachers' union, made clear her concerns about the proposed staff reductions to McLaughlin and the School Committee.

"Over the last three days, I have been part of a process that I have never experienced before in my career," she said. "And that was sitting in on meetings for 29 staff members in the district receiving the notice that they were

In special education, when we are providing services, the services we provide our students need to be based on our students' needs."

AMY FOLEY,
President of the South Hadley Education Association

going to be laid off."

She went on to explain that "many of these layoffs are focused in special education," and detailed why she felt these reductions were not optimal for South Hadley.

"In special education, when we are providing services, the services we provide our students need to be based on our students' needs," Foley said. "I feel as though some of the decisions we are making are based on the district's needs."

"How are these cuts to the paraprofessionals, the special education paraprofessionals, across the district going to affect our compliance with IEPs, which are legal documents we have to make sure we're complying with?" she asked, referring to the federally-mandated Individualized Education Program documents that are written for every child in a special education program.

Foley also expressed discontent with the proposal to entirely

remove general education paraprofessionals from kindergarten classes at Plains Elementary School, a line-item reduction of roughly \$160,000 in the present-ed budget.

"If you've ever been the parent of a 5-year-old, you know what their attention span is," she said. Referring to her own experience parenting children, she added, "I knew what it was like to get them to attend to something for any amount of time. I couldn't imagine having to do that alone in a classroom with twenty 5-year-olds."

Additionally, longtime public servant Ira Brezinsky voiced concerns regarding enrollment trends in the district, and the growing deficit between revenues from students coming into the district via school choice and expenses for local students leaving the district via school choice.

"Every family and every student has the right to make choices that are proper for them," Brezinsky said. "And I think it's long past time for all of us to figure out once and for all what the values of our community are, what the values of our school system are, and how do we keep South Hadley students, South Hadley residents, being educated in our schools, and what do we need to do to attract other students to come."

He also cited the town's music programs as an area of concern that he felt could significantly bolster both student interest and productivity if properly invested in. He expressed dismay that the district's music programs had, in his view, not received the at-

attention and resources promised previously.

Members of the School Committee were largely supportive of the proposed budget.

Danielle Cooke expressed her happiness that the district would be adding support staff separate from paraprofessionals that would help to bring consistency and oversight in managing special education cases. She also praised McLaughlin and Voyik for the work they put in to preparing this budget.

"A lot of the job description for our position here puts a lot of trust and faith into the administration that they've done their research and are confident in the things that they propose to us," she said. "I have been impressed with the efforts that you've put forth to us thus far, and I think you've proven a nice track record of the results that you're anticipating actually playing out, and we've seen a lot of improvements because of the initiatives that you've taken."

"So I thank you for, while this is incredibly difficult, trying to think creatively and solve some problems."

The School Committee's acceptance of the superintendent's \$25.5 million budget prepares it for consideration at the annual town meeting, which will be held in May.

Town Administrator Lisa Wong will be holding budget drop-in hours on Tuesday, April 16 at the Senior Center from 5 p.m. until the start of the Select-board meeting.

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- Sundays - April 7 & 14 - 10am to 5pm
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- The deals continue from April 6 through April 14 - Monday-Saturday 8am to 5pm

**APRIL 6 & 7
APRIL 13 & 14**



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Banko to succeed Dr. Mark Keroack; brings national experience as president and CEO

SPRINGFIELD - The Baystate Health Board of Trustees today announced it has appointed Peter D. Banko as Baystate Health's new president and chief executive officer. He succeeds Dr. Mark Keroack, who previously announced his plans to retire after serving as the system's leader for 10 years.



**Peter D. Banko
President and CEO,
Baystate Hospital**

A transformational executive experienced in leading multi-faceted health systems in markets throughout the country, Banko was chosen after an extensive national search by the Board of Trustees. Banko will officially join Baystate Health the beginning of June 2024.

Banko most recently served as president and CEO of Centura Health, in Cen-

ennial, Colo., which was a part of the national system Common-Spirit Health. The \$3.8 billion hospital and health services system comprised more than 20 owned and affiliated tertiary and rural hospitals, an extensive network of physician partners, and numerous community-based services and clinics across Colorado, Kansas, and Utah.

"Among a slate of high-qualified candidates, Peter stood out for both his commitment to our community-based healthcare mission and decades of experience leading complex health systems in diverse and competitive markets. He offers a proven track record of strengthening programs and services, growing revenue and market

share, improving operations and operating discipline, and serving as a workforce champion," said Harriet A. DeVerry, chair, Baystate Health Board of Trustees. "We look forward to him joining the organization."

"Baystate Health has a stellar reputation around the country, and I greatly appreciate the immense responsibility that comes with joining such a truly mission- and values-driven team," said Banko. "I am beyond excited to embark on an exciting new era of healthy growth with my fellow 13,000 caregivers - in care for our patients, in community, in business, and in spirit. The possibilities for us together are endless in redefining health and health care in western Massachusetts and beyond."

Banko, a native of New Jersey, started his calling in healthcare as a junior volun-

Please see **BAYSTATE**, page 11

Button show April 13

THREE RIVERS— Massachusetts State Button Society spring meeting will be hosted by the Monson Button Club on Saturday, April 13, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There will be no button sales during the break from noon to 1:30 p.m. as lunch, a business meeting, and auction will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting club; bring your own brown bag lunch, and dessert will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

QUABBIN from page 8

Participants will hike up to the Observation Tower and take in the scenic view. The tower is currently closed indefinitely for repairs, so people won't be able to go inside.

Hikers will then utilize a connector trail down to Webster Road, and then loop back to where they began. The trail to the tower gains 475 feet of elevation.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce6482dfca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c>,

Quabbin's Hidden History

On Sunday, May 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. learn about Quabbin's Hidden History: Webster Road on this approximately .5 mile easy hike.

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/4RiEq17PC-NEf6s9E7>)

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road.

Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8fa0a8815fd-1474c801926220047b22f>.

Memorial Day at Quabbin Park Cemetery

On Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m.-noon, a Memorial Day Commemoration will be held at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Refreshments will be offered at 10

a.m. and the parade and services begin at 11 a.m. No registration required.

In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30 as a special day for honoring the soldiers that had died in the Civil War. Like communities across the United States, the towns of the Swift River Valley commemorated their war dead each year on Memorial Day until the towns' demise in 1938.

Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has been the center of Memorial Day services for the four towns. Please join the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Historical Society, the Veterans Council of Belchertown, Chauncey D. Walker Post #239, American Legion and the staff of the DCR Quabbin Reservoir for our annual Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

The public is welcome but please, no

dogs. (<https://goo.gl/maps/tDuKU2VLjxn-hVbdc8>)

Quabbin Park Cemetery tour

Following Memorial Day events on Sunday, May 26 from 2-3 p.m. take an easy walking tour of Quabbin Park Cemetery. The walk is on uneven ground (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rv4tzdEPProbaljV9>)

After they Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, join DCR staff for a cemetery tour focused on the stories of some of the Valley residents that served and lost their lives in service to the United States. The tour will begin at the town monuments.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/31306340e82941628d5e7fb-1bee3b017>.

EVENTS from page 3

spire them to achieve common goals. His example can serve us well today.

Online Author Programs

From Murder to Atonement-Confronting My Son's Killer with Diane Foley & Colum McCann. McCann, author of the award-winning and bestselling books Apeirogon, Let the Great World Spin, and Transatlantic. Tuesday, April 9 at 2 p.m.

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with Xochitl Gonzalez. New York Times bestselling author of Olga Dies Dreaming and Anita de Monte Laughs Last. Wednesday, April 17 at 8 p.m.

Teen Programs at SHPL

We continue our regular monthly programs with Crafternoon, Snackternoon and Xbox1. Crafternoon on Thursday, April 11, at 4 p.m. will feature Paracord and our Snackternoon on Thursday,

April 25 at 4 p.m. will feature Dirt Cups. Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon. We have brand new games for this month's Xbox1 sessions on Tuesdays, April 2 and April 16 at 3:30 p.m. Reach out to Bethany through email broberts@cwmar.org or by calling the library. See the Teen Room door for more information. We will end the month with our Evening Craft making DIY Lip Balm on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.. This program takes place regularly on the last Tuesday of the month.

During School Vacation

Week we have two exciting programs. We will be making Photo Collages with printed pictures on Wednesday, April 17 at 4 p.m. and Dragon Eggs on Thursday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Our Teen Takeaway craft this month is Friendship Bracelets! See Bethany for more details or to sign up for this terrific (and free) program.

Children's Programs at SHPL

April is National Poetry Month and we should soon be seeing spring flowers to go along with that flowery language. All of our regular programs continue in April: Build with Lego, Read to a Dog, Pajama Storytime on Monday April 29, Rhyme Time, Comics Club, Playgroup, Board Games, and Story Time. And of course, we have lots of extras for April vacation week: Special musical guest Michelle Kostek at Rhyme Time on Tuesday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.; Build with Lego on Tuesday, April 16 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Toddler Dance Party on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m.; Board Games on Wednesday, April 17 from 3 to 5 p.m.; Story Time on Thursday, April 18 at 10:30 a.m.; Outdoor Games -or- Indoor Movie (depending on weather), Thursday, April 18 at 2:30 p.m.; Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Instrument Petting Zoo, Friday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m.*; Ed the Wizard's Alchemy Laboratory, Friday, April 19 at 3 p.m.*

*Events marked with an asterisk require registration.

A few other special events in April: Ed Pop's magic show for kids on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. (thanks to the South Hadley Family Center), and Brie's Storytime and Balloon Twisting on Saturday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. (registration required).

Knitters, embroiderers and other crafters are invited to bring their handwork to the rotunda for Not Just Knitters from 3 to 5 p.m. on April 12 and April 26. For teens, Creative Writing Hour will be focusing on poetry April 4 at 4 p.m. For kids, we have our usual story times, LEGO club, and drop-in crafts and two special Saturday family fun events:

Family Playtime with Trains, Tracks, and Trucks on Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Board Games and Puzzles on Saturday, April 20 at 10:15 a.m.

Please note that SHPL will be closed on Monday, April 15 for Patriots' Day.



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Jameson and his mom, Nina, having fun honking the siren in the police cruiser.



Owen getting ready to drive the big bulldozer.



Kim Myers giving the Easter Bunny a great big hug.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



Captain Jay Houle giving out hats and more to junior firefighters.

KIDS N RIGS

Community brings trucks and fun for all ages

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The town put together a fun event for the community and its families for kids to enjoy exploring trucks of all kinds.

There were firetrucks and police cruisers, construction vehicles, tow trucks, 18-wheelers, and even a racecar for kids to sit in the driver's seat of and honk the horns.

David Isakson, who put together the event, said, "I wanted to create a fun event for the community to enjoy. it's all about giving back to the kids."

The event featured 15 businesses who brought trucks, cars, construction vehicles, trash trucks, and more. DJ Kush donated his time to provide fun music for the event.

Hampshire Towing also hosted a food drive for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. Sign Dynamics created and donated parking signs for the event.

The event was truly one to remember as families and local businesses came together for a day of fun.



Aubrey and her mom, Jesse, driving the tow truck.



Hunter and Harper with their mom Andrea and grandmother Darlene with the firetruck.



Two friends pose for a fun picture as a fireman and police officer.

VETERANS from page 1

Obama in 2012, and later officially established when signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2017.

South Hadley American Legion Post 260 Commander Brian Willette was proud to point out that the day has been observed annually in town since being formalized in 2017, apart from unavoidable disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic. He also highlighted just how important this day was, both for him personally and for the nation as a whole.

“For people of my generation, the Vietnam veterans had a very profound effect,” he said. “First of all, as a little kid, I wanted to be you. I idolized your service.”

This reverence only continued when Willette did join the military, saying, “When I entered the service in 1983, all of our sergeants were Vietnam veterans.” He said that these individuals passed on invaluable lessons: “They taught us a lot about life. They taught us how to soldier, first of all, and a little bit about life.”

But above all of this, they taught Willette and the whole country how to welcome soldiers home. “More importantly, it’s what they did after that service,” said Willette. “Welcoming home our generation from war.”

He explained that these Vietnam veterans made sure that no future veterans would receive the sort of response they did when they had returned home themselves.

“That generation, the Vietnam veterans, vowed to never let another generation of veterans return from combat to the lack of homecoming that they received,” Willette said. “They vowed that would never happen to another generation of veterans. And they led that way.”

He shared that Vietnam veterans locally had been part of this effort by welcoming returning service members at Westover Air Reserve Base, saying they had started this practice in 1991 in the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm. Willette shared that he himself received a similar welcome upon his own return from deployment in Afghanistan.

He went on to detail the further work done by Vietnam veterans to support future generations of veterans. “They carved out the modern VA system,” he said. “By trial and error – they’ll tell you mostly error – they made the VA what it is today.”

He added, “Our generation is beneficiaries of it all, of your hard work. You



Veterans and members of the community gathered to remember those who served in Vietnam at the South Hadley Public Library on March 28.



Three-time Purple Heart recipient Larry Desrochers was thankful for a road sign being dedicated in his honor.

were our heroes then, and you are my heroes now.”

Included as part of the ceremony was the dedication of two new Purple Heart Town signs, with one each being set aside for South Hadley and Granby to replace previous signs that had been damaged or went missing. South Hadley’s sign honors town native Corporal Robert J. “Bobby” Sowinski, killed in action in Vietnam in

1968, while Granby’s sign is dedicated to Lenny Desrochers, who was wounded in action in Vietnam.

Sowinski’s cousin Susan Opalenik was present for the ceremony, and gave a deeply moving tribute in honor of the fallen soldier. “I remember sitting in my class in junior high school and seeing the flag at half-mast, knowing it was for my cousin,” she shared at one point.

“War is such a horrible thing that takes so many lives,” Opalenik said. “We must never forget those who have lost their lives, and honor our veterans and those who are currently serving our country.”

Lenny Desrochers was present at the ceremony, and shared a few words of his own. “I served with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, Delta Company,” he said. “Lost a lot of guys there. Those are the ones that really should be honored, the ones that got the Purple Heart and never got to come home.”

He also was able to deftly introduce a welcome levity to the otherwise solemn occasion. “This is the second sign that I got, and I told you that I got wounded three times,” Desrochers said, to an eruption of laughter from the crowd.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira also had the opportunity to speak at the event. “It’s an honor to be here today just to pay tribute to those who served in Vietnam,” he said.

“We call attention to a war that some had a storied past with, and my generation



Brian Willette and Mike Slater share a heartfelt moment after Slater was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to veterans in town.

learned from significantly,” Oliveira said. “I think what my generation learned from the Vietnam generation is that, you can disagree with the politics of the war while still supporting the troops.”

Time was also set aside during the event to recognize Mike Slater, a veteran who has served as the town’s Director of Veterans Services in recent years but who will be moving on to a new position serving veterans across the region.

“He’s really made a difference in this town,” Willette said of Slater. “He’s connected so many dots in the community.”

Slater echoed the common theme of the whole event, that it was the Vietnam veterans who deserved the appreciation.

“For me, coming back in the airport, when we would get off of the plane, we would look down from the concourse, and those would be the guys that would stand up,” he said. “They would see us coming and they would stand up, and they made sure that we came home better than they did. And for that, we owe you forever.”

He also gave his thanks for having been able to serve the town and its veterans. “This job has been amazing,” he said. “It has been an honor to serve South Hadley as Director of Veterans Services. We have done some amazing stuff with every different aspect of the town.”

The event closed in a spirit of camaraderie and patriotism as those present joined their voices for a chorus of “God Bless America”.

BAYSTATE from page 9

teer and has served in CEO-level roles for several health systems for nearly two decades. He has an industry reputation of leading innovation, transformation, integration, and partnerships with hospitals, physician groups, and health

plans. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and his Master of Health Administration degree from the Sloan Program in Health Services Administration at Cornell University.

In his role, Keroack was a leading voice during the

COVID-19 pandemic for the region, offering public-health information and partnering with public-health officials to address the crisis. A native of Springfield, Mass. he joined Baystate Health in 2011 as chief physician executive and president of Baystate Medical Practices and was appointed to the CEO role in 2014.

He has had a long career in both medicine and health administration, serving in leadership roles at UMass Memorial Medical Group and the University HealthSystem Consortium.

“We are immensely grateful for the contributions of Dr. Mark Keroack as an exceptional leader and clinician who has success-

fully led the organization for the last 10 years with a deep commitment to Baystate Health and to our community,” said Colleen W. Holmes, vice chair, Baystate Health Board of Trustees. “We congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.”

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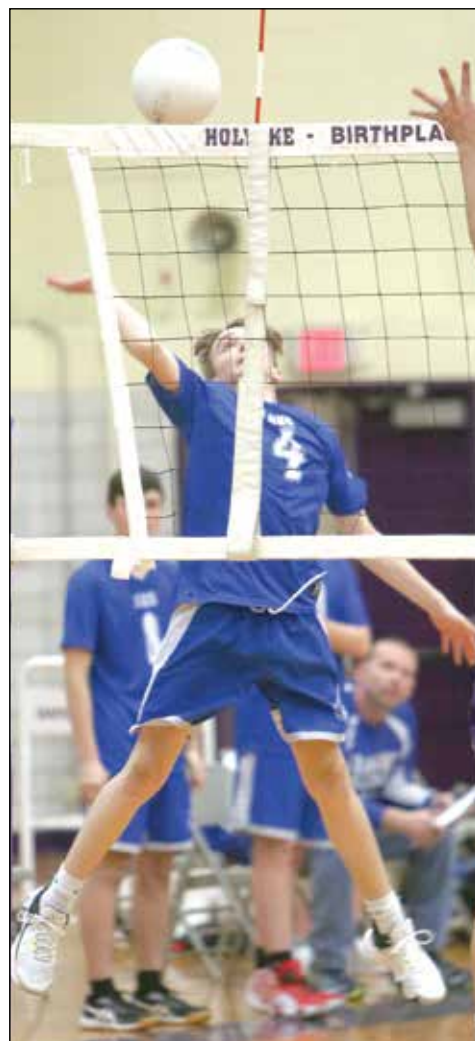
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Rams outlast Holyoke in opener



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Braeden Gallagher goes for the spike.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—The season opening boys' varsity volleyball match between the Granby Rams and the Holyoke Purple Knights was a very close affair from start to finish.

With the score tied 6-6 in the fifth set, the Rams reeled off nine unanswered points giving them a hard fought 3-2 victory at John "Jinx" O'Connor Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

"We lost eight players from last year's team, so it's pretty exciting to win our season opener with some new players," said Granby senior co-captain Michael Swanigan. "I'm very happy with the way we played in tonight's match."

The Rams, who captured the West League title with a perfect 8-0 record a year ago, only have eight players listed on this year's varsity roster. They won the first set, 25-14, the third set, 25-15, and the deciding set 15-6 in their season opening victory.

"I thought we played very well in our first match of the season," said Granby head

coach Chad Gagnon. "We've had some very good matches against Holyoke during the past couple of years. It's a friendly rivalry."

The Purple Knights won the second and fourth sets. The score of those two sets were 25-15.

"We did start off a little bit slowly, but we managed to battle back in the second and fourth sets," said Holyoke assistant varsity coach Josh Abrams. "We still have some things we need to improve on, but I'm pleased with our overall effort. We're hoping to have a very good season."

The Purple Knights boys' varsity volleyball coach is Paula Conway.

While Holyoke High School has been playing volleyball for many years, this is Granby's third season competing at the varsity level.

The two teams split the season series a year ago.

Granby celebrated a 3-1 win on their senior night before losing, 3-0, on Holyoke's senior night a week later. The Purple Knights also won the only meeting of the

Please see **RAMS**, page 14



Nicolas Grandmont sails a spike through a Holyoke defender.

Games being delayed or moved off Monday for solar eclipse

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Athletes, parents, and fans are seeing changes to their schedules related to next Monday, April 8.

Several games and contests being held outdoors have had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be ap-



proached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun."

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline. "I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8, is actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse. It is currently forecasted to be sunny with temperatures in the low 60's. For more information on what contests have been moved to different times or off the date altogether depending on the availability of officials, go to www.arbitratorlive.com for up-to-date schedules.

Sixth inning run lifts Tigers

EASTHAMPTON – In their season opener on Monday, South Hadley softball defeated Easthampton 1-0. The two teams managed just seven hits combined, but it was an RBI by Grace Matyszewski that scored

Aras Powers and put South Had-

ley on the scoreboard. Isabella Schaeffer did the rest of the work. She went a complete game, allowing just three hits and a walk. She struck out 14 batters in getting the shutout win to open the regular season.

Quabbin Valley baseball registration open

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 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 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late 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 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.

2024 SPRING VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULE

South Hadley High School

BASEBALL

Tuesday, April 2	Home	Wahconah	3:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Away	Granby	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	Mt. Greylock	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Home	Granby	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 27	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Home	Smith Voc.	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Hampshire	3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Away	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Ware	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Tuesday, April 2	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Wahconah	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	W. Springfield	5 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 20	Home	Granby	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Home	Westfield	5 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Wahconah	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Amherst	5 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Pope Francis	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Home	W. Springfield	7 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Away	E. Longmeadow	7 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Friday, March 29	Away	W. Springfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Home	Westfield	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Mt. Greylock	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Wahconah	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	Northampton	7 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Mt. Greylock	5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Wahconah	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	Granby	6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Away	Monson	4 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Monday, April 1	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Monson	5:30 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	E. Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Home	Agawam	1 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	Frontier	2 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Minnechaug	4:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	W. Springfield	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 4	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 11	Away	Monson	2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	E. Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	Turners Falls	7 p.m.

BOYS TRACK

Friday, April 5	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Palmer	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Away	Hampshire	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK

Friday, April 5	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Palmer	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Away	Hampshire	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Thursday, April 4	Home	Holyoke	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5	Away	Northampton	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	W. Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Central	5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	W. Springfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Home	E. Longmeadow	3:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Mt. Greylock	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Renaissance	5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	Agawam	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Friday, March 29	Away	Veritas Prep	6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Bay State Acad	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9	Home	Hampden	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	Charter	6 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Home	PVCA	6 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Chicopee	5:15 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	SICS	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Away	W. Springfield	6 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Home	Veritas Prep	6 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Home	Bay State Acad.	6 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Hampden	5:15 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Charter	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Athol	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Away	Chicopee	5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Home	PVCA	5:15 p.m.
		Duggan	6 p.m.
		Ware	5:15 p.m.

Granby High School

BASEBALL

Friday, March 29	Home	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Mt. Greylock	4:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Away	Greenfield	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	Ludlow	4:45 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Home	Ware	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Wahconah	4:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Ware	7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	SICS	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	Pathfinder	3:30 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Thursday, March 28	Away	Belchertown	3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Away	Chicopee Comp	6:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 4	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Monson	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Home	Northampton	5:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	E. Longmeadow	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 20	Away	South Hadley	10 a.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Smith Voc	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	McCann Tech	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Smith Voc	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Home	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Monday, April 1	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Pittsfield	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6	Away	Northampton	12 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Monday, April 15	Away	Chicopee Comp	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Home	McCann Tech	12 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Away	Hoosac	12 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Lee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23	Home	Hampshire	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Amherst	4:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 4	Away	Wahconah	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Home	Hoosac	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Lee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	Away	McCann Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Away	South Hadley	6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 20	Away	Mt. Greylock	5 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Tuesday, March 26	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Friday, March 29	Home	Mahar	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Away	SICS	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Home	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Home	Ware	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Holyoke	1 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Home	SICS	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Away	Palmer	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Away	Ware	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Away	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Away	Hopkins	4 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Home	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	Smith Voc	4 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, March 28	Away	Holyoke	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2	Home	Chicopee	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Home	Duggan	5:15 p.m.
Monday, April 8	Home	Ware	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Away	Athol	5:15 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Away	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Away	Southwick	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Away	Duggan	4 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Home	Longmeadow	5:15 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Away	Sci-Tech	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24	Away	SICS	5 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Away	Ware	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Home	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Home	Putnam	6:15 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Away	E. Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Monday, May 6	Home	Holyoke	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	Home	Athol	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15	Away	Frontier	6 p.m.
Friday, May 17	Home	Sci-Tech	6:15 p.m.

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Abdel Talabi settles the ball for the Pioneers.



Ben Awashie works on the offensive side of the field.

WMass Pioneers look to keep adding

LUDLOW – With about a month remaining until the regular season begins, the Western Mass. Pioneers got a look at their potential 2024 team in the Open Cup

match, a loss, held two weeks ago. Now, the Pioneers will continue practice at Lusitano Stadium until they have a “friendly game” exhibition contest on May 10 against

Third Eye FC. The home opener for the Pioneers will be on Thursday, May 18 against Pathfinder FC, a familiar opponent for the Pioneers.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Juri Schlingmann looks to avoid losing possession.



Tomas Duben looks to get through an opponent during an Open Cup match.

Late power-play goal sinks T-Birds

UTICA, N.Y. -- The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-30-3-2) battled back from an early two-goal deficit, but a late power-play goal from the Utica Comets (29-26-4-5) resulted in a 4-3 Comets win on Saturday night at Adirondack Bank Center.

For a second straight evening, the T-Birds relented a goal to their opposition in the opening half of the first period. Just 4:00 into the action, Shane Bowers skated the puck across the T-Birds blue line, creating a 2-on-1. Bowers opted to take it himself, beating Colten Ellis on the glove side and making it 1-0 for Utica.

Springfield's power play had two chances in short order to try to equalize, but the man-advantage came up empty each time. Utica made the T-Birds pay for that at 12:26 when Will MacKinnon let go a seeing-eye wrist shot from the blue line that nicked the

inside of the post and beat Ellis to give the Comets a 2-0 lead.

The Comets continued to have penalty troubles, though, and at 16:28, Tanner Dickinson got Springfield's power play on the board with a perfectly placed wrist shot over the glove of Akira Schmid, and the lead was cut to 2-1.

The Comets, though, were undeterred, and they restored the two-goal cushion just 1:29 later when Erik Middendorf crashed the net from the right-wing side. Ellis made the first save, but the rebound sat in the crease, and Middendorf polished it off to give Utica a 3-1 advantage at 17:57, a lead that carried through to the break.

The T-Birds' power play again had a chance to turn the tide of the game when a pair of Utica penalties gave Springfield

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 19

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State

Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include

Please see **GAMES**, page 19

RAMS from page 12

2022 campaign between the two squads by the final score of 3-1.

“We’ve been playing Holyoke since I was a sophomore and they’ve always been a very good volleyball team,” Swanigan said. “It was another exciting match tonight.”

Swanigan is planning to become a member of the first men’s volleyball team at Curry College next fall.

“I’m very excited about having the opportunity to continue playing volleyball in college next year,” Swanigan said. “I’m going to be the first boys’ volleyball player from Granby High School to play volleyball at the college level.”

A couple of the Purple Knights standouts are senior co-captain Jeduar Colon, senior Adrain Centeno-Feliciano, and junior Michael Melendez.

Holyoke junior Nathan Jusino, who’s a setter, didn’t play in the season opening match because of an injury.

Granby sophomore Jake Gagnon, who’s also a co-captain, handled the serving duties at the end of the final set. Senior Nicolas Grandmont had a couple of blocks during that stretch and sophomore Braeden Gallagher added a kill, which helped the visiting team seal the deal.

“I’m very proud of my team,”

coach Gagnon said. “All of them are hard workers and they play volleyball all year long.”

A Gagnon kill in the opening set gave his team an 8-4 advantage.

With Swanigan handling the serving duties, the Rams then rattled off the next eight points giving them a comfortable 16-4 lead and they took a 1-0 lead in the match.

Just like Granby did in the first set, Holyoke served first in the second set and they raced out to an early 5-2 lead following a Colon kill.

The home team kept the lead until the Rams went ahead for the only time at 15-14 with the help of a 4-0 spurt.

The Purple Knights ended the second set with an impressive 11-0 run. Centeno-Feliciano did the serving while Colon had a couple of kills.

With freshman Nate Walsh doing the serving, the Rams scored the final seven points of the third set which gave his team a 2-1 overall lead in the match.

The Purple Knights never trailed in the fourth set, and they forced the outcome of the season opening match to be decided in the fifth set.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two teams is scheduled to take place at Granby High School on May 6.



Jake Gagnon sets up a spike.



Nate Walsh reaches out for the bump.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Spring CARE CARE & DRIVING



What to do after an auto accident

No one wants to get into an automobile accident. Even accidents that do not result in any major injuries can be traumatizing. Knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of an accident may make such instances less stressful.

First determine if any of the involved parties suffered an injury. If

you are injured, stay put. If not, check on the condition of the other driver. Next, make a call to emergency services to request assistance from the police and an ambulance, if necessary.

If possible, pull the vehicle over to a safe, well-lit public location. If the car will cause another road hazard, it

is best to move it over to the side and use flashers to alert oncoming traffic. It is important that you don't leave the scene.

You should take pictures of the damage to your vehicle, the other vehicle, if possible, and the scene of the accident, including any skid marks, debris and/or property damage. If

there are any witnesses to the accident, get their names and contact information. Collect the names, phone numbers, addresses of other drivers and vehicle occupants and exchange insurance information with all drivers involved. That includes the insurance company name, policy number and the name of the insured.




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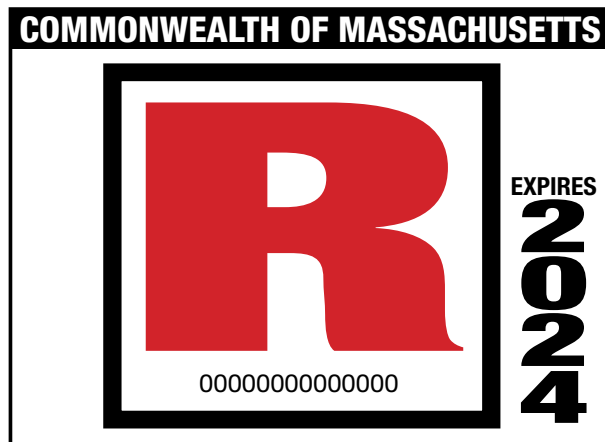




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Spring CARE CARE & DRIVING

Essential road trip packing checklist

The open road beckons millions of motorists upon the arrival of warm weather. In advance of the season's first road trip, drivers tune up their engines and plan their itineraries for the adventures that lie ahead.

While it may be tempting to get behind the wheel and see where the road takes you, those who have been around the block — or highway — a few times likely know that road trip planning involves careful packing for the voyage ahead. Bringing the right items along can go a long way toward ensuring a trip is enjoyable and runs smoothly. This list of must-haves can get anyone started on the road trip ahead.

- Proper paperwork: Don't forget to bring along a driver's licence, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and your rental car agreement if you are renting a car. In certain instances, you may need proof of COVID-19 vaccination and/or a negative COVID test. Double-check that you have it all before leaving.
- Vehicle manual: Even the most well-maintained car may suffer a breakdown on the road. Bring along the vehicle manual, which can help you diagnose minor problems. Keep your roadside assistance membership card at the ready in the event you need extra help.
- America the Beautiful Pass: If you plan to

visit various national parks across America, an investment in the America the Beautiful Pass for \$80 provides access to the pass holder and three other adults to more than 2,000 recreation areas managed by five federal agencies. It's available by visiting store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html.

- Important phone numbers: Bring a written list of important phone numbers in case your phone dies or gets lost.
 - Cash: Credit and debit cards are a reliable form of payment, but cash is king. Having cash on hand is a smart move in the event bank cards get lost. Cash also is especially useful when patronizing smaller establishments that might not take credit.
 - Roadside emergency kit: Keep a tire changing kit, flares, tools, jumper cables, duct tape, and work gloves in the vehicle for emergencies.
 - GPS and maps: GPS systems on phones and other devices provide step-by-step directions and can alert to traffic jams. But GPS can be compromised in areas where cellular or satellite service is interrupted by mountain ranges or buildings. The Maps.Me app enables you to download detailed maps that can be accessed while offline. Paper maps can serve as backups as well.
 - Entertainment: Long road trips are full of opportunities to visit roadside attractions. For the times when the highway is a long stretch of nothing new, bring along movies, music, books, handheld games, and even trivia or mind puzzles to pass the time.
 - Cooler with refreshments: Dining out is a great way to sample local cuisine from various regions of the country. But having snacks at the ready can save time and money.
- The list of road trip essentials continues, but this is a good start. The list can be customized based on drivers' interests and their destinations.



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How to maintain an older vehicle

New cars have been costly for quite some time, but those costs have spiked considerably since the onset of the pandemic. That unprecedented rise has led many motorists to wonder how they can get more mileage out of their existing vehicles.

According to data from Kelley Blue Book and Cox Automotive, the average cost of a new car in September 2021 was just over \$45,000. That marked a \$3,000 increase from June 2021 and a \$5,000 increase from the end of 2020.

Drivers who can't afford to keep up with the rising cost of new vehicles can take these steps to keep their existing cars running smoothly.

- Take care of the timing belt. Engines may get all the glory, but they cannot run smoothly without a fully functional timing belt. Engines need various components to do their job, and those components must do so at the right time for the engine to run smoothly. Fully functional timing belts help to synchronize movements, but belts must be replaced every so often.

Owner's manuals may note when to replace the timing belt, but they generally must be replaced every 60,000 to 105,000 miles.

- Take care of the brakes and associated components. The experts at Popular Mechanics urge drivers of older vehicles to replace their brake fluid every two years. Also drivers whose cars are more than seven years old to replace the rubber brake lines when major brake work is required.
- Pay attention to oil levels. The older engines get, the more oil

they're going to burn. So drivers of older vehicles should check their oil levels more often than they would if their vehicles were brand new. This also is a great way to discover leaks before they lead to significant issues.

- Don't skip maintenance appointments. Even if you're driving less, it's best not to skip recommended maintenance intervals. Routine tune-ups and oil changes, which may need to become more frequent the older the vehicle gets, can keep cars running smoothly and protect the engine.

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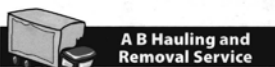
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Town of Granby LEGAL NOTICE

1. Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that the Granby Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on **Monday April 22, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.** at 10-B West State Street (Senior Center Building) 1. to consider the transfer of a retail Section 15 Package Store-All Alcoholic Beverage (Off Premises) License for Bruso Liquor Mart, Inc. to 367 East State, Inc. d/b/a Bruso Liquor Mart 2. to consider

James Gibbons as Manager. Premises describes as follows: One story building containing 3,110 square feet, two rooms located at 367 East State Street, Granby MA 01033

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

Glen N. Sexton
Crystal L. Dufresne
Richard A. Beaulieu
Granby Selectboard
Licensing Commissioner
04/05/2024

Town of Granby LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that the Granby Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:15 P.M.** at 10-B West State Street (Senior Center Building) on the application *Laurie Ann Bernier for Something Special Catering Service and Cafe, seeking 1. a Wine and Malt Beverages (Restaurant on Premises) License and 2. to consider Laurie Ann Bernier*

as manager for premises described as follows: 32 seat café inside with one floor at 960 square feet and 22 seats for outside patio at 800 square ft, located at 181 West State Street, Granby MA.

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

Glen N. Sexton
Crystal L. Dufresne
Richard A. Beaulieu
Granby Selectboard
Licensing Commissioner
04/05/2024

GAMES from page 14

a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery,

swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Show-

case, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

T-BIRDS from page 14

some time on both 4-on-3 and 5-on-3 advantages. Unlike the night before, though, the T-Birds came up empty, and the 3-1 score carried past the midpoint of the game.

With Utica on a power play at 12:15 of the period, Springfield used its shorthanded unit to claw back into the game when Will Bitten won a footrace to a loose puck at the Utica blue line, storming in on Schmid and roofing a shot over the goaltender's trapper

to make it a 3-2 game on Bitten's 17th goal of the season.

Bitten's goal got the T-Birds' mojo back, and 3:12 later, Ryan Suzuki tied the game on his second point of the night. After Adam Gaudette narrowly missed the top corner, the T-Birds' leading scorer retrieved the puck in the left corner and laid it off to Hugh McGing. With little space available, McGing slid a perfect pass through the top of the blue paint to Suzuki, who one-timed it through Schmid to tie the score.

The stalemate carried to the second

intermission, and the two teams cautiously played the opening 15 minutes of the third scoreless. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, a Bitten minor penalty opened the door for Utica's power play, and after a Justin Dowling shot rang off the post, Bowers was in the right place to lift the loose change into the twine with 3:18 to play. Bowers' fourth point of the night and eighth goal of the season proved to be the dagger, and for the fourth straight time in the season series between Springfield and Utica, the home team came away victorious.

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GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us Open until filled. *Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*

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SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PALMER seeks a skilled, outgoing, and caring Church Administrator to manage the business affairs of the church and to work closely with our Pastor, Moderator, and church members to advance church missions and community outreach. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organizational skills, be proficient in the use of computer and website technologies, and be creative in developing procedures and practices. The applicant must maintain strong, positive interpersonal relationships with members, ministries, and staff. This job is a 25-hour/week position, Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm, with PTO benefits. Pay commensurate with experience. Please email resumes to sc1847media@gmail.com.

TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email highway@hampdenma.gov for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

FIREFIGHTER/EMT

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill a vacancy for Firefighter/EMT. Paramedic Certification or currently attending paramedic school highly preferred. For application and more info. visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Deadline 4/17/24

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1 P/T BORROWER SERVICES ASSISTANT P/T RECYCLING ATTENDANT SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR SUMMER LIFEGUARD

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

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

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Glory of the snow

Submitted photo
Scilla forbesii, also known as glory-of-the-snow, trying to weather the hail and snow storm we received mid-week. These plants bloom very early in spring and produce sprays of star-shaped flowers in shades of either blue, pink, or white.



GFPL offers April vacation fun

GRANBY – Stop by the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State St. during school vacation week for a number of fun activities.

Lego Free Build

A Lego Free Build will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 11 a.m. Bring your imagination and build away with our extensive collection of Lego. This drop-in activity is for ages 4 and up.

Spring Scavenger Hunts!

Try the library's "I Spy" Mini Fairy Garden Tank through April. During the week of April 17-19 join the "Outdoor Fairy Find" and find four fairies hiding in outdoor garden and fill out their names on the find sheet.

The form you fill out from each activity is a raffle ticket for a fairy garden basket.

Puppet show

Fairies of the Season Puppet Show Thursday, April 18 at 11 a.m. Every season has unique qualities: the trees look different, different kinds of plants are growing, and people wear and do different things.

In this magical show, each season has its own fairy that takes care of changing the natural world accordingly. This puppet show is for ages 2-7 and pre-registration is required.

All library programs are free of charge and open to the public. Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information and to pre-register for programs.



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