

TOWN Reminder

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Granby school leaders outline budget deficit

Warn of 'painful choices' ahead

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – Facing rising special education, health insurance and transportation costs amid stagnant state aid, Granby school officials told residents this week the district is starting down an \$847,772 budget deficit for fiscal 2027 and may need to cut staff and services if new funding doesn't materialize.

The finance presentation to the School Committee on March 31 framed the district's situation as part of a broader statewide funding crisis, particularly for small, rural and "minimum aid" districts that rely heavily on local taxpayers while lagging behind inflation. Administrators said they are trying to protect classroom services but warned they are "really at the bare bones" and running out of places to cut.

"The state funding formula is not working for us."

– Superintendent
Mary Jane Rickson

Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson opened the hearing by stressing that the spending plan remains in flux as town officials work to stabilize municipal finances and hire a new town administrator.

"This budget is not a final budget. This is a hearing to talk about what our projections are," Rickson said, noting the schools are operating with "preliminary" figures while the town sorts through

months of backlogged financial work.

Using the state's Chapter 70 aid projections and conservative assumptions about the town's contribution, Rickson said the district's FY27 operating budget of about \$12 million is currently short by nearly \$848,000, even after accounting for grants, school choice revenue and other offsets.

The School Committee's initial budget request to the town represents a 2.11% increase over the current year, roughly \$336,000, a figure Rickson argued is modest compared to neighboring districts contemplating far larger overrides and cuts.

Even with that restrained request, however, the district is squeezed by what officials described as structural state-level problems: slow-growing Chapter 70 aid for "minimum aid" districts like Granby and sharp increases in required local spending, health insurance and out-of-district special education tuition.

"The FY27 chapter 70 state funding increased by less than a percent but required local spending increased by 4.46%" Rickson said. "The state funding formula is not working for us."

Health insurance alone has become a major budget driver.

"Our health insurance cost increased dramatically after the FY26 budget was put in place last year, and it will continue to go up," Rickson said, explaining that the district assumed a 16% rate increase when building next year's proposal.

Special education and out-of-district placements, whose tuition rates are set by the state's Operational Services Division and can rise mid-year, are another major pressure point.

"We're kind of at a loss to some of these out-of-district placements," Rickson

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5

Tiger Tee-Off drives community support for middle school traditions

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – A new community fundraiser is teeing up to make a lasting impact on students at Michael E. Smith Middle School, as organizers prepare for the inaugural Tiger Tee-Off at Orchards Golf Club on May 17.

The event, organized by the school's PTO, aims to raise funds to support two longstanding student experiences: the sixth-grade Cape Cod Caper and the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. For organizer Danielle Jajko, the idea behind the tournament grew from a desire to preserve these traditions in the face of rising costs.

"The idea for the Tiger Tee Off came from a simple goal: making sure that important middle school traditions remain accessible to every student," Jajko said. "At Michael E. Smith Middle School, the Washington, D.C. trip for eighth graders and the Cape Cod Caper for sixth graders are experiences students look forward to for years. They're not just trips; they're meaningful learning opportunities that build independence, strengthen friendships, and



Submitted photo

Michael E. Smith Middle School will soon be hosting a tee-off fundraiser at Orchards Golf Club.

connect classroom learning to the real world."

In recent years, the financial burden associated with these trips has increased, while some traditional funding sources have diminished. That combination made this the right moment to launch a new kind of fundraiser.

"Over the past few years, the cost of these trips has continued to rise, and some of the funding that once helped support them has been reduced," Jajko said. "As a PTO, we wanted to find a creative way to help offset those costs and keep these traditions strong."

Launching the Tiger Tee Off felt like the right step towards bringing the community together for a fun event while directly supporting students."

Proceeds from the tournament will go directly toward helping students participate in both trips. The Cape Cod Caper introduces sixth graders to marine science through hands-on coastal exploration, while the Washington trip connects eighth graders with the history and government they study in class.

"Standing in places like the Lincoln Memorial or seeing the Capitol in person cre-

ates a powerful connection to what they've been learning," Jajko said. "By helping offset the cost of these trips, the Tiger Tee Off helps ensure that as many students as possible can participate and benefit from these experiences."

The event itself is designed to be as inclusive as the cause it supports. Golfers of all experience levels are invited to participate in a scramble-format tournament, which emphasizes teamwork and keeps the atmosphere relaxed.

Please see **DRIVES**, page 5

Ballot box to decide Select Board race, fate of override

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley annual town election is scheduled for Apr. 14. Select Board candidates on the ballot include reelection candidate Nicole L. Casolari, Kevin Hennessey, David John King, and Priscilla A. Marion. Candidates for the School Committee are Tracie Kennedy and Nicholas Joseph Prentiss.

There are five unopposed candidates in the race, with

Karen Walsh Pio being the only ballot candidate for the Board of Health, John R. Hine for the Municipal Light Board, Kevin Edward Taugher for the Board of Assessors, David Penn Solender-Clark for the one-year term position for the Trustee Free Public Library, as well as Diane V. Supczak-Mulvaney for the Planning Board. All of them are reelection candidates.

Richard S. Matteson challenges reelection candidate John Edward Duda for

the Housing Authority appointment with Susan E-O Crowther, David Charles Morrell, and Gillian Marie Woldorf seeking a three-year term for the Trustee Free Public Library position.

The biggest questions on the ballot are regarding a proposed override encapsulated in questions 1A and 1B. Question 1A asks if the town of South Hadley should be allowed to assess an additional \$9 million in real

Please see **BALLOT**, page 5

Legion to host Patriots Day Ceremony

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, Apr. 18 at 11 a.m., the South Hadley American Legion Post 260, in collaboration with the South Hadley Historical Commission, will conduct a Patriots Day program at the Old Burial Ground, which is located in the back of Evergreen Cemetery.

The event will include a parade of flags, fife and drum corps, musket demonstration, veteran speakers, historical presentations and a special historical sign dedication honoring South Hadley's hometown heroes of the Revolutionary War. The ceremony will also include a rifle salute and the sounding of Taps, honoring the lives and selfless service of our local Patriots who answered the alarm beginning in April 1775 at Lexington & Concord, and their continued service in the Revolutionary War insuring the birth of our Nation.

There will be a special tribute to a South Hadley African American slave who purchased his freedom to join the fight for independence. The public will be invited to assist with the placement of 13 star "Betsy Ross Flags" at the gravesites of Revolutionary War veterans, and small American flags will be available at no cost as we prepare to celebrate America 250 this July.

The entrance to Evergreen Cemetery is on Rt. 47, below the South Hadley Commons and directly across from 25 Hadley Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts

This is an all ages event, and is rain or shine.

Wistariahurst Museum draws big crowd to sensory friendly egg hunt

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – This past weekend, the Wistariahurst Museum hosted its Third annual 'Sensory Friendly Easter Egg Hunt,' which drew

more than 100 participants on Saturday, Apr. 4.

Offering insight into how the program came together was Museum Director Megan Seiler.

"So Museums aren't always the most inclusive

spaces, and sometimes, parents might be apprehensive to bring their kids to a space like this, and we understand the community already does a big egg hunt for the city, but we then came to realize that we have this space,

where we can control the noise, and all the stimuli, so we opened up the Museum, to offer this type of egg hunt, which is geared towards being more inclusive, and have more kids who don't thrive in that bigger environment,

and allow them to have a great time here," Seiler said.

She then pivoted to greet some families, and that's when we watched and observed the egg hunt.

Seiler explained to the parents that each child would either take the blue bunny path, which meant staying on the first floor, or the pink path, which led upstairs to the second floor. The kids were then tasked with having to find six eggs, one in each room, and guiding them were the different colored bunnies. And if they ran into any trouble, they were told to reach out to a staff member or volunteer wearing bunny ears, who assisted the families.

"Once you gather 6 eggs, then you and your family are set to return to the lobby, where you have the chance to exchange your eggs for prizes, which include items such as candy and fidget toys, and anything you want," Seiler told the participants, as many

Please see **HUNT**, page 10



A group photo of all the event staff and volunteers.

Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

Guided Vernal Pool Trek at Lithia Springs offered

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee will host a guided Trek at Lithia Springs Reservoir, a beautiful natural area that once provided water to the town. The free, family-friendly Trek will be led by Brad Timm, a wildlife ecologist and founder of the Northeast Wildlife Team. Come explore with Brad on a leisurely guided hike as we stop at several vernal pools along the trek and look and listen for frogs, toads, salamanders, and much more. For example, did you know that some frogs produce their own anti-freeze, that lots of salamanders can regenerate their tail and entire limbs, and that Blue Jay and Bluebird feathers aren't actually blue (they're brown!).



Submitted photo

The South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee will host a Pool Trek event on Apr. 25.

Participants of all ages and new Trekkers are welcomed. Please wear clothing and footwear suitable for hiking in wet and muddy areas. Some free copies of A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools are available for participants from South Hadley Conservation. Brad's new book, America is Wild!, has recently been published and signed copies will be available for purchase (\$20) at the event.

Meet up at 9:30 a.m. in the Hiker Parking Lot on Amherst Road (next door to 502 Amherst Road), to walk approximately a half a mile down Pearl Street to the end of Lithia Springs Road,

where the Gate 8 Trailhead is located. We will wait at Gate 8 until 10 a.m. to meet any Trekkers who may have parked elsewhere. Please try to carpool as there is limited parking on Lithia Springs Road and in the Hiker Parking Lot on Amherst Road.

Treks are subject to change or cancellation due

to weather or ground conditions. Please be sure to check the Bike/Walk page on the Town website for trail maps and any cancellation notices or other information: www.southhadley.org/bikewalk. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 8 p.m. the night before the hike.

Granby Free Public Library announces adult activities

Adult Book Group

Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing All the Little Bird Hearts by Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow. Grab a copy and join us! This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Urban Sketching Techniques

Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.
Join local artist Jaime Bohorquez, for a two-hour hands-on workshop on the principles and techniques of urban sketching. All skill levels are welcome. All materials provided. Sign-up is required. Lakes and Rivers Talk: Using Barley Straw to Nip Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms in the Bud!

A Local Pilot Project

Thursday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.
Cyanobacteria are normal, essential components

of healthy ecosystems. But when they grow explosively, they can seriously disrupt ecosystems, often releasing potent toxins and causing major adverse health effects. HCBs are dramatically increasing globally and locally in the context of climate change and excess nutrients in both marine and freshwater bodies. Our local consortium is now in its fifth season of a project aimed at preventing these harmful blooms in selected Connecticut River watershed ponds using barley straw. Join Dr. Allison Ryan at the Granby Free Public Library to hear all about the project.

Tabletop Games Club

Saturday, April 25
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up

to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment. This group typically meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting

Thursday, April 16
4:30 p.m.

Love your Library? Show your love by joining the Friends of the Granby Library! Join us for meetings to see what's new.

Upcoming Events:

Friends of the Granby Library Annual Plant Sale – Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Foraging Walk – Saturday, May 30 at 11 a.m.

Hazardous waste collection May 9

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, South Hadley will hold its 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Day. To take part, call 413-538-5030 ext. 6500 to register and get details.

Rotary Club announces 'Eat Drink, and Be Holyoke'

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the date of the 2026 Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, April 30, 2026. The event will take place at the Holyoke Council on Aging & Senior Center at 5:30pm and will include live music performed by The Earls & Pearls.

Eat, Drink, & Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by Amedeo's Restaurant & Pizzeria, Day Brook Village Senior Living, Holyoke Hummus, Sweet Baby Rae's Bakery, Rusty's Place, Choo Choo, 110 Grill, Pic's Pub & Pizzeria, Daruma BBQ & Sushi AYCE, and Hamel's Creative Catering and Summit View Banquets. Beverage tastings will be provided by Quality Beverage. Tasting samples will include craft beer, seltzers, and wine.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at <https://edbh2026.eventbrite.com>.

Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke is generously sponsored by Holyoke Medical Center; anonymous donors; D & S Plating Co.; Marcotte Ford; Brunault, Proulx & McGuinness; Greenfield and Northampton Cooperative Bank; Meyers Brothers Kallicka, P.C.; The Dowd Agen-

cies, LLC; and The Greater Holyoke YMCA.

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

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

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

'The Victorian Lady' presents Fan Language event

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome historic performer Kandie Carle- The Victorian Lady- for a presentation on fan language in the Victorian era. This performance is scheduled during the opening reception of the exhibit Fans, Fashion, and Feminism. This exhibit showcases Wistariahurst's collection of hand fans and garments from the Victorian era to the early 20th century. Carle's performance will add to the narrative of this exhibit, showing visitors the secret language of the Victorian hand fan.

Kandie Carle has been working in the theatre for over 35 years as an actress, dancer, singer, and director, throughout the US and abroad. She has experience both on stage and researching social histo-

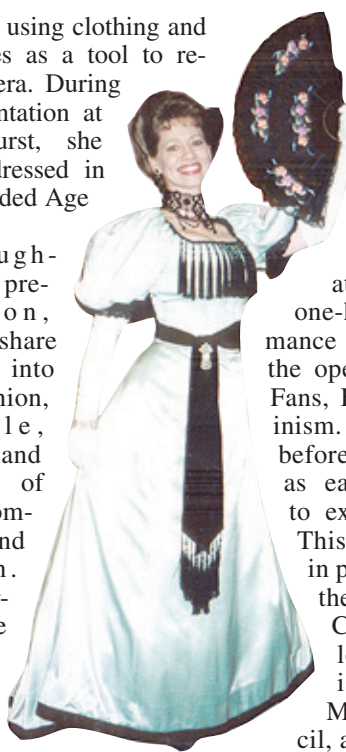
ry and fashion. Ms. Carle is based in East Haddam, CT, and serves as the Producing Artistic Director of the East Haddam Stage Company. She also tours throughout the country as The Victorian Lady.

Carle created The Victorian Lady to share her passion for history, culture, and social reflection. She has performed at venues including historical societies throughout New England and beyond, as well as numerous house museums, universities, libraries, churches, and many other public and private organizations.

Her presentation is not a fashion show; rather, Carle dresses from corset to gloves, in authentic as well as reproduction garments she has made herself, taking her audience on a journey of disc-

covery by using clothing and accessories as a tool to reflect the era. During her presentation at Wistariahurst, she will be dressed in 1890s Gilded Age fashion.

Throughout the presentation, she will share insights into the fashion, lifestyle, manners, and etiquette of men, women, and children. The performance is full of audience interaction and is geared toward audience members of all ages.



Join The Victorian Lady at Wistariahurst Museum on Tuesday, Apr. 21 at 5:30 p.m. This one-hour long performance will occur during the opening reception of Fans, Fashion, and Feminism. Visit Wistariahurst before the performance as early as 4:30 p.m. to explore the exhibit. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Relay For Life hosting concert fundraiser Friday

BELCHERTOWN – Quaboag Valley Relay for Life will host a fundraiser to "Scare Cancer Away" on Saturday, Apr. 11 at 3 p.m. at the Belchertown Untied Church of Christ, 18 Park St. The featured performer is Ray Guillemette, Jr. the 10-time international award-winning Elvis tribute artist. The event I being held to help cancer patients, fund more research to help with the government cutbacks, and to honor those we've lost too soon to cancer. Tickets are \$20 and are available at <https://buccsangels.ticketspice.com/rays-of-elvis-relay-fundraiser>. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

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Student-led homework help now available

SOUTH HADLEY – There is free help available for all students in the South Hadley Public Schools. Run by students, Homework Hub is extra help being offered after school with all students welcome. It takes place in the South Hadley Public Library in the Trustees Room.

The helpers will be available Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and additional sessions may

continue based on interest. Sessions are from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and help offered includes: Homework help in all subjects, one-on-one tutoring, test and quiz preparation, clear explanations and step-by-step help.

A small registration form is required and a QR code for that can be obtained by contacting shhomeworkhub@gmail.com.

Mail-in ballots, absentee voting now available

SOUTH HADLEY – Ballots for the Apr. 14 Town Election are in. In-person absentee voting is now available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. The last day to vote in-person absentee is Monday, Apr. 13, at 12 noon.

The Town Clerk's office has started to mail out ballots. As applications come in, ballots will be mailed out

to voters on a rolling basis. There is still time to apply for a mail-in ballot. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 7. Apply online here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>

Please direct any questions, comments, or concerns to the Town Clerk's office at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or elections@south-hadley.ma.gov.

Mt. Holyoke expands investment in community with \$3M commitment

SOUTH HADLEY – Mount Holyoke College is expanding its long-standing investment in South Hadley through a new multi-year commitment exceeding \$3 million to support shared community priorities.

The ten-year commitment includes \$2.2 million in support for South Hadley schools and its students that combines direct financial contributions to South Hadley Public Schools (SHPS) with scholarships for qualified South Hadley students admitted to the College, an annual financial and in-kind contribution to the Michael E. Smith Middle School Washington, D.C. trip, and \$800,000 in additional support for Fire District 2.



The College will partner with town and school district leaders through a joint working group to combine financial investment with Mount Holyoke student, faculty and staff engagement to expand academic and student-life opportunities for students in South Hadley's public schools. By strengthening the experience of South Hadley students, the initiative will support student retention and enrollment stability in SHPS, which are key to the long-term health of the school system and the broader community.

"These investments align with our educational mission," said Mount Holyoke College President Danielle R. Holley. "South Hadley's vitality is deeply connected to the College's own future. This commitment reflects our belief that strong schools and a thriving community benefit everyone."

This expanded commitment builds on the College's existing contributions to South Hadley, which exceed \$1 million annually through taxes, cash and in-kind donations and other forms of support. Mount Holyoke is the town's largest employer and third-largest taxpayer. In 2023-2024, the College paid

\$382,557 in property taxes and sewer fees. The College spends more than \$5 million each year with local vendors.

In addition to its financial contributions, the College provides broad community access to campus resources and programs. Public offerings include lectures, concerts, performances, exhibitions and athletic events, most free of charge, as well as access to the Williston Memorial Library and select athletic facilities. The outdoor track is also available to South Hadley residents at designated times. Residents can find these events and hours at both the Mount Holyoke events calendar at events.mtholyoke.edu and at athletics.mtholyoke.edu.

The Talcott Greenhouse and the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum offer programming for local residents and schools, and the College regularly partners with community organizations on educational and cultural initiatives.

Mount Holyoke has also supported local infrastructure and public safety investments, including a \$400,000 contribution toward a new ladder truck and ambulance for both South Hadley Fire District 1 and 2 respectively, and \$35,000 toward the River to Range Trail Loop near the Community Boat House.

Harmony House hosts All-You-Can-Eat Pizza fundraiser April 23

CHICOPEE – Local non-profit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts invites the community to its upcoming Pizza for a Purpose fundraiser on Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at View

Street Tavern, 92 View Street in Chicopee. This family-friendly event will directly support Harmony House's mission of providing a home with compassionate end-of-life care and

companionship to hospice patients in need. Guests can enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza, along with raffles, a cash bar with local celebrity bartenders, and a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$20 for adults,

\$10 for children ages 3-17, and free for children 2 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online in advance. View Street Tavern is generously donating the pizza and space for this event, ensuring

that funds raised directly support Harmony House and its residents. Harmony House is seeking additional sponsors to help meet its fundraising goal. Visit [HarmonyHouse-WMA.org/PizzaNight](https://www.harmonyhouse-wma.org/PizzaNight) to

purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or learn more about the event and the nonprofit.



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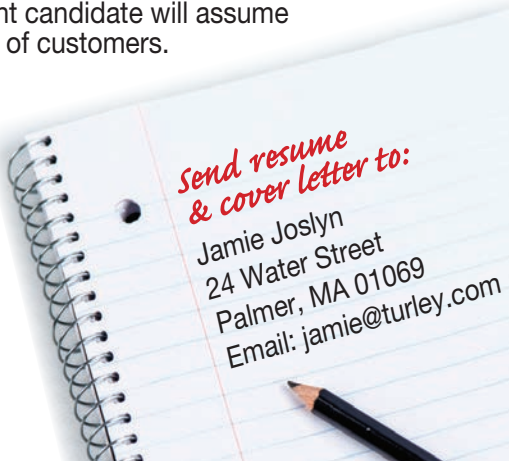
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HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2026-2027

Hadley Public Schools grades PK-12 is now accepting School Choice Applications.

They can be found at www.hadleyschools.org.

The cut-off date for applications is April 15th.

Hadley Public Schools offers the following advantages:

HADLEY ELEMENTARY

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

*Open spots in grades K-2.
Limited spots grades 3-5.
Grade 6 closed.

HOPKINS ACADEMY

- Small Class Sizes
- Advanced Course Offerings
- AP, PLTW, Early College
- Career Pathways in: Business & Finance, Clean Energy, Manufacturing & Engineering, Information Sciences, Social Assistance & Health Care, Life Sciences
- Extracurricular Offerings: Athletics, Band, Chorus, Drama, Equestrian, Leadership
- Internships, Service Learning
- Travel Opportunities

Grades 7-12 open.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'll be 65 soon and am working. Must I enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my Full Retirement Age or until age 70.

I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help.

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

There are two things you should be aware of:

You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants.

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age) or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period, during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare or Social Security, you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up or you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone.

Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at www.ssa.gov/ apply or you can call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Creating your online SS account now at age 65 will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various ages – e.g., now at age 65, at your FRA of 67 or at age 70. And that should help you decide when it is best for you to claim Social Security.

You should verify with your employer's health insurance provider that they don't require you to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Most employer plans don't, but some do.

You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B now as long as your employer's coverage is creditable. And it's okay to enroll in Medicare a couple of months prior to your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ending when you stop working, requesting that your Medicare coverage starts when your employer's healthcare ends. This will ensure that there is no gap in your healthcare coverage. If your employer coverage is creditable, you will not suffer a Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65.

If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your FRA and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected.

Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security.

Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026 until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier.

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.

The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia burst into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring harbinger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years!

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the season to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be achieved now.

As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.

We use hot water because it will move through the plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully.

Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times a week. Expect blooms in a matter of days this time of

year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges.

While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look.

Propagating forsythias is easy! Do you want more of a good thing? Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender – sometimes reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove up to one-third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple of years to recover from that approach.

I saw an Eastern Phoebe on March 28, my first sighting of 2026.

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders

The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people enjoy feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals. When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds

of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit

and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usually gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."

Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who shared video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging

Please see **BIRDS**, page 6



Eastern Phoebe

and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help struggling wildlife to thrive. This program is free and participation can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting gardenforbirds.org.

Common mergansers

My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had reported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it would have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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



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Obituary

DRIVES from page 1

“One of the reasons we chose a scramble format is because it allows golfers of all skill levels to participate comfortably,” Jajko explained. “Whether someone plays every weekend or is picking up clubs for the first time, the focus is on having fun and supporting the students at MESMS.”

Beyond the course, attendees can expect dinner, raffle prizes, and opportunities to connect with fellow community members.

Organizers are also encouraging local businesses and residents to get involved through sponsorships, donations, and volunteering.

“Events like this work best when the entire community feels part of the effort, and we’ve been fortunate to see that enthusiasm already,” Jajko said.

More than just a fundraiser, the Tiger Tee-Off reflects a broader goal of strengthening community ties.

“Events like the Tiger Tee Off remind us that schools thrive when com-

munities come together around them,” she said. “Those connections are what help make a school feel like the center of a community.”

If successful, organizers hope the event will become an annual tradition, helping sustain student travel opportunities for years to come.

“At the end of the day, this event is really about the students and making sure they continue to have opportunities that inspire learning, build confidence, and create lasting memories,” Jajko said.

BALLOT from page 1

estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating both the municipal government and public schools for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026. Question 1B asks if the town should be allowed to assess an additional \$11 million in real estate and property taxes for the purposes of operating the municipal government and public schools for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026.

Proposition 2 ½ limits the amount of revenue a city can raise from property taxes every year to fund municipal operations, which is known as an annual levy limit. The two questions propose what is called an override for \$9 million and \$11 million respectively. Overrides increase annual levy limits through voter approval, which becomes part of the new base for calculating future years’ levy limits. The result is a permanent increase in taxing authority.

The proposed increase will keep the senior center, the library, and the schools operating at their current levels. Further details may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/proposition-2-12-ballot-question-requirement-and-procedure/download>. There has been much debate as well as multiple letters to the editor as part of the discussion during the past several weeks since the Representative Town Meeting approved sending the override questions to the ballot.

BUDGET from page 1

said, because while they are “truly in the best places for” high-needs students, “what they charge us for tuition for the students is beyond our control in many, many cases.”

Despite those challenges, administrators said they have already implemented a first round of cuts, trimming athletics, technology, professional development and facilities spending to reduce the deficit from roughly \$847,000 to about \$594,000.

“We reduced our budget with the first round of budget cuts to \$253,000 ... we brought our deficit to \$594,000,” Rickson said, but added, “We still have another \$594,000” to close.

Additional reductions, they warned, could mean eliminating positions and eroding services to a level that jeopardizes the district’s ability to meet required “maintenance of effort” for key federal grants like IDEA and Title I.

“If we’re required to eliminate the deficit, the district may need to reduce the budget by cutting staff,” Rickson said. “Not what we want to do, but it may be something we have to do.”

School Committee members and residents repeatedly situated Granby’s struggles within a larger regional picture, pointing to South Hadley and Belchertown, where leaders are weighing multimillion-dollar overrides and deep cuts.

Rickson and committee

members said they plan to continue pressing state lawmakers on revising the foundation budget formula and expanding rural aid, while working with town leaders to determine how much above the state-required minimum Granby can afford to contribute. Historically, the town has provided about \$600,000 above its minimum, but this draft uses a \$400,000 placeholder.

“There’s still a lot of variables that we have to consider,” Rickson said, promising to update residents once firmer municipal numbers arrive. “Our main goal ... we want to maintain the services we have for students” she said, even as the district confronts what she called “some difficult decisions” in the weeks ahead.

Diane Pupek

Diane L. Pupek Opper, 56, of Belchertown, Massachusetts, passed away tragically on Friday, March 27, 2026.

Diane was born on October 13, 1969, in Norwalk, Connecticut, the daughter of Chester Pupek and Claire Lysiak Pupek.

She was predeceased by her parents, as well as her sisters, Fran Pryor and Donna Pupek. Diane is survived by her sister, Shirley Hensley; her beloved niece, Denise Kelly; her beloved nephews, Alain and Scott Hensley; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Diane grew up in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she formed many lifelong friendships. Known to many as “Di Di,” she brought warmth, humor, and a little bit of magic wherever she went. She had a love for music from an early age and played the flute, piccolo, and oboe. She attended Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, where she earned a degree in Marine Biology.

Diane dedicated her career to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where she worked for 33 years as Chief of the Division of Operations & Support, with passion and

purpose. She was looking forward to retiring this August and beginning her next chapter in her happy place, The Villages in Florida, a future she had thoughtfully planned and deeply anticipated. Diane loved the sun - the brighter and warmer, the better - and she carried that same brightness within her, along with a love for a little “sparkle.”

Diane loved deeply - her family, her friends, and life itself. She went out of her way to make everyone around her truly feel valued and special. She believed in kismet and the idea that certain moments and connections were simply meant to be. She loved singing and dancing to ‘70s and ‘80s music, especially Ozzy Osbourne, and never turned down a great espresso martini. She also had a way of adding her own “zhuzh” to life, bringing energy, humor, and a little extra sparkle to everyday moments.

Diane had an extraordinary love for animals, both through her work and in her personal life. She believed every creature deserved com-



passion - even spiders were gently escorted outside. She had a special place in her heart for dogs, especially Rottweilers, and spent years rescuing and fostering many who needed a second chance.

She was a beautiful soul, inside and out, with a kind heart that touched everyone who knew her. Although taken from us too early she will be profoundly missed.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, April 13 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Life at 6:00pm at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home, 646 Newton Street, South Hadley, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Diane’s memory to causes close to her heart, including Massachusetts Rottweiler Rescue (<https://donate.rescueme.org/rottweiler>), The Monadnock Humane Society (<https://monadnockhumanesociety.org/>) or The Ding Darling Wildlife Society <https://dingdarling-society.org/>. For more information visit www.beersand-story.com.

Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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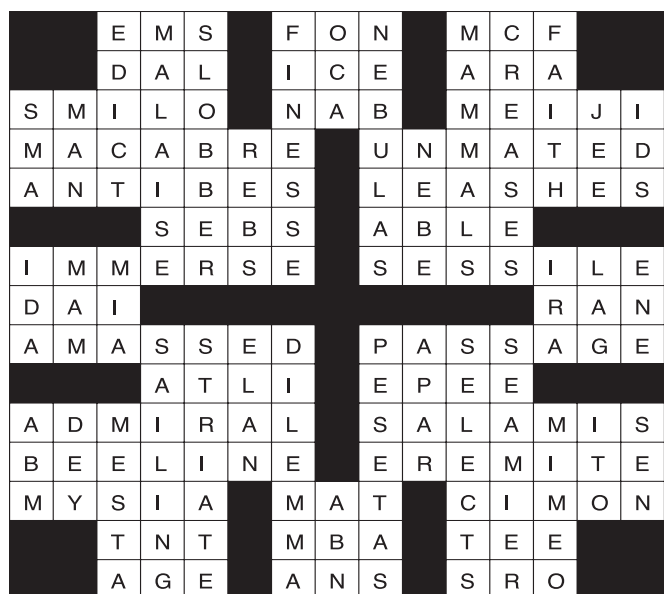
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Church invites kids to art event

SOUTH HADLEY – A community children’s art event will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of South Hadley, 30 Carew Street.

Children ages four to 12 are invited to participate in making original art. All art supplies will be provided, and the theme is Earth Day. Original artwork may be dropped off by those who cannot attend. Drop off is also Saturday, April 25, between 1 and 3 p.m.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be refreshments and more. An awards and prizes event will be held Saturday, May 1 - participants and public are invited to view the artwork on display.

Questions from the public may be directed to the Church at (413) 532-0500. RSVP is appreciated but not required (anitoaster@gmail.com).

The event is being sponsored by the United Women of Faith.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

HCC names Nicklin as provost and VP of academic affairs

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is pleased to announce that Jessica M. Nicklin of West Hartford, Conn, has accepted the position of HCC provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Nicklin, Ph.D., presently serves as associate provost for faculty affairs and research and a professor of psychology at the University of Hartford, where she has worked for nearly 17 years.

“Dr. Nicklin is a respected leader in higher education and an organizational psychologist, recognized for her strategic vision, collaborative leadership, and dedication to student, faculty, and insti-

tutional success,” President George Timmons said in an announcement to the HCC community. “She is a proud, first-generation college graduate, and her extensive experience in academic and student affairs will be instrumental in advancing our strategic plan and enhancing HCC’s impact in our community.”

Nicklin earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology as well as a Ph.D. in industrial-organizational psychology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany.

Soon after completing her doctorate in 2009, she received an academic appointment at the University of Hartford as assistant profes-

sor of psychology. Since then, she has risen through the academic ranks to tenured professor, while also taking on administrative responsibilities as program director, associate dean of student academic services, associate vice president for student success, assistant provost for graduate studies and research, and finally associate provost for faculty affairs and research, a position she assumed in 2023.

Her role at HCC begins July 1.

“This truly feels like the



Jessica M. Nicklin

perfect opportunity,” Nicklin said. “The shared commitment to both academic and student affairs is what initially drew me to the position, and as I’ve engaged with the HCC community, I’ve been continually impressed and inspired by the unwavering focus on supporting students. I’m excited to join the institution at a moment of strategic planning and forward momentum.”

A distinguished scholar in industrial-organizational psychology, Nicklin’s re-

search focuses on workplace motivation, the work-family interface, and positive psychology. She is a prolific writer, consultant, and frequent speaker and holds certifications in academic life coaching.

She has received numerous awards and honors recognizing her scholarship, teaching, leadership, and service. In 2018, her alma mater, SUNY Albany, recognized Nicklin with its Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time, particularly outdoors, with her family: husband Chris, sons Parker, 8, and Logan, 5, and their beloved pup, Sadie, 12.

Holyoke Community College presents annual Student Art Show

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College and the HCC Visual Art Department are presenting the annual Student Art Exhibition Monday, April 13, through Friday, May 1, with a reception and awards

ceremony April 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the gallery.

The exhibition features artwork created by HCC students from more than 50 visual art classes during the 2025-2026 academic year, including painting, two-dimen-

sional and three-dimensional design, basic drawing, still photography, ceramics, digital imaging and design, figure drawing, animation, digital photography, illustration, motion graphics, printmaking, and typography.

The exhibition reflects all the artwork done in studio classes during the academic year. Faculty members select the pieces and install them, giving art students the opportunity to see their work displayed in a professional gallery.

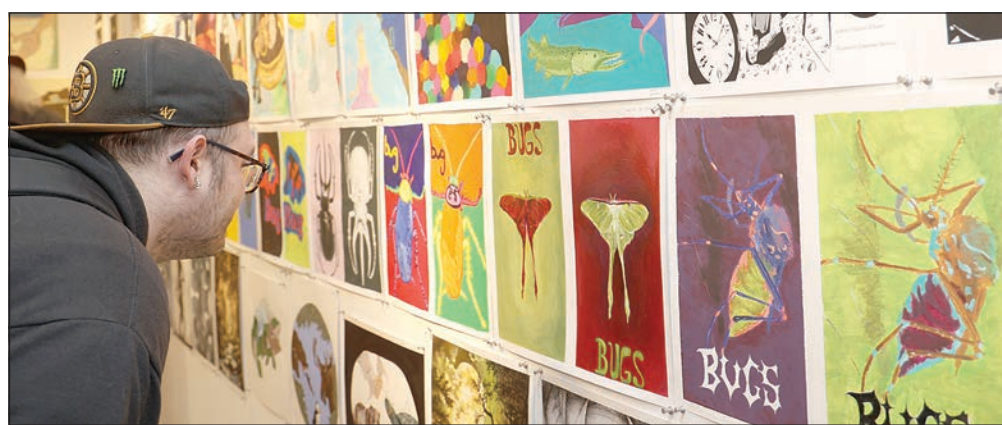
The April 16 reception also includes the Excellence in Visual Art Awards presentation, which recognizes the best student artwork of the year in various categories, as selected by the visual art faculty. Attendees are encouraged to dress creatively, as an award will also be presented for best costume.

“I’m thrilled to welcome the Holyoke community to join us for the 2026 HCC Student Art Exhibition,” said Taber Director Rachel

Rushing. “In particular, the opening reception is always a highlight of the year as we celebrate the hard work of the visual art classes and announce the student award winners.”

Student artwork will be displayed in the Taber Art Gallery, as well as in the display cases outside the HCC Library, along the third-floor corridor of the Fine and Performing Arts Building, and in the Media Arts Center on the third floor of the Campus Center.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



HCC Student Art Exhibition in 2025.

Submitted photo

BIRDS from page 4

a total of eight young. She said, “The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families.” She also said, “Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy woodpecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown and leaving at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possi-

bly checking it out for their future nest.” She said, “Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don’t have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows.”

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edownner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

Culinary Arts program hosting open house, tasting

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will host an open house and free community tasting event on Wednesday, April 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

Visitors will be able tour the state-of-the-art kitchens at the college’s culinary arts facility, sample dishes prepared by culinary arts students and faculty, learn

about the college’s culinary arts certificate and associate degree programs, noncredit job training and personal enrichment classes, and play Food Bash Bingo for a chance to win prizes.

Visitors will have the opportunity to talk to representatives from HCC programs including: Admissions, Marieb Adult Learner Success Center, HCC Foundation, Alumni

Relations, Thrive Center and Food Pantry, El Centro, ALANA Men in Motion, and Jumpstart, as well as personnel from area community groups, including Tech Foundry/Tech Hub, United Way, Alzheimer’s Organization, and Holyoke Medical Center.

Staff from the HCC Admissions office will also be on hand to discuss enrollment options, including

MassEducate and MassReconnect, the state programs for free community college.

The HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute is equipped with four modern kitchens, a bakery, hotel lab, and student-run dining room.

For more information about HCC’s Culinary Arts program, please visit hcc.edu/culinary or send an email to CAI@hcc.edu.

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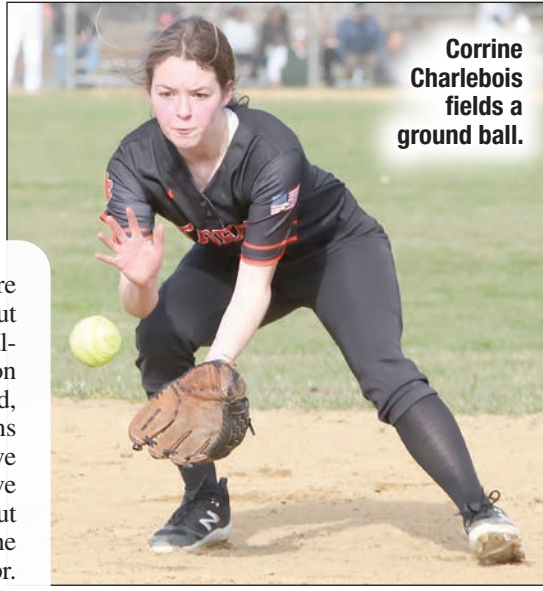
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Busy start for Tigers softball



Grace Matyszewski sends a soft grounder to third.



Corrine Charlebois fields a ground ball.

SOUTH HADLEY – It's a little more than a week into the regular season, but South Hadley High School softball has already played six games. The Tigers have won four and lost two, defeating West Springfield, Westfield Tech, Franklin Tech, and Hopkins Academy. Turners Falls and Greenfield have handed the Tigers defeats. The Tigers have shown the ability to generate offense, but have given up their share of runs as well. The Tigers will next be in action on Tuesday, Apr. 14 at Minnechaug at 4:30 p.m.



Violet Carillon fouls off a pitch.



Leah Denison heads for first base after making contact.



Samantha Laflesh delivers a pitch.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Granby gets third win of season

GRANBY – Last Wednesday, Ludlow High School boys volleyball engaged in three tough battles with Granby, but the Rams pulled away in the third set, and then had a decided advantage in the fourth set, winning 25-16 and taking the

match 3-1 over the Lions. Ludlow fell to 0-2 on the season. Granby improved to 3-1, with 12 kills from Braeden Gallagher and 11 kills from Jake Gagnon, who also achieved 16 assists, including the 1,000th for his career.



Daniel Santiago gets a bump.



Vitaly Gavel gets a bump from the back line.



Jake Gagnon gets a set.



Durant Garden makes a serve.



Richard Sweet sends a hit over the net.



Nathan Walsh sends a hit over the net.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Tigers rise above .500 with pair of wins

SOUTH HADLEY – During the past week, the South Hadley High School baseball team turned their record around with a 2-0 win over Mt. Greylock followed by a 13-3 win over Northampton on Tuesday afternoon. South Hadley is now 3-2 on the season. A six-run fifth inning would help lead South Hadley finish off their matchup with Northampton in five innings by

the mercy rule. Lincoln Belsky had two hits and three RBI while he also scored two runs. Noah Carillon had two hits and three runs scored. On the mound, Matthew Butler went five innings, allowing three runs on six hits. He walked one and struck out one. Coming up, the Tigers will face Easthampton at home at 4 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 13.

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Public Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING
460 Newton Street – 9 Space Parking Lot

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **April 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider applications for Site Plan Review a filed by Kemp Realty LLC for development of a 9-space parking lot located at 460 Newton Street, Map 28 Parcels 269 and 314. This application is being filed pursuant to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 Article XII (Site Plan Review); 255-86 (Parking Requirements); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

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

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87613120497?pwd=bx1XpAXGvliJdGhVMobaeJoduuRYT.1>

Or join by phone: +1 312 626 6799 **Webinar ID:** 876 1312 0497 **Passcode:** 069571

The subject property includes an existing office building – Pet-tengill Insurance Agency and formerly TD Bank - and is located within the Business A zoning district. The new parking spaces are proposed to be located on the western portion of the site.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications' - 'Site Plan Review' under section 'Newton Street (460) - 9 Space Parking Lot' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk
 South Hadley Planning Board
 04/10, 04/17/2026

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.I. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction **OPEN TO LICENSED DEALERS ONLY** with bids due **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** by calling 413-534-5373.

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 1466 Dwight St.
 Holyoke, MA 01040

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 VIN: 4T1BK36B37U208059
 Inayea Concepcion
 131 Carver St., Apt. 2
 Springfield, MA 01108

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 VIN: 3N1AB7AP4KY363349
 Eileen Castle
 PO Box 498
 Haydenville, MA 01039

2019 Znen ZN50Q
 VIN: L5YTCKPV1K1115956
 Owner Unknown

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 Larry Ramirez Ferrer
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 VIN: 4T4BF1FK3GR523247
 Alexander Wirtes
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 Sarah McNamee
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 Jayson Perryman
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 Nenushka Colon
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 Chicopee, MA 01020

2002 Chevrolet TrailBlazer
 VIN: 1GN2T13S322250990
 Louis Lake
 2443 Roosevelt Ave.
 Springfield MA 01104

2002 Dodge Durango
 VIN: 1B4HS48N32F203224
 Cassandra Losaw
 153 Beaver St., Apt. 1R
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 281 Chauncey Walker Lot 520K
 Belchertown, MA 01007

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 Daniel Moffat
 214 Pine St.
 Holyoke, MA 01040

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 Fall River, MA 02721

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 Michael Antony Sanabria
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 Hartford, CT 06106

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 Northampton, MA 01060

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 Zander Arroyo
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 Springfield, MA .01104

2014 Honda Civic
 VIN: 2HGFB2F5XEH504854
 Fathallah Elfahli
 158 Bay Village Dr.
 Rochester, NY 14609

2008 Nissan Altima
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 Gary Curtis
 57 Colony Rd., Apt. 2B
 W. Springfield, MA 01089

2012 GMC Terrain
 VIN: 2GKFLREK0C6153400
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 Springfield, MA 01109

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 1142 State St.
 Springfield, MA 01109

2012 Mazda Mazda3
 VIN: JM1BL1V89C1589195
 Jessica Rosa
 117 Conz St., Apt. 301
 Northampton, MA 01060

2016 Infiniti Q50
 VIN: JN1CV7AR4GM250271
 Jose Sanchez
 270 E. Main St., Apt. 2L
 Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Volkswagen GTI
 VIN: WVWHV71K48W173994
 Lounis Peter
 1800 Massachusetts Ave., Apt 1
 Cambridge, MA 02140

2009 Volkswagen Jetta
 VIN: 3VWJZ71K59M095035
 Christopher Hayes
 40 Folsom St.
 N. Adams, MA 01247

2015 Infiniti Q40
 VIN: JN1CV6ARXFM651431
 Robert Victor Myers
 2401 Christiana MDWS
 Bear, DE 19701

2003 Subaru Legacy
 VIN: 4S3BH635737309312
 Shelby Davis Lane
 294 US Route 5
 Brattleboro, VT 05301

2011 Chevrolet Silverado
 2500HD
 VIN: 1GCHK29U11E242654
 Matthew Boudreau
 31 Burt St.
 Adams, MA 01220

1995 Toyota Camry
 VIN: 4T1SK12E9SU638675
 Angela Rivera
 121 N. Main St., Apt. K8
 Belchertown, MA 01007
 03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

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CLUES ACROSS

- Health care pros
- A person inhabiting Benin
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Split pulses
- Frozen water
- Small constellation
- Perennial mountain rice
- Pick up
- Japanese historical period
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Unattached
- Fishing port in SE France
- Products for dogs
- One point south of southeast
- Having the skill or resources to do something
- Involve oneself deeply
- Immobile
- ___ pai dong; Hong Kong food stall
- Move quickly on foot
- Gathered
- A way through
- Another name for Thor
- Sharp dueling sword
- The supreme commander of a fleet
- Seasoned sausages
- Path
- Christian hermit
- Ancient region of Asia Minor
- Where wrestlers go to work
- Roman statesman
- Explosive
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Where golfers start
- Grow old
- Autonomic nervous system
- No seats available

CLUES DOWN

- A legally binding command
- General feeling of discomfort
- Dribble
- Soft touch
- South American plant
- Clouds of gas and dust in space
- Warm-blooded vertebrates
- Lines created by folding



Follow the Pink Bunny trail on the 2nd floor.



Volunteer Matthew Sindell holding the bucket of eggs that were collected after prize redemption.



Zina Tissi, Event Staff, and Volunteer Marie Kulig get ready for the egg hunt to begin.



Judith Koretz, Volunteer, and Megan Seiler, Director of Wistariahurst Museum, at the front desk, greeting guests.

HUNT from page 1

continued to file in, one after another.

Seiler then told us that this year, the museum switched things up and in-

corporated both its indoor halls and outdoor spaces to provide games and activities for participants, which, as a result, directed focus on gentle exploration and comfort to ensure all visitors felt welcomed.

It was also noted that the museum continues to offer its accessibility efforts, as Seiler passed along that the Museum hosts 'Seniors-Friendly Sunday Funday' events once a month, which are open to all.

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