

TOWN Reminder

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Patriot's Day remembered with ceremony, re-enactment

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – A procession of flags, honor guards, Boy Scouts and Revolutionary War re-enactors, accompanied by a rendition of Yankee Doodle from the fife and drum corps, began the Patriot's Day Ceremony on April 18 in the Evergreen Cemetery.

VFW National Sergeant at Arms, American Legion Post Commander and National Honor Guard representative

Brian Willette served as the primary speaker, leading the assembly through the Pledge of Allegiance and reflecting on South Hadley's past as well as its place in American history. In June of 1774, South Hadley was one of many growing communities to establish a Committee of Correspondents, which was an important step to remain informed on British movements within the region.

"This was a key to com-

Please see **PATRIOT**, page 9



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez
Above, amarch through the Evergreen Cemetery began the Patriot's Day ceremony that took place on April 18. Left, American Legion Post Commander Brian Willette served as lead speaker for the ceremony.

West Street panel narrows Town Hall design choices

Groundbreaking set for April 28

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY –The West Street Building Committee used its April 14 meeting to lock in key interior design decisions for the new Town Hall while also reviewing major grant attempts and final plans for an April 28 groundbreaking.

The committee refined choices for flooring, wall colors, cabinetry and bathroom finishes to make the former school building brighter, more welcoming and easier to maintain, even as it pursues federal and ADA-related funding to reduce the project's burden on local taxpayers.

Groundbreaking details

Invitations have gone out for a ceremonial groundbreaking on the West Street site on April 28 at 10 a.m.

The ceremony is planned for the parking lot median, not inside the building.

Architect Tim Widman said the program will follow a familiar pattern.

"It's usually a few remarks relating to the nature of the project, and more often than not, it's a grab bag of appreciation for people who have been working on the project," Widman said.

Trompke urged that grant partners and agencies be

thanked publicly as well.

"Including the ones that are currently working. Put a little pressure on them," he said. "It should go on the record that they were working towards a grant for us."

Mercier expects a simple set of photo opportunities with representatives from the town, designers and contractor.

Core design decisions

Demolition in the north wing has exposed concrete and structural issues that pushed the project away from a bare concrete floor.

Neil Joyce from Construction Monitoring Services Inc. serves as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for the project.

"The floor is in pretty poor condition, lot of cracking and unforeseen conditions that we're going to try to address, most likely with a carpet or some kind of floor covering," Joyce said. "The finished floor in the original scheme was just a sealed concrete, which does not seem to be feasible."

As a result, carpet that was once intended for a single office will now run through most of the building.

"Last time we met, we couldn't really, we didn't like any of the carpet that you brought," Chair Lynne Mercier said. "Especially because the scope changed. It was just for one room. Now it's for the whole space."

Please see **PANEL**, page 7

Planning board discusses rules for small lawn signs

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The issue of small lawn signs dominated Planning Board discussions last week in its efforts to revamp sign by-laws to align them with First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

The hourlong-plus dis-

ussion centered upon the proposed regulations of signs in residential zones, with considerable effort devoted to regulating lawn signs that are used to publicize events, business interests and political campaigns. The free-standing signs are made of corrugated plastic, held in place by metal stakes and typically cost a few dollars each.

The board's recent deliberations have focused on re-writing existing bylaws that conflict with a 2015 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that essentially prohibits enforcement of any law that restricts display of any sign based on its content. Hearings began in November, and continued into January, and was, last week, again continued until

April 27.

Planning Director Anne Capra presented a draft of a proposed complete replacement of the current sign by-law (Ch. 255-85) to comply with the Supreme Court ruling. "When we're thinking about this bylaw and you think about, 'Oh, but I want

Please see **SIGNS**, page 10

Gagnon hits second milestone



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

On Monday evening, Jack Gagnon achieved his second big career milestone of the season. He has already scored his 1,000th career assist for the Granby High School boys volleyball team. And this week, he notched his 500th career kill in Granby's win over Holyoke.

United Methodist Church holding children's art show

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The United Methodist Church is planning a children's art event on Saturday, Apr. 25. The secular event takes place on Earth Day and is borne out of communal love for art and community building.

"We wanted it to be kind of universal that most people could relate to," said Roseann Novak, a United Methodist Church member and the lead organizer. "It's important to emphasize to children what they've already heard probably during the week. They won't be in school for Earth Day, just to reinforce that this is your home."

"It's about a global community," added Anita Easter, a fellow organizer and lifelong artist who specialized in landscapes before her retirement. All of the event planners are members of the United Women of Faith, an organization comprised of church community members who are "always looking for special missions and special projects."

"We were thinking about our interests and the community," said Novak. "My husband was an art teacher so naturally, I have an inclination to think along those lines. But once I mentioned it, the enthusiasm was palpable."

"The theme I always teach is that the best gift we can give children is a sense of self-worth," said Beverly Pead, an early childhood education specialist who teaches classes at STCC. "I feel like we are upping their feeling of self-worth. That leads to success in the future."

Pead is the third member of the Children's Art Exhibit Planning Committee. The committee has reached out to not only the local school districts, which they admit is their central focus for their upcoming event, but also to art departments within the Holyoke and Granby schools as well.

"Our goal is not to get new people to join the church," Pead added. All emphasized that the event is secular with

Please see **SHOW**, page 10

Taylor Rental celebrates 20th year anniversary

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – TJ's Taylor Rental, located at 577 Granby Road, is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary. James Falcone, the location's business owner, comes from a long line of entrepreneurs. His grandfather, Rocco Falcone, created Rocky's Hardware, which is now better known today as Rocky's Ace Hardware.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, Rocco Falcone noticed that people were unable to buy tools. Identifying a need for rental tools, Rocco Falcone created Rocky's Rentals. It was the business that inspired his friend and owner of the dealer supply end of the business Harold Plugge to establish his own rental company.

"People couldn't afford to buy anything," Falcone said. "So, Rocky's had a rental division. They would buy their hardware from dealer supply. Hal Plugge owned dealer supply, saw my grandfather renting and said, 'hey, that's a great idea. Would you mind if I started renting?' My grandfather said, 'absolutely not, as long as you don't compete with me.' And to this day, there's not a Taylor Rental in Springfield because he said he would never compete with my grandfather."

Jim Falcone's entrance into the business was a bit more colorful. After working as a construction project manager in Los Angeles, he met his wife Tamara while she was working as a commo-



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

The outside boasts a collection of lawn care tools, wood chippers, and other industrial tools.

ties broker. Laid off from his construction job in 1992, the Falcones moved to Park City in Utah where he worked as a ski instructor. From there, he went to Maui and "messed around there."

"Then I came home got serious," said Falcone. "There was an old ready rent for sale in Hadley. My family owned the property and the current owner was back on rent six, eight months. And it was an opportunity to buy it. I bought it, converted it into a Taylor Rental, turned it around and had double digit increases for the first 10 years and turned out to be a great thing."

The original Hadley location was in service for 11 years before building the 577 Granby Road location in 2006 and moving his business to its current place in South Hadley. Falcone attributes the location's success to hard

work and catering to the customer.

"Old-school rental stores were dirty," he commented when asked about how he's kept the franchise going for so many years. "We polished it up, we got a bright showroom, we've got clean equipment, we cater to the customer's needs and make sure any time a customer has a problem, we make it right regardless of what we have to do."

He emphasized customer satisfaction as the key that keeps the doors open. Ensuring that the business continues to employ and maintain helpful and pleasant workers is a major factor in this.

"It's nice to get compliments on how good and pleasant my staff is," remarked Falcone on his strategy to secure the business' future. "If the customer's happy, they keep coming back."

The business services the entire Pioneer Valley. From Longmeadow to Wilbraham, Falcone mentions that they have repeat customers as far as Montague and as far south as to the state line. There are even customers from the original Hadley address that call upon them for services.

Despite the many years in operation, the franchise was not without its hardships.

"Drawback was COVID," Falcone reflected when asked about if the business ever experienced hard times. "Also, the construction on Route 9. We ended up closing our store on Route 9 in '23 because of the downturn of COVID and all the construction on Route 9. Trying to find good help in this business is really difficult because it's very laborious."

Falcone mentioned that another important factor to Taylor Rental's success is being community conscious and providing sizable discounts to rental orders, something he refers to as the save 30, shop 30 coupon. "A lot of people have sticker shock when they order a tent, tables, chairs, and they realize it's almost \$1000. They're real happy when I tell them I can save them 30% off."

"I'll be here for another 20 years," said Falcone when asked if he had any additional closing thoughts. "I just want to thank everybody that's been my customers for the last 30 years. I appreciate the return customers. That's what makes it go around."



The marquee from the road ushers in generation of clients new and old.



Falcone stands proudly by his selection of tools and equipment.



James Falcone poses with his team as they celebrate their company's upcoming anniversary.

Cemetery owners holding annual meeting

SOUTH HADLEY – The proprietors of the South Hadley Falls Cemetery (Village Cemetery) will be holding their annual meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Trustee Room at the Main Library 2 Canal Street South Hadley, MA.

Agenda items include

election of officers and trustees, financial reports and fundraising ideas.

We encourage anyone interested in preserving the Village Cemetery to join our meeting as your input is always welcome. We hope to see you there.

Granby holding candidates night

GRANBY – The Town of Granby Communications Committee is hosting a Meet The Candidate's night at the East Meadow School Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. All candidates running for local office will be given an opportunity to speak, with Q&A from attendees. Childcare will be provided by the Granby National Honor Society.

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Gerry's marks huge milestone in business

SOUTH HADLEY – On April 20, 1946, Gerry's Music Shop first opened its doors to musicians in the City of Holyoke. Celebrating their 80th year helping and supporting music makers, Gerry's has been a cornerstone of South Hadley's Business community and beloved destination for musicians throughout the pioneer valley and beyond.

Founded by Gerry Lamothé, an accomplished trumpet player and longtime member of the Holyoke Musicians Union, Gerry's first opened its doors on Main St. in Holyoke and in 1994 moved to its current location, 80 Lamb Street in South Hadley.

At 14 years old, Normand Provost began working at the shop as a clerk and stock boy. What started as a part time job, eventually turned into a lifelong passion. At the age of 35, Norm and his wife Ann purchased the music shop in 1974.

Current owner Jim Provost followed a similar path, starting at the age of 8 sweeping the floors and washing windows. Shortly after turning 40, Jim and his wife Mandy purchased the business. Together, the Provost family



Gerry's Music Shop, which started on Main St. in Holyoke, then moved to Lamb St. in South Hadley, is celebrating its 80th anniversary.



Submitted photos

has built a musical legacy that supports musicians of all levels, ages and abilities. From the young beginner, to the seasoned Pro, Gerry's has become a destination for musicians throughout New England.

The history of Gerry's Music is intertwined with the cultural life of South Hadley and the surrounding region. Its continued mission is to build musicians one note at a

time while providing its services at the highest levels.

Gerry's has received numerous awards and recognition throughout the retail music industry. They continue to work hard each day and are

preparing for the next 80 years as they embark on a two-year renovation project of their facility which includes an Educational Learning Center, and an expanded instrument repair shop.

Joining Jim and Mandy in this musical journey and endeavour to continue the legacy are their son James, daughter Erin and nephew Sam Mullins. The future is bright and the music will play on.

Grange holding first workshop of season

WARE – The Ware Grange's first gardening workshop of the year, "Hands on with Summer Annual Flowers," will be held on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden"

column for Turley Publications. Participants will learn about easy to grow summer annuals and get to try their hand at seed starting. Such favorites as Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos and Bachelor's Buttons will be covered. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Residential Lock Box Promotion

SOUTH HADLEY – To celebrate Older American's Month, the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors will be subsidizing the cost of a lock box installation for any applications received by May 31. For the month of May, a lock box can be purchased for just \$10. This program, sponsored by TRIAD, normally offers lock boxes for \$35. Lock boxes provide a secure, exterior storage for house keys, which allows emergency responders access without having to break-down doors. Applications are

available from the Council on Aging and can be returned to the COA with the \$10 payment (checks payable to TRIAD). Applications must be received by May 3 to receive the discount.

Want to learn more about this program? Drop in at the Senior Center on May 1 between 9 to 10:30 a.m. where representatives from South Hadley Fire Districts 1 and 2 will be on hand to answer any questions. Free coffee and refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Legion baseball tryouts set for Apr. 26

BELCHERTOWN — There will be tryouts for Belchertown's American Legion Post 239 baseball teams. The tryouts will be held on Sunday, Apr. 26 at Belchertown High School with Senior Legion players trying out from 9 to 11 a.m. and Junior Legion players trying out from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Residents of Belchertown, students at Belchertown High School, along with other area

town players, such as Granby, Amherst, Ludlow, Hadley, and Ware could also be eligible to try out for the team. The cost to participate on the team is \$250. New players receive a jersey and hat. Returning players who keep their same jersey and hat are \$180. Money is payable after tryouts. Any questions, please contact Mark Zawistowski at markzski@hotmail.com or call/text 617-999-3999.

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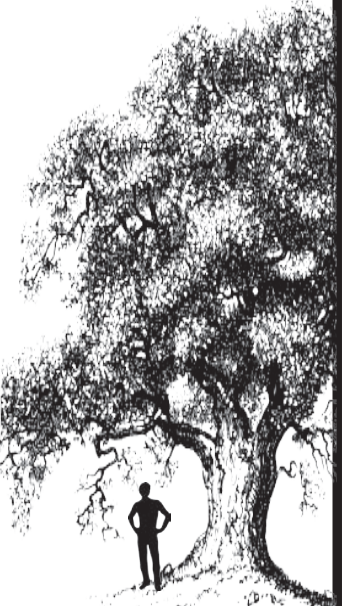
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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Must I set up a Social Security account to enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least three months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.

Signed:
Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead:

You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online.

As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to three months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to three months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1-800-772-1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up.

However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/signup. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security

benefits at this time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

In honor of Mother Earth

This week, we celebrate Earth Day. Lots of towns host bulk waste days or a town-wide clean up as ways to note the day.

While most of us garden with great intentions such as beautifying our yards or producing home grown vegetables, it is important to note that the gardening/greenhouse industry hasn't always been what you'd call "earth-friendly." From mountains of plastic pots not rotting away in our landfills to story after story of chemical misuse, we inadvertently hurt the very source of our pleasure.

So, in honor of Earth Day, read from the archives eight easy things we can do as gardeners to tread a bit more lightly on 'ole Mother.

Feed the soil, not the plant
Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phosphate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient storehouses.

Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.

Start a compost pile
Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and give it a turn. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter.

No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of "black gold."

Make compost tea

Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with "blue water," perk them up with home-brewed compost tea.

Mix one part well-rotted

compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants.

Shop Mom and Pop
Buying local, directly from the grower usually means a knowledgeable sales

recommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking!

Conserve water
We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of moisture lost to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do?

For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest

Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year's time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty past the growing season.

This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic – all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the off-season.

Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

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



team! Form relationships and learn from their expertise.

Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options.

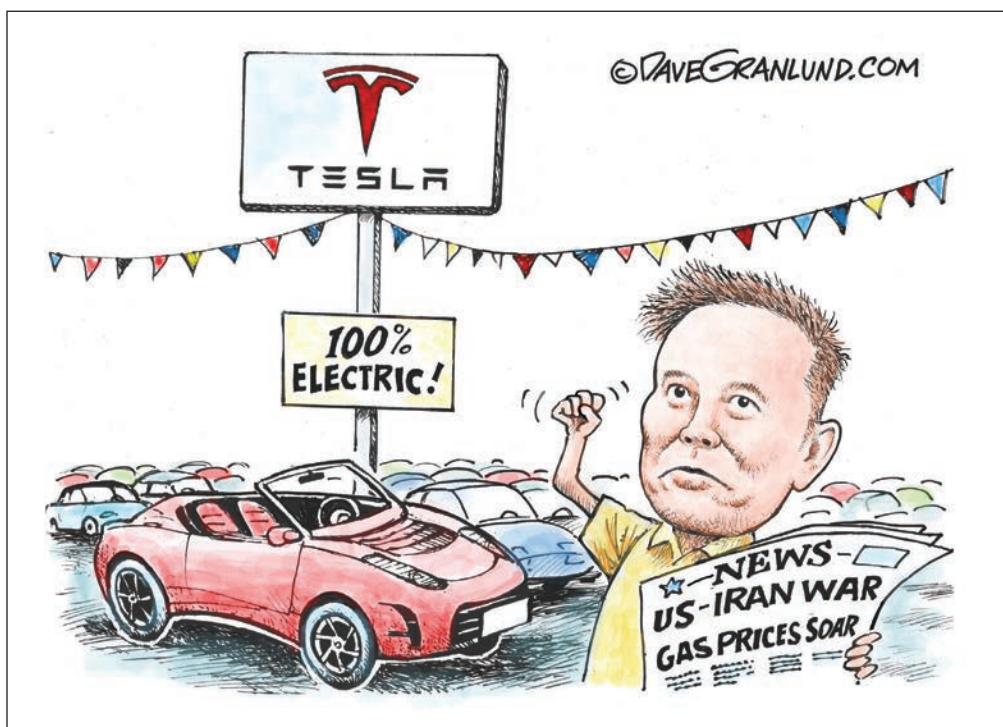
Reduce, reuse, recycle!

I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I'd like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow next years crop.

If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some home-grown seedlings and recycle the rest. An even better solution for earth conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs

Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot – the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you must choose a chemical option follow the manufacturer's



Last Wednesday, April 8 while waiting at the bus stop for my grandson, I saw two red-breasted nuthatches in a small grove of pine trees near the road.

They were going up and down several pine trees most likely in search of insects. The red-breasted nuthatch is about 4.3 to 4.7 inches long and exhibits the typical head-down nuthatch behavior of its larger cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch. Male and females are similar with a black eye stripe, white eyebrow and buff orange underparts. It has a blue-gray back.

They inhabit conifer forests and in winter may be found in other trees. They nest mostly in conifers such as spruce, fir, hemlock.

Both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a rotten stub or snag, usually five to 40 feet about the ground. Sticky pitch is smeared around the entrance of the nest hole possibly to prevent other creatures from entering. Adults avoid getting stuck in the pitch by flying

straight into the hole. Sometimes they are seen with pitch on their feathers.

The female lays five to six white, spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs and the male brings food to her. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young nuthatches leave the nest about two to three weeks after hatching.

They have a soft, musical song used especially in courtship by the male. These nuthatches eat insects, spiders and seeds in summer. In winter they eat many seeds especially those of conifers.

Nesting bluebirds

On Saturday, April 11 I received an email from a Hampden resident. She said, "Our bluebirds are back and have completed their nest. We are awaiting the first egg. I'm surprised they use mostly pine needles constructing the nest."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said he saw a female brown-headed cowbird in his yard. He said it was unusual as he usually sees the male before the female.

He said, "On Sunday I did a tour of local ponds. There was a pair of ring-necked ducks on Sherman Pond in Brimfield and several on a pond in Warren. Also in Warren I saw an osprey at the pond where they have nested for several years. I've been checking the pond since early March and this is the first sighting of an osprey this year. I hope its partner shows up soon."

He also said, in Warren, there was a bald eagle at a pond on New Reed Street. There has been one or two there frequently during March. A pair of eastern bluebirds was seen perched on two different trees with holes possibly suitable for a nest. I often see bluebirds using nesting boxes, but have never seen them using a natural cavity. I'll keep checking to see if they nest in either tree."



Red-breasted nuthatch

Non-bird sighting

The Brimfield resident reported a non-bird sighting. He said "while driving out of the driveway yesterday I saw a small frog hopping off of the driveway. Probably a spring peeper. I'll have to check a nearby small pond in the woods nearby to see if there are peepers there. The frog could have been a pickerel frog, we see those every year in the yard. They come in three sizes; small, medium and large. I try to be careful when I mow or weed whack to avoid them."

Raven

My granddaughter while walking her dogs on Saturday, April 11 heard the croaking sound of a raven. It startled both the dogs and her.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or downer@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.

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.

TOWN Reminder

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR

townreminder@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Nick Brady
nbrady@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
townreminder.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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CRC hosting art exhibition, reception

SOUTH HADLEY – The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), in partnership with Connecticut-based painter John H. Sargent, is pleased to present a community celebration through art to coincide with fish migration season in the Connecticut River watershed. This exhibition of 2-dimensional works will tell stories of our connection to rivers and to the fish, birds, and other wildlife that live here, as well as to our creativity, curiosity, and interconnectedness with the natural world. The exhibit aims to explore our deeper sense of place and belonging in a watershed teeming with life and movement. Migratory fish exemplify the dynamic nature of the connections between land, river, and ocean. Their presence (and absence) speak to the ability of human societies to be shaped by, and in turn to shape our waterways.

The show features two

large riverscape paintings, The Source and The Estuary, by Connecticut-based artist, John H. Sargent. Each of his central paintings are bordered by a series of smaller panels portraying the flora and fauna of each region of the watershed, created by the following artists: Mark Lewchik, Emma Yount, and Gretchen Saverson, Morgan Allen, Melia Pisano, Finn Kellert, and Jade Johnson. At the conclusion of the South Hadley exhibition, these two collaborative paintings will permanently hang in the Connecticut River Conservancy's office in Greenfield, MA.

Additional artists invited to share their work in this exhibition are: Abena Songbird, Deborah Savage, Julie Kumble, Samuel Swap, Sophie Faulks, and Susan B. Mulholland.

All works are for sale, unless otherwise listed. Please direct any inquiries to Stacey

Lennard, CRC Events Manager, slennard@ctriver.org, slennard@ctriver.org 413-325-5995.

On May 7, CRC will kick-off the day with a Children's Program at 4 p.m., where kids will learn about fish migrating in the river through interactive games, listen to fishy stories, and paint their own fish, which they will then "migrate" through the library, inviting patrons to join them in the South Hadley Public Library Community Room for a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The Reception will begin with snacks and live music by Josh Ballard and Greg Reilly, followed by a short program introducing CRC's work, understanding the role and importance of migratory fish, and a chance to ask questions of the artists.

For more information, visit <https://www.ctriver.org/event-details/migratory-moments>.

Grinspoon banquets scheduled for next month

HOLYOKE – The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards will honor 90 teachers from over 20 Western Massachusetts school districts at celebratory banquets at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on May 6, 12 and 20.

The program will feature an awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and monetary award in recognition of their achievement, along with generous tuition incentives and scholarships offered by the following colleges and universities in the region: American International College, Bay Path University, Elms College,

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

Winners also receive a 3-month membership to one of the six regional YMCAs and a 1-month membership to the Springfield Jewish Community Center.

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 23rd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the American International College, Smith College, Artha Credit Union a divi-

sion of BrightBridge Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

"Our teachers serve not only as educators, but also as mentors, community leaders, and innovators. They play a fundamental role in supporting families and building communities. It is a great privilege to recognize outstanding teachers in the Pioneer Valley." Michelle Moon, Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

For a complete list of the 2026 award winners, please visit the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation website: hgcf.org.

Jericho to hold first annual fishing derby

HOLYOKE - The First Annual Fishing Derby at the pond at Jericho will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 537 Northampton St., Holyoke to benefit children and adults with disabilities.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. for all of those who wish to participate. The first cast will be at 10:30 a.m. There will be fishing

poles and tackle available for sale or rental on a first come, first serve basis. There will also be a raffle, and food and drinks available for purchase.

Derby prizes will be given for first fish, largest fish, most fish, and tagged fish.

The price per participant is \$10. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

All participants of any age or ability are welcome. There will be experienced fishermen to help those first timers or to assist anyone in need of help.

Come enjoy a day of fishing fun at Jericho.

For more information contact Jericho at 413-538-7450 or visit the website at www.jerichobeca.org.

Mini-book sale at Clapp Memorial Library

BELCHERTOWN – If you'd like to borrow a book, the Clapp Memorial Library is the place to go; if you'd like to buy a book, the Clapp Memorial Library is also the place to go. The Friends group has a small Ongoing Book Sale in the large white bookcase located under the stained-glass window. It offers good quality books in a

variety of genres for adults and young adults as well as nonreaders, all for \$2 or less.

Recently they added a "Like New" section offering books for adult readers with copyright dates of 2023 or newer at slightly higher prices, as well as young adult and children's books in excellent condition. These are gift quality books that easily

match bookstore purchases but at significantly lower prices.

Check the Ongoing Book Sale out each time you visit the Library as offerings change on an irregular schedule. Pay for these books at the circulation desk. All sales receipts go to support a number of the Library's free programs.

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Tigers fall on the road

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, Agawam scored early and often and South Hadley boys lacrosse suffered a tough 16-3 loss. The Tigers, who are co-oping this season with Granby, are now 4-4 on the regular season. The Tigers will next face Northampton on Monday, Apr. 27 at 5 p.m.



Carter Guoin struggles to grab the faceoff.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gavin Quist heads up the field.



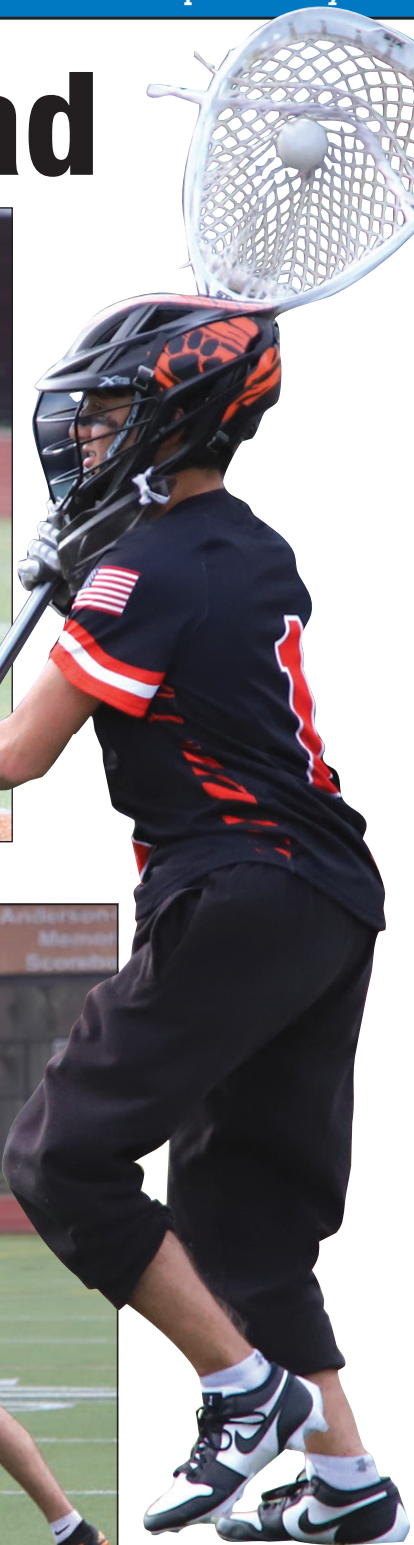
Ryder Mayer tries to pick up a ground ball.



Hunter Skibel eyes up the field.



Colin Lumb makes a play on defense.



Brayden Blais looks up the field.

Granby offense explodes for slugfest win over Chicopee

GRANBY – Last Monday afternoon it was all offense between Granby and Chicopee girls lacrosse. Host Granby was a little better, defeating the Pacers 18-12. Brenna Moreno and Mylin Laliberte had four goals each while Kaelynn Slapski and Carly Zobka had three goals each. Chicopee was led with five goals each from Sophia Moreira and Kiyah Price. The Pacers fell to 3-2 on the season while Granby improved to 5-2 on the year.



Mylin Laliberte picks up a loose ball all alone.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ava Loughman tries to avoid a crowd and head for the goal.



McKenna Cudsworth focuses as she picks up the ball.



Carli Zobka use her body to position herself to pick up the loose ball.



Kaelynn Slapski fights for a loose ball.



McKenna Zumbruski heads for midfield with the ball.

Tigers softball goes through rough patch

SOUTH HADLEY – After a four-game winning streak that saw South Hadley softball surge early in the season, the Tigers have gone through a rough patch during the past week, including three straight losses.

Among them, the Tigers suffered losses last Tuesday to Minnechaug Regional 12-5 and then 13-1 against Frontier Regional.

Against the Red Hawks last Friday afternoon, South Hadley took an early lead on an RBI by Violet Carillon

scoring Lily Powell. The Tigers would hold down Frontier for a couple of innings, but the Red Raiders would strike for four runs in the third, and kept scoring from there. In the sixth, the Red Hawks would score their final two runs to invoke the 12-run mercy rule, ending the game.

The Tigers hope to rebound on the road this Friday night, Apr. 24 against Wahconah Regional at 7 p.m. The Tigers then host Franklin Tech on Monday Apr. 27 at 4 p.m.

Pitching still needed for Pioneer Valley adult baseball league

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, still has open roster spots for 2026 season.

The league is especially in need of some additional pitching for a couple of its teams. The season is just one game in and there are 21 games remaining through the summer with playoffs taking place in August.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday morn-

ings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way. Those who sign up after the season begins will pay a prorated fee for the season.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

T-Birds defeat Wolf Pack, await playoff opponent

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (32-32-6-2) overcame another hard charge from the Hartford Wolf Pack (26-38-5-3) to emerge with a 4-3 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

After a disheartening third period on Friday, the T-Birds came out with a clear purpose to their game in the opening 20 minutes, outpacing Hartford on the shot board, 18-4. Despite that disparity, it took until the 14:14 mark and the club's 16th shot of the period to find the back of the net. Dillon Dube did just that, deflecting an Alek Kaskimaki shot past Callum Tung's glove to make it a 1-0 lead for Springfield.

Dube's work was not done, either, as the veteran forward cranked a one-timer through Tung at 19:07 off a

pass into the high slot from Calle Rosen, giving him 20 goals in just 46 games this season and joining Chris Wagner and Kaskimaki as 20-goal scorers for this season's T-Birds squad.

Juraj Pekarcik helped buoy the lead further when he stole a puck from two defenders and quickly chipped a forehand shot past Tung at 5:45 of the second to make it a 3-0 lead for the home team.

However, for a second straight night, the Wolf Pack refused to go away quietly, as Brendan Brisson's second goal in two nights got Hartford on the board at 7:56 of the second. Then Aidan Thompson stole a puck off the right wing wall and quickly funneled a forehand shot through Will Cranley on the stick side to cut it to 3-2 at 12:48 of the period.

From there on, though,

the T-Birds' rookie netminder was monstrous, as Cranley would make 37 saves by the time his night was done.

Just 33 seconds after Thompson's goal, Springfield got a much-needed response when Hugh McGing put a shot off a defenseman's stick and past Tung's shoulder, giving the T-Birds a two-goal cushion heading into the third.

Controversy made an appearance 3:46 into the third when Brisson poked a puck, along with Cranley's pad, across the line on a power play to make it a 4-3 game. The T-Birds argued heavily, but the officials stayed with the goal call on the ice, and the margin was down to one heading down the stretch.

McGing appeared to have Springfield's fifth goal of the night moments later, but after video replay, he was deemed to have kicked

the puck over the line, so the 4-3 score was upheld.

Despite a furious push of 36 shots over the final 40 minutes of play, the Wolf Pack wound up finishing one goal short.

By virtue of their win and Hershey's regulation loss to the Islanders, Springfield now awaits the final outcome of the Bears' Sunday contest with the Rochester Americans to determine who their first-round opponent will be.

If Rochester defeats the Bears, Springfield will secure the 5-seed and face the Bridgeport Islanders, who locked in the 4-seed with their win over Hershey on Saturday.

If the Bears defeat the Americans, Springfield will be the 6-seed and face the Charlotte Checkers, the 3-seed who would host all three games of the best-of-three series.

Worcester Railers get win in penultimate game

WORCESTER – For the Railers' loyal fans, the 2025-26 hockey season has gone from being "wait till next year" to "we can't wait for next year."

The home team increased its winning streak to five games with a wonderful 3-2 overtime victory over the Adirondack Thunder Saturday night. Drew Callin, assisted by Anthony, got the winner at 4:05 of OT.

The game went into extra minutes thanks to a late goal by the Thunder.

Adirondack, though, carried no momentum into overtime. The Railers outshot the visitors, 4-0, in the fourth period. At times it looked like Worcester was playing with a two-man advantage.

The winning goal came via a short pass from Anthony to Drew in close. The older Callin had a tap-in, although a minute earlier he had missed what looked like a gimme from in close on a similar play.

The goal was Drew Callin's 25th of the season. He is merely the fifth Railers player to reach that plateau and has two of Worcester's eight overtime goals this year.

"We love that OT," he said, adding, "We came into the weekend knowing it was the last weekend and we wanted to go out the right way. We wanted to get the first one and do it again (Sunday)."

MacAuley Carson and Max Dorrington had the other Railers goals, both in the first period. Dylan Wendt and Grant Loven scored for the Thunder. Loven's goal came with only 2:09 left in regulation and just six seconds after a delay of game penalty on Adam Samuelsson had expired.

Parker Gahagen was the winning goaltender with another great performance. He made 23 saves to improve his record to 20-11-1. Gahagen is only the second individual Railers goalie

with a 20-win season. Mitch Gillam won 20-plus in the team's first two years as members of the ECHL.

It is Gahagen's second personal 20-win year as pro, at least with the same team. He was 20-10-3 with the Florida Everblades when they won the Kelly Cup in 21-22. Gahagen has been beyond good at the DCU Center. He is 10-4-0 at home with a 1.96 goals-against average and .930 saves percentage.

The Railers got ahead early on Carson's goal at 4:41 of the first period. He received a neat pass from Riley Piercey along the left boards and beat Thunder goaltender Tyler Brennan along the ice from about 20 feet out. It was Carson's seventh goal of the season and third in the last five games after he endured an 11-game drought.

Worcester retained its 1-0 lead for about 14 minutes. Dorrington made it a 2-0 game at 18:26 His goal

came on a bad angle shot from the right of the net with Gleb Veremyev and Adam Samuelsson picking up assists. The goal was Dorrington's seventh and he has four in the last five games.

The Railers kept Adirondack off the scoreboard for more than half of the second period but Wendt got his team a goal at 10:41. It was a very nice play all around as Thunder defenseman Connor Hutchison slid a diagonal pass from the left point to Wendt between the circles.

He re-directed it over Gahagen's glove into the top corner.

Worcester nearly regained its two-goal lead shortly after that as Lincoln Hatten had the puck and some space about 25 feet out but was denied by Brennan.

Adirondack's tying goal came from in close, set up by a shot from Kevin O'Neil.

PANEL from page 1

So, we needed something a little stronger."

Members leaned toward a darker, patterned carpet to hide dirt.

"I think a little darkness better, probably hides dirt a little better," Police Chief Kevin O'Grady said.

The committee also favored a darker, warmer rubber base instead of a cooler gray.

"I'm happy with dark, plus it matches that brown little better, to be honest with you," Mercier said.

In corridors and offices, the design team proposed a neutral wall color with limited accent colors for wayfinding and to reflect Granby's school colors.

"You guys have kind of these departments that we can kind of differentiate with the color," Joyce said. "So that's where we can add a color there... so it's just not bland, and it's just not this corridor that just gets lost."

Mercier said she wanted a

clear accent at the bend leading to the town administrator's office.

"I definitely like a color in the turn where the hall turns to go to the TA," she said.

Inside offices, the group agreed on one accent wall per room and on using "Granby blue" as part of the palette.

In the kitchenette, the preferred scheme uses a lighter wood-grain laminate base, blue uppers and a warm accent wall color that picks up the door grain.

Solid-surface countertops in a lighter, speckled neutral were chosen over darker options.

For bathrooms, the committee stuck with two shades of blue in the flooring to help differentiate spaces and reflect Granby's colors.

Joyce suggested using one color at the entry and sinks and another at the stalls.

"In the bathroom, I was trying to introduce where you walk in, there's one color, and then where that partition or toilet stall begins, it'll

be a different color," he said.

The group settled on a light, textured material for partitions.

Grants, compliance and outside funding

Mercier said the town is exploring whether it can apply for an Americans with Disabilities Act grant, but eligibility depends on whether Granby has completed re-

quired planning work.

"I'm not sure if we're going to be able to apply for that one," she said. "I don't know when the last time Granby did a self-evaluation, and I don't think we can get one done... but I'm going to go through some files in the TA's office to see if I can find them."

She and O'Grady also

filed a congressional spending request that could significantly offset construction costs.

"Chief and I got a congressional spending fund application in on April 3 for funding, federal funding," Mercier said. "I think we asked for about \$10 million dollars."

And, because the proj-

ect uses federal American Rescue Plan Act money, auditors have asked for documentation of how the town hired its project manager and architect.

"We had an auditor request for all our documentation regarding OPM and architect choice... so that was done since we met last," Mercier said.

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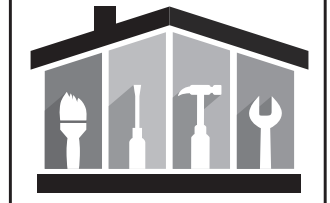
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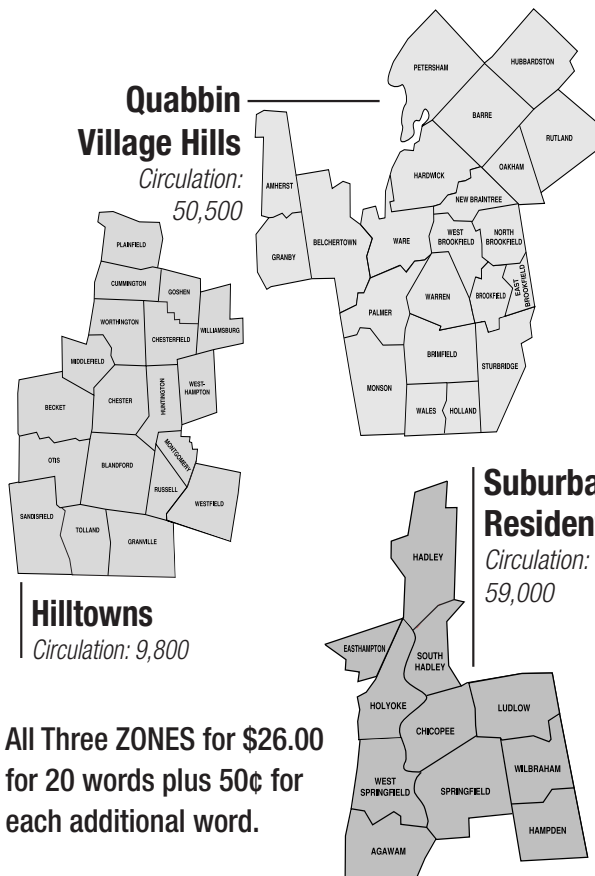
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Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Historical flags decorated the event, all of which played key symbolic roles in the foundation of this country.

PATRIOT from page 1

municate with the other towns throughout Massachusetts of the actions of the British in preparation for what they pretty much knew was a coming fight," said Willette in his speech. In September 1774, South Hadley and Hampshire County began to organize militias, as well as stockpile weapons, ammunition, and gunpowder.

"War was coming," said Willette. The increased friction between British forces and local armed militias resulted in outright conflict on April 19, 1775 in Lexington and Concord. A day later and South Hadley joined the fight for independence. The speech spotlighted several well-known moments in history, including the establishment of the Continental Army

on June 14, 1775, the appointment of George Washington as the nation's first commander in chief, his arrival in Cambridge on July 3, and the declaration of the "United Provinces of North America" on July 4.

However, the speech focused on lesser-known local figures that etched their names in history. The speech honored Caesar Cambridge, a slave from South Hadley who enlisted in the Continental Navy, bought his freedom through his naval stipend, then went on to sign up for service in the Continental Army to rejoin the fight for independence.

Maureen Richardson, a representative of the Revolutionary War re-enactment troupe the 25th Continental, recalled the life of Deborah Sampson. The nicknamed 'Heroine of Massachusetts'

enlisted in the Continental Army, then created a service record so impressive and undeniable that she was granted an honorable exception by John Hancock, as it was illegal for women to serve at the time. She went on to be granted an honor by General Henry Knox, which allowed her to successfully retire.

Massachusetts state representative Homar Gómez then took the stand. He spoke about the nation's founding, the importance of a free democracy, and surprised the lead speaker with an award honoring his service and his wider dedication towards the local community.

The proceedings included multiple speeches from South Hadley's historical societies, a commemorative plaque honoring South Hadley residents that contribut-

ed towards the war effort, a plaque replacement ceremony honoring French and Indian War and Revolutionary War veteran John Frink Sr., a reading of lost veteran's names, an extensive exhibition of flags utilized throughout the Revolutionary War and the nation's founding, and a fife and drum presentation. The

presentation was punctuated by a three-musket salute performed by the reenactment society.

The ceremony concluded with a changing of the flags at veteran's graves, the replacements of which were provided by American Legion Post 260 and switched out by South Hadley residents. It

was a reminder that history is not only an echo of the past, but a present reminder of the people that make it daily.

"There are many voices," said Bob Delisle, a local war reenactment troop member in attendance. "It's the idea of keeping history alive and trying to give the correct history."

Legal Notices

**Legal Notice
Board of
Water Commissioners
Fire District No.2
South Hadley, Massachusetts
Request For Proposals For
Antenna Lease On The
Skinner Lane Water Tank
Advertisement for Requests
for Proposals**

Sealed proposals for a 25-year lease of antenna space on the Skinner Lane Tank Site on the corner of Skinner Lane and Childeab Road, located near the center of South Hadley, and is overlooking Amherst Road/Rte. 116 area.

Sealed proposals for the lease of cellular or other type antenna space with a starting minimum bid of \$2928.20 per month with 10% increases every 5 years for the duration of the lease will be received by the Board of Water Commissioners at their office at 20 Woodbridge Street South, Hadley MA, 01075, **until 11:00 AM local time on Tuesday May 12, 2026** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at Fire District No.2 Fire Station. The bid envelope shall be address to the attention of Timothy Cauley, and clearly marked **PROPOSAL FOR SKINNER LANE TANK ANTENNA LEASE.**

Contract Documents may be examined and secured at the office of South Hadley Fire District No.2 Water Department, 20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM, Monday thru Friday, legal holidays excluded.

The successful proposals are subject to the applicable laws, rules and regulations governing such an installation as well as the Special Permit process with the Town of South Hadley Planning Board and their applicable fees in its entirety.

As applicable fees for this installation will be the responsibility of the successful proposal in its entirety.

No proposals may be withdrawn with-in thirty (30) days after the date of opening of proposals.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal, which in their opinion is in the public interest to do so.

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No.2
South Hadley, Massachusetts
04/24/2026

**Town of Granby
Board of Appeals**

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold the following Public Hearings on **May 04, 2026**, at the Carnegie Building, Top Floor, 1-Library Lane, Granby MA 01033.

6:00 PM- to consider the petition of Linda Healy, Applicant/ Owner seeking a variance of Section III- Regulations, 3, Table 2. - Dimensional and Density Regulation, regarding insufficient minimum side setbacks regarding proposed construction of a garage on a preexisting non-conforming foundation located at 128 South Street, known as Map 5B-A-1 in the Town of Granby, MA.

In addition to the above hearing, the Board of Appeals intends to conduct a public meeting following said hearing as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Steven Nally, Chairman
Granby Board of Appeals
04/17, 04/24/2026



Revolutionary War reenactors pay their respects during the commemorative bell rung in honor of lost veterans.

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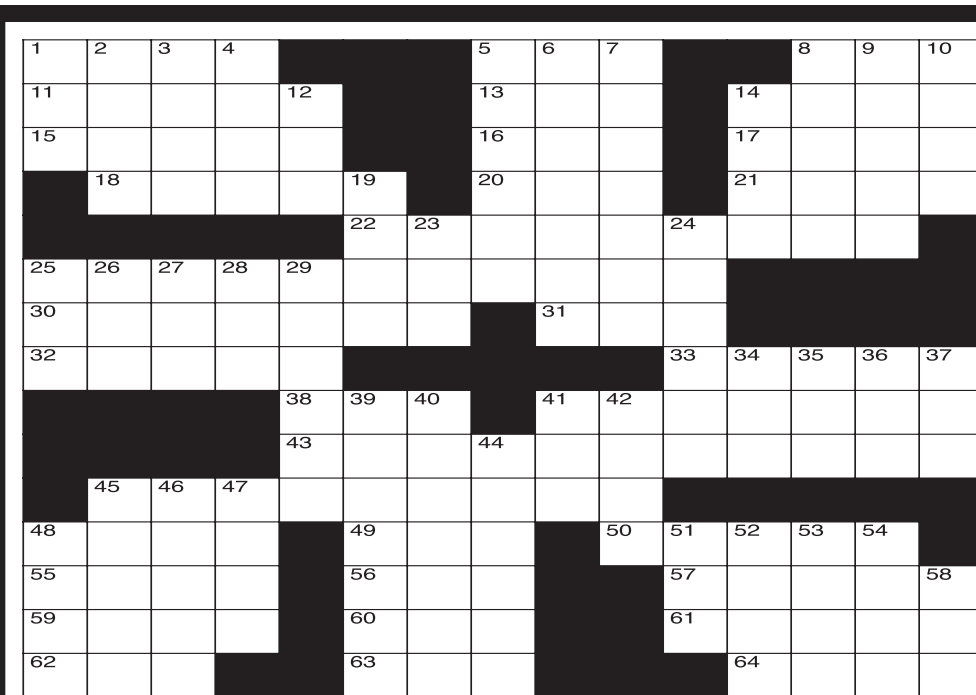
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Will Ferrell holiday film
- 11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- 13. Error-related negativity
- 14. Volcanic crater
- 15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
- 16. True market value
- 17. Italian term for exchange rate
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Men's fashion accessory
- 21. Children's craft supply
- 22. Extra benefits
- 25. In an early way
- 30. A judge has one
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Communication
- 6. Stoats
- 7. Showcases
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly notable
- 19. Meet one's needs
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food

- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape a surface
- 34. Green vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Capital of Brazilian city
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN personality
- 44. One who moves slowly
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave by coating
- 54. North Carolina university
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

SIGNS from page 1

signs to be regulated in this way ... the rule of thumb is you shouldn't have to read the sign to know if it is in compliance with the bylaw," she said.

"The content on the sign should be irrelevant. You should be able to look at the sign in terms of where it's located, its size, its illumination...and that is all," she said.

The latest draft of the proposed bylaw begins with a definition that declares, "Any sign exceeding 6 square feet in area ... shall be installed, erected, altered, or reconstructed without a sign permit issued by the town building commissioner."

The provision, as stated, would not include a lawn sign that typically measures 18 inches by 24 inches, or 3 square feet – half the size of the 6- square- feet proposed

in the draft bylaw, and is not intended to be permanent. Thus, it would be categorized as a temporary sign.

Board members considered a proposed time limit for temporary signs with the following rule: "Signs in use for greater than 90 days in any one calendar year shall be judged permanent."

"So, if you have a 6-square-foot sign or smaller and it's going to be up for longer than 90 days, it would be considered permanent and would need a sign permit from the building commissioner," Capra said.

Board member Rob Wachilla noted the proposed blanket protection for signs under 6 square feet, but at the same time wondered about imposing a time limit on them because they are classified as temporary.

"At the beginning of this bylaw, you're (the board) creating this blanket protection

over anything under 6 square feet by saying that you're not regulated by these rules," Wachilla said. Capra responded: "The issue that has come up is that people have complained about people having signs up on their property year-round of any size."

The discussion was joined remotely by Carolyn Allen, of 56 Park Ave., who presented a theoretical situation:

"You couldn't get a sign permit to put up a permanent, for example, campaign sign on your front lawn?"

Capra said that would be the case and explained:

"Only certain (permanent) signs are allowed in residential areas: home occupations, multifamily dwellings or subdivision signs and exempt uses, such as churches, schools and bed-and-breakfasts," Capra said

"I think it's really confusing if you say that something that's less than 6 square feet

is exempt, but it's really not exempt," said board member Brad Hutchinson. "It's (a small sign) still subject to the provision of 'temporariness'."

Chairwoman Diane Mulvaney commented that she understood the desire not to be subjected to the view of a bothersome sign.

"Ugh. I don't want to look at this thing constantly," Mulvaney said.

Allen then presented another scenario:

"You can have your sign up for three months (90 days) out of a calendar year. Do you take it down and leave it down for one day, and then put it back up?" she said.

Mulvaney acknowledged the (sign bylaw) issue was a "challenge," and made a motion, approved by the board, to continue the public hearing until April 27 at 7 p.m.

Exemptions to the current ban on signs in certain districts include those protected

by state laws such as flags, public legal notices, and, gasoline pump signs. Proposed new exemptions would also allow non-commercial artistic murals and educational displays on public property. Following the decision to continue the hearing, Capra cited developments regarding two ongoing issues:

In one, she reported that on April 1, the town building commissioner revoked the building permit for the former town Public Library at 27 Bardwell St. because the developer had ceased activity for more than 180 days (six months) and for violating the provisions of the special permit that granted authority for the work. The original building permit was issued in November 2019 and was extended in July 2024 by the then-building commissioner. The developer was found to

have not called for a single building permit inspection since prior to the July 2024 reissuance.

The Selectboard in August 2025 notified the developer that the town would exercise its option in the development agreement that specifies fines of \$2,000 per month for non-completion of the project within 24 months of the agreement that commenced in March 2015. Also, real estate taxes amounting to \$5,999 are past due.

In another case, the town filed a lien against the deed of 1 West Main St. to cover expenses for installation of an access gate and removal of a tractor trailer on the property. The work was necessary to secure access to the site so soil and groundwater testing can occur under an Environmental Protection Agency brownfield assessment grant.

Library to host blood drive

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. South Hadley Health Department will host a blood drive. Appointments are strongly recommended. The event will be held in the

community room and eligible donors will also receive a \$10 gift card to Starbucks, Amazon, Big Y, or Panera Bread. To register, contact Fiona Cioch at fcioch@southhadley-ma.gov or call 413-887-8008.



SHOW from page 1 a greater emphasis on general community building, with the intent of fostering a sense of creativity and belonging within the local youth as well as bringing "joy to as many people as possible."

"We're really hoping that the adults will get into doing some artwork too," said Novak. "Because they need to enjoy life, too."

Prior to this, the committee ran fun days. The events, which ran once a month until the pandemic happened, comprised of outdoor games and cooking. The committee sees this exhibit as a "pilot program" that they can continue at regular intervals, much like the fun days of the past.

"We got a lot of people who never attended our church," reflected Novak. "That was fine because it's a community outreach. It's not about church."

"It's about helping other people and bringing joy

to their lives," added Easter. "All three of us love art. All three of us have children and art was a big part of all our lives and their lives."

The Children's Art Exhibit will be taking place on Apr. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church located on 30 Carew Street in South Hadley. There will be opportunities to create art both on site and for drop off during the event. Pieces will be mounted and displayed in art gallery format and there will be prizes for first, second, and third place in the form of art materials. All participants will receive a box of crayons as well.

"I've always been enchanted by the imagination," said Novak. "It's wonderful to give them that means of expression and you just never know what you're going to see. The stories tell about what they do; it's just a great experience for everybody."


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