

TOWN Reminder

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Cuts for library discussed

By Ben Hernandez
 Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – “So, Joe is on for the library,” said Town Administrator Lisa Wong, who began conversation about funding the library. “The library is about \$75,000 below what we need to have that minimum certification. It’s more like at the \$90,000 or so below what would be service level funded.”

Joe Rodio, the library

director of the South Hadley Public Library, was on the call during the April 28 Select Board meeting to discuss plans for future funding. Wong began the proceeding by listing the impacts that the recent budget cuts had on the district.

“The budget does reduce a number of positions throughout the library for reduced hours,” said Wong. “That reduction in hours also means we can’t really cover two buildings to the extent

that we could. So we would potentially be pulling staff away from Gaylord.”

The Gaylord Memorial Library is a branch of the South Hadley Public Library. It’s unique in the fact that the building itself isn’t owned by the town but by the Friends of Gaylord; a private volunteer group. Discussions about that building’s future, as of this writing, are still ongoing.

“The minimum state aid keeps sort of rolling on,”

Wong said. “The only way to kind of reset the minimum aid might be to lose the certification altogether, which means you’re talking about a pretty significant three, four, five year process to kind of get back up there. So even if we under fund and we get a waiver for multiple years, at some point, we still have to figure out how to make that up.”

The potential budget cuts

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 9

New life breathed into former West Street School



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Senator Jake Oliveira, Granby Select Board members, and Town Moderator Lynn Mercier toss ceremonial dirt representing the new soil unearthed for the new municipal building.

By Ben Hernandez
 Staff Writer

GRANBY - West Street School is being transformed into municipal office buildings. The once beloved elementary school, which has been left in status since 2018, will now have new life as the main office for the town’s building inspector and local municipal offices. State senator Jake Oliveira and Select Board members shoveled ceremonial dirt on April 28 in a dedication ceremony that honored the memory of the school while also explaining its future to the community.

“While its role is changing, its importance in the community remains as strong as ever,” said Town Moderator Lynn Snopak Mercier during the commemoration speech. “Today we begin

an exciting new chapter. We are transforming this former school into municipal offices and we are breathing new life into a space that has always served the public.”

The project began in earnest in August 2022, when a group of concerned citizens went to the Granby Select Board with the express purpose of finding a use for the existing West Street School building. A previous recommendation was made back in 2018, where the recommendation was to remove the existing structure and build two new town buildings at the location. The proposed buildings would have been a Town Hall and a Council on Aging building.

As the project didn’t go through, the former school remained vacant, which became a major issue. As West



Mark Bail gives a few thoughts during Lynn Mercier’s speech.

Street School was still being heated and maintained by the town, the building became a significant financial drain. The Select Board created the West State Building Com-

mittee in January 2023 to determine the fate of the former school. The result, after an attempt to renovate the

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 9

Successful shredding



Submitted photos

South Hadley TRIAD and Greenfield Cooperative Bank teamed up to offer free shredding with donations going to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft and financial fraud. South Hadley TRIAD is always eager to welcome new volunteers! Call the SHPD and ask for the TRIAD representative

Where history lives: The enduring legacy of Gaylord Memorial Library

By Tina Lesniak
 Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - For more than a century, the Gaylord Memorial Library has stood at the heart of South Hadley Center, its worn wooden floors and quiet stacks carrying the imprint of generations. Built in 1902, the building is more than a place to borrow books. It is a living link to the town’s earliest efforts to make knowledge public and accessible.

The story begins before the building itself. When the South Hadley Free Public Library was established by town meeting in 1897, it operated out of two rented spaces, one in the town center and another in the Falls. The construction of the Gaylord building in 1902 marked a turning point. “For 124 years, the Gaylord Memorial Library has been a key part of the South Hadley Center neighborhood and a bridge between the town and Mount Holyoke College community,” said Library Director

Joe Rodio. That sense of connection—between past and present, town and campus—remains one of its most meaningful legacies.

Step inside, and the building’s history is palpable. “The historic building ‘feels’ like a classic library with stained wood worn smooth from generations of use,” Rodio said. “Many people visit Gaylord for a library experience that takes them back to earlier days.” That nostalgia, however, comes with modern challenges. “Part of that charm includes stairs that can be an obstacle for some people to access the building,” he noted, highlighting the balance between preservation and accessibility.

Despite its old-world atmosphere, Gaylord continues to evolve in unexpected ways. Alongside its traditional collections, the library offers a seed library, allowing patrons to take home seeds for their own gardens. Outside, a native pollinator garden is

Please see **HISTORY**, page 9

Grand re-opening of Buttery Brook Park set for next Saturday

By Tina Lesniak
 Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — Residents and visitors alike are invited to gather at Buttery Brook Park on May 16 for a grand re-opening celebration that highlights extensive improvements to one of the town’s most cherished outdoor spaces.

Kim Prough, a leading advocate for the park and president of the Friends of Buttery Brook Park, emphasized the importance of the revitalization. “Buttery Brook Park is a beautiful town asset and these improvements provide even more reasons to spend time outdoors at the park,”

she said. “The park not only provides a valuable resource for the townspeople in South Hadley, but it also draws people in from out of town who will visit our restaurants, gas stations, and stores, providing a positive economic impact for the town.”

Among the most notable upgrades is a new bandstand and performance stage, replacing an outdated structure. The expanded space includes a grassy area designed for audiences to bring chairs or blankets and enjoy live entertainment. The popular cruise night tradition will continue this summer, now paired with a Friday night concert series hosted

by the Friends of Buttery Brook Park beginning May 15. Organizers estimate the combined events could draw more than 5,000 attendees over the season.

Another major addition is a 9-hole disc golf course, built in what was once an unused wooded section of the park. Designed for players of all skill levels, the course features both standard and shorter tees. Since opening last June, it has already recorded more than 1,700 rounds played by visitors from 19 states. Weekly bag tag league events are held on Sundays and remain open to the public.

Accessibility improve-

ments have also transformed the park experience. Newly installed walkways connect key areas, and a half-mile accessible walking path now loops through the grounds, complete with benches for rest and scenic views.

The May 16 event aims to showcase these enhancements while thanking the many contributors who made them possible. Festivities will include performances by puppeteer Ed Popielarz, demonstrations by local youth bands and dance groups, a family-friendly fun run, and a free concert by the band Aquanett at the new

Please see **PARK**, page 9

Community

HCC names Julissa Colón of South Hadley as first Dean of Student Experience

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is pleased to announce that Julissa Colón of South Hadley has been selected as the college's first dean of student experience.

Colón, 44, is a 2013 graduate of HCC. She started working at the college in 2010 as a clerk for the Gateway to College program and earned her associate degree in liberal arts. With the help of HCC's Pathways Program, she transferred to Smith College, where she received a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies and History and was subsequently hired as special programs coordinator for Gateway to College. While continuing to work full time, she earned a master's degree in public administration and a graduate certificate in gender leadership and public policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

In 2020, Colón was hired as the inaugural director of El Centro, HCC's bilingual support program.



Submitted photo

Julissa Colón, of South Hadley, has recently been named the Dean of Student Experience at Holyoke Community College.

Now, as the first dean of student experience, she oversees new student programs, including orientation; Student Engagement, which includes student clubs and activities; wellness programs, including the college's on-campus

partnership with the Center for Human Development; and Commencement. She also serves as chair of the HCC Care Team and as the student conduct officer.

"Julissa brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to

this position, including program development and implementation, assessment of program outcomes, budgetary oversight, and strengthening HCC's position as a Hispanic Serving Institution," said Renee Tastad, assistant vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. "What sets her apart, however, is her 15 years of experience working directly with HCC students."

Colón started her new job in January.

"I genuinely love HCC," she said. "I love our students. I love the staff and faculty that I work with. I love what HCC imagines itself to be, and I say 'imagines itself' because we are always striving to be better."

Colón grew up in Springfield and is the mother of two grown children, Christian Aponte, 20, and Luna Aponte, 25, a 2021 HCC graduate.

"HCC has been my home for so long, said Colón. "I've been here for 15 years and the amount of growth that I've experienced as a student, as the parent of a student here, as the aunt of a student here, is tremendous. My family has been here. My friends are here. My folks come here. My commitment to my community is here."

South Hadley Democrats to sponsor mini-golf fundraiser

SOUTH HADLEY — Community and area residents are invited to attend a mini-golf fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, at Stony Falls Miniature Golf and Country Creamery at McCray's Farm (55 Alvard St., South Hadley; www.facebook.com/Mc-CraysFarm).

Entrance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Entrance includes unlimited play during the event and a one-scoop cone or cup of McCray's homemade ice cream (or \$3.25 toward another food purchase).

Tickets are available at the event. No advance purchase is necessary, but advance tickets are available by emailing southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com. In case of a rainout, advance tickets may be redeemed for one round of mini-golf and a scoop of ice cream (or \$3.25 toward other food purchase)

through June 30, 2026.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help fund various events and causes sponsored by the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, including a twice-annual food drive and support for Democratic candidates for state and national political office.

Support from hole sponsors also helps to fund free tickets for deserving families from the greater South Hadley area to enjoy a fun day of mini-golf and some of McCray's famous home-made ice cream.

Additional information about the May 16 event is available at southhadleydems.com. Questions can be sent to southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com. You can also follow South Hadley Democrats on Facebook (facebook.com/SouthHadleyDTC) and on Instagram (instagram.com/southhadleydems).

Library holding program on workplace accommodations

The South Hadley Public Library is excited to have MassAbility Career Services on Wednesday, May 13 from 3 -5 p.m. who will present How to Ask for Accommodations at Work, an informative program designed to help individuals better understand their rights in the workplace and build confidence in requesting the support they need to succeed. This session

will cover what reasonable accommodations are, how to request them for disability-related needs, and will include real-life case examples and workplace scenarios. Attendees will also learn practical strategies to help support long-term success on the job. Sign up here <https://tinyurl.com/AbilityMay13> or call 413-538-5045.

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South Hadley Residents
Smith Educational Fund

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

Applicants must be: A resident of South Hadley
Under twenty-one years of age
Registered to attend a post-secondary school

Application deadline: May 22, 2026

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BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2026-2027 school year:

Grade	Openings	Grade	Openings
Grade K	3	Grade 6	1
Grade 1	3	Grade 7	7
Grade 2	3	Grade 8	7
Grade 3	1	Grade 9	14
Grade 4	2	Grade 10	14
Grade 5	1		

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a complete application is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026.

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on May 29, 2026, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 15, 2026.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

Girls, Inc celebrates grand opening of new facility

HOLYOKE — Girls Inc. of the Valley celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated headquarters in Holyoke on Thursday, April 30, marking a major milestone in expanding opportunities for girls across the region to grow up strong, smart, and bold.

The event welcomed the donors, partners, and community members whose support made the transformation possible, including the organization's successful fundraising campaign, that secured \$7.25 million to complete the building's renovation. The celebration also highlighted how the new space is already strengthening and expanding the organization's impact.

Held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the organization's headquarters at 480 Hampden Street, the evening began with tours of the renovated facility, followed by a program featuring remarks and powerful firsthand stories from youth participants about the impact of Girls Inc. programming.

The newly renovated

headquarters now serves as a permanent home for the Girls Inc. Experience: a safe, supportive environment where girls gain the skills, confidence, and connections they need to succeed. With expanded space and resources, Girls Inc. of the Valley has already begun increasing its reach across Holyoke and surrounding communities, expanding evidence-based programming, and deepening partnerships with local organizations.

"This building represented so much more than a renovation; it was a powerful investment in the future of the young people we serve," said Suzanne Parker, Executive Director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. "Because of our community's support, we are expanding access to life-changing programs that help girls grow up strong, smart, and bold."

The Grand Opening Celebration also served as a springboard for Girls Inc.'s upcoming "Ready or Not, Here They Come" campaign, a bold national movement

centered on the power and potential of girls and the importance of investing in their futures.

Kicking off on May 7 as part of Girls Inc. Together Week and the organization's National Day of Giving, the campaign will mobilize the community through a strong emphasis on peer-to-peer fundraising. Supporters will be invited to become ambassadors for the mission by creating their own fundraising pages, sharing personal connections to Girls Inc., and encouraging their networks to invest in the next generation of leaders.

This peer-driven approach will expand the reach of the campaign beyond traditional giving, empowering individuals to activate their own communities and play a direct role in fueling opportunities for girls. Rooted in the belief that when girls succeed, everyone benefits, the campaign will elevate stories of local participants while driving both awareness and critical funding for expanded programming.



Submitted photos

Cynthia Medina Carson (Girls Inc of the Valley Alumna, former Board Member, campaign co-chair), Bernadette Harrigan (former Board Member, campaign co-chair), Suzanne Parker (Executive Director), Debra Vega (current Board Chair), Sabria Brown (Girls Inc. of the Valley Alumna, graduate student at Bay Path University).



The crowd watches on as speakers address the group at the Girls Inc Grand Opening of their newly renovated headquarters.

Lions Club announces fundraiser winners

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club held the drawings for our 120 Club fundraiser at our Lions meeting on April 21. The first prize winner of \$250 was Roger Jones, the second prize winner of \$100 was Conor O'Shea and the third winner of \$50 was Odette Dardenne.

In addition, there were 10 preliminary prize drawings of \$10 each and those winners were Bob Langevin, George

Knight, Brian Roberts, Denis Lafleur, Steve Labelle, Conor O'Shea, Eric Gustafson, Rite Petithory, Jim Freeman, and Carol Cote.

The Granby Lions Club appreciates the support of all who purchased tickets for this fundraiser and the proceeds will be used for the support of our vision and scholarship programs.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I want to do everything right when I claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:
I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?

Signed: Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon:
Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also

provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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.

These yellow-rumped warblers, also known as Myrtle warblers, flitted around the edges of Lake Wallace in Belchertown, on April 22.

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting he saw two yellow-rumped. He attached the above photos. The second photo a rear view of the warbler clearly shows the yellow rump of this aptly named warbler.

These warblers are about the size of black-capped chickadee and have a long bill and narrow tail

They are gray with yellow on their sides, a small patch on the head and of course, the large patch on the rump. They have white on wings, throat and underneath. They have black and white streaking on the breast. Males have a large black patch around the eye. The female is duller.

In summer, yellow-rumped warblers inhabit open coniferous forests and edges and not as often deciduous forests.

They primarily feed on insects in the summer. On migration and winter they eat fruit and berries particularly bayberry and wax myrtle. Their song is a series of high-pitched notes often described as "chewy" or "chip-chip."

When males court females, they fluff their feathers, raise their wings and



the feathers of the crown and hop from perch to perch, chipping. They may also make display flights in which they glide back and forth or fly slowly with exaggerated wingbeats. The yellow-rumped Warbler's flight is agile and swift and the birds often call as they change direction.

The female builds the nest

The Garden Lady takes on spring bulb woes

Debi, who gardens in Hardwick, reached out to the Garden Lady with concerns over her daffodils.

They didn't bloom well this year, and she wonders if they need fertilizer.

"Dear Garden Lady, sorry to bother you in this busy season but our daffodils aren't doing well. I'm guessing they need food. What would you suggest?"

I am happy to answer your question! There are typically four reasons why daffodils don't bloom.

Probably the first mistake gardeners make is removing the foliage too soon after the flowers go by. Foliage needs about six-eight weeks of ripening before it can be removed.

While it is still green, it is photosynthesizing and making energy for next year's flowers.

It can get unsightly as it starts to yellow and finally turn brown and dry up, but we must be patient.

It is ready when it comes off with a gentle tug. Some gardeners get strategic with nearby plants so that the eye moves away from the foliage and to another plant taking the stage in full bloom.

Another reason why daffodils may be stingy with their flowers is that the clumps are overgrown and need to be divided. Wait until the foliage has turned brown, then dig up the bulbs, pry them apart and replant them twice their width from one another and about two to three times their height deep.

I recommend using a pointed shovel, not a trowel. Sometimes they can be down deep and you want to make sure you get the bulb out in-

tact. Do this while the brown foliage is there so that you can find them. While it may feel "off" to be replanting in early summer, it is a perfectly fine time to do it.

Debi's



bulbs could also need fertilizer, like she suggested. A sprinkling of granular fertilizer with low nitrogen, but sufficient phosphorus and potassium for blooming and rooting, respectively, would be ideal.

The two best times to feed are when the bulbs are up a few inches and now, just past bloom. Daffodils do require less fertilizer than tulips and hyacinths, and sometimes bloom for years without the addition of fertilizer.

I am wondering if the trees or the ground cover adjacent to Debi's daffodils were fertilized with a high nitrogen blend and it affected the bulbs? I have a few daffodils near an apple tree that is close to my compost pile, where I mix chicken bedding with vegetable scraps, etc.

I think the high nitrogen run-off from the pile affected my blooming, just as an example. Of five possible clumps I had a measly two flowers. Bone meal, high in phosphorus, is in order to rebalance the soil.

Knowing Debi's sun exposure, I don't think this is an issue, but it is worth the mention for other readers who may struggle with sparse

blooms. Daffodils won't bloom in deep shade. Dappled sunlight is fine.

Planting under deciduous trees is also fine. If you think shade is the culprit, wait until the foliage ripens and move them using the guidelines I provided for bulbs that are overcrowded.

I sure hope one of these suggestions will help your daffodils regain their former glory!

Rose, who reads the column in the Ware River News, was concerned that a number of her hyacinths were broken off at ground level when just buds, and she wondered what or who could the culprit be.

"This is so disheartening, I don't want to even grow them any more."

I was astounded to hear this, because the same thing happened to me in one of my gardens at Old Sturbridge Village where I have a multi red, white and blue planting of hyacinths and tulips. Grooming last week yielded at least 10 hyacinth buds that looked as if they were but off at ground level.

Although the experts say rodents could be the cause, the cut was almost perfect, not gnawed in any way, plus hyacinths contain natural deterrents making them rodent proof, typically. I did cultivate the bed awhile back, my thought being that I may have cut a few of them off under ground.

As the stems elongated, they could have forced the bud above ground even though it was already dislodged, but the mystery remains. I'm sorry this happened, Rose, and I wish I had a definite answer for you, but at least know you are in good company with your hyacinth woes.

If anyone has any answers I would love to hear them!



and sometimes uses material the male brings to her. The nest is a cup of twigs, pine needles, grasses and rootlets. The female also may use moose, horse and deer hair, moss and lichens. The nest takes about ten days to complete. She lays a clutch of one to six eggs speckled with brown or reddish gray.

Bluebirds

A Rutland couple say two bluebirds in their yard on April 25. They hope they will nest in the yard.

Great blue heron

I finally saw a great blue heron perched in a tree at the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield.

Every year, one or two are frequent visitors and even nested there.

Purple martins

A purple martin watcher spotted the first purple martins in Massachusetts for 2026 in Rehoboth on April 4. The largest species of swallow in North America, they wintered in Brazil and flew 7,000 miles to the United States and Canada.



Photos by Doug Moore

This photo shows a side view of a yellow-rumped warbler.



This is a back view of a yellow-rumped warbler recently seen in Belchertown.

Hummingbirds

Soon the ruby-throated hummingbirds will be back. It is time to get out the nectar feeders. Instead of purchasing prepared nectar in powder or liquid form, avoid the harmful dyes and boil a one to four

ration of sugar to water. I preferred to mix small batches, ¼ cup white sugar to 1 cup water on a more frequent basis to avoid spoilage. It can be stored in the refrigerator for about one week if making larger amounts.

Tom turkeys

In my travels, I spotted in three different locations Tom turkeys displaying their tail feathers for one or more hen turkeys. I noticed one Tom with two hens strutting about as the females kept on eating near him.

Bird fact

Annually, over 50 million Americans purchased more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet.

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

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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
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MassSave helps Granby customers

GRANBY – The Mass Save 2025 Annual Impact Report is out, and it shows that Eversource electric and gas customers in Granby received more than \$1M in energy efficiency incentives in a single year.

Delivered through Mass Save programs supported by Eversource, these incentives helped Granby residents invest in home energy upgrades that improve efficiency and manage electricity and natural gas use, demonstrating how even small towns can achieve outsized energy savings through efficiency upgrades and rebates.

Statewide in 2025, Mass Save programs delivered

more than \$3.6 billion in total benefits, including weatherizing 52,000 homes, installing heat pumps in nearly 32,000 households, and investing \$450 million to expand program access and reduce participation barriers.

We'd be happy to connect you with a representative from Eversource, who can put the Granby data in context and share how Eversource customers across the region are making use of these incentives. Would you have 20 minutes to chat this week?

To read the full Mass Save 2025 Annual Impact Report, visit MassSave.com/2025AnnualImpact.



A frost covered tree stump sits in the foreground as the sun began to rise on a cold November morning. It is one of many photos to be featured when Jamie Malcolm-Brown presents to the Quabbin Photo Group May 18

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 breakdown 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.

Photo Group to host Malcolm-Brown on May 18

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) will host a presentation by Western Massachusetts landscape photographer Jamie Malcolm-Brown on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, located behind the Belchertown Police Station.

His presentation, "Weather, Light, and Luck: The Reality Behind the Shot," will offer an in-depth look at the decision-making process behind his images. Attendees will gain insight into how he scouts locations, uses tools such as PhotoPills, tracks

weather patterns, and adapts when conditions change unexpectedly.

Rather than focusing solely on technical settings, Malcolm-Brown will emphasize the realities of fieldwork that include missed opportunities, shifting plans, and the importance of flexibility. The program will highlight how learning to pivot can lead to stronger, more compelling photographs that convey a sense of place and story.

"We're really looking forward to learning how Jamie puts together his incredible images," said QPG President Mark Lindhult. "He has an impressive ability to capture

absolutely stellar images." You can see his photographs at www.jamiemalcolmbrown.com or on Instagram at [@jamiemalcolmbrown](https://www.instagram.com/jamiemalcolmbrown).

Malcolm-Brown, a self-taught photographer with more than two decades of experience, works primarily throughout the Pioneer Valley, focusing on capturing wild places shaped by fog, storms, night skies, and other fleeting natural conditions. His professional work with Cultural Survival, an Indigenous rights organization, informs his approach to land conservation and visual storytelling.

The event is open to photographers of all skill levels,

as well as anyone interested in landscape photography and the natural beauty of the Quabbin region.

The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) is a community of photographers based in Belchertown with a shared interest in nature, wildlife, and landscape photography, particularly within the Quabbin Reservoir region. The group hosts regular meetings, guest speakers, workshops, and field outings designed to help photographers of all experience levels improve their skills, share their work, and connect with others who appreciate the natural environment.

Stone House Museum grand opening May 9

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its Opening Day activities at the Stone House Museum on Saturday, May 9. There will be free tours of the museum, our famous "Old Bag" sale, and our plant sale, featuring locally grown perennials. Every year we look forward to the support of our community in making this a successful fundraiser through your contributions of old bags and plants.

The plant sale committee welcomes donations of perennials dug

from your gardens and generously donated to the plant sale. We are looking for flowering plants, shade plants, vegetable plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruit bearing plants and house plants. Plants can be brought to the Stone House during the week before the sale and left near the schoolhouse. Please email sallyshattuck54@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Old bags can be donated at local businesses: Easthampton Savings Bank, Clapp Library, and Looks to Kill Salon.

Migrating fish get a lift over the Holyoke Dam

HG&E Fishway opens for the season with free admission

HOLYOKE – The first and most successful fish lift on the Atlantic Coast, Robert E. Barrett Fishway at the Holyoke Dam, opens for its annual viewing season on Wednesday, May 6, with special Mother's Day activities on Sunday, May 10. The Fishway is fun for all ages and admission is free.

The Barrett Fishway, owned and operated by Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), consists of two elevators or "lifts" which carry migrating

fish up and over the Holyoke Dam. Visitors can watch the lifts in action from an observation deck overlooking the Connecticut River.

The fishway is open for self-guided tours during regular business hours. In addition, HG&E will provide a guided tour each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season at 1:30 pm. This tour is free and open to the public. A knowledgeable and friendly guide will take guests on a 45-minute tour of the facility and share information about fish species of the Connecticut River. Additionally, The Barrett Fishway offers free educational programs for

schools. Reservations for school groups are required, visit www.hged.com/tour for details.

Continuing a decade-old tradition, all mothers visiting the Fishway on Sunday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will receive a free carnation to commemorate Mother's Day and the spirit of re-birth on the Connecticut River.

In addition, the Annual HG&E Shad Derby will be held on May 9, 10, 16, and 17 with a grand prize of \$1,000 in cash for the first-place winner in the senior division (www.hged.com/shadderby). Located off Bridge Street (Route 116) in Holyoke,

just west of the South Hadley-Holyoke Bridge, the Holyoke Fishway's 2026 season runs from May 6 through June 21, hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The facility is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

For further information on the Barrett Fishway, visit www.hged.com/fishway or call (413) 536-9460.



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Pacers outlast Tigers in close match

CHICOPEE – Under the lights last Friday night at Chicopee High School, Chicopee and South Hadley girls lacrosse engaged in a lengthy battle, with the Pacers eventually coming out on top 12-11. Both Madison Thibault and Sophia Moreira had four goals each while Kiyah Price had three goals. South Hadley got four goals from Ella Haber and three goals from Kelcey Zraunig while Lauren Montemagni had two goals. South Hadley fell to just 4-9 while Chicopee improved to 8-3 on the year.



Mallory Levreault navigates through traffic with the ball.



Willia Camp winds up for a shot.



Dee Haber makes a save for the Tigers.

Kelcey Zraunig heads for the opposing goal. She had three goals for the Tigers against Chicopee.



Autumn Camp tries to shoot around a blocker.



Amanda Stevenson rushes toward the goal.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Rams win again, near end of regular season



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Nathan Walsh sets up a spike near the net.



Jake Gagnon sends a hit away.



Jonas Fresch gets the back line set.



A pair of Rams go for a block.

LUDLOW – May has only just begun, but the Granby High School boys volleyball team has gotten through most of its schedule, improving to 10-5 on the season with a 3-0 sweep of Ludlow last Thursday. The Rams have just three regular season games remaining. The Rams will travel to Southwick Regional on Thursday, May 7 at 5:15 p.m.



Daniel Santiago keeps the ball in play.

Tigers split pair of games, remain at .500

SOUTH HADLEY – Last week, South Hadley boys lacrosse, which is now a co-op program with Granby High School, split a pair of games last week. The Tigers defeated Northampton 12-2 and then lost to Amherst Regional 10-2.

With the win and loss, South Hadley is now 5-5 on the season with six more

games remaining in the regular season. A .500 record gets the Tigers into the state tournament, but South Hadley is already hoping to make the Western Mass. tournament as well.

South Hadley is back in action on Saturday, May 9 at home against Wahconah Regional at 10 a.m.

Wenzel opens up season with win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Open-wheel ace Nathan Wenzel strutted the stuff that made him both a speedway and New Hampshire state Modified champion Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opening main event at the high-banked speedplant.

And even though Saturday marked the first event of the new season, reigning Limited Late Model track champion Dylan Zullo is already in the running for what may be the summer's most exciting victory at the historic quarter-mile oval.

With a huge crowd braving the chilly April temperatures, six drivers started their season with a flourish, each earning the first victory lap of the new season in their respective division. Along with Wenzel and Zullo, long-ago Mini Stock champ Kevin Clayton, Pure Stock hot shoe Jimmy Zellman, Pro V8 Sportsman pilot Chris Kingsley and Young Gun speedster Sofia Rego each went home victorious.

Colton Martin and JT Cloutier led the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green Saturday, with Martin jumping all over the opening lead. Cloutier rode second in his shadow, with Kimmy Rivet a close third, and Wenzel, from row three, quickly on the charge.

Wenzel had third on lap three and took second from Rivet on the tenth go-round. He and Martin then raced under a blanket until light contact on lap 28 sent Martin tumbling off turn two, then moving Wenzel and Rivet to row one, with Tyler Leary now up to third.

Leary powered up to second on lap 36, quickly gluing his ride to Wenzel's as the two former speedway champions squared off. They rubbed in the final turn, with Wenzel wobbling but still holding the point to score his first win of the season.

With Leary an airtight second, Martin charged back through the field to snatch third from Rivet, and Cloutier's strong night's work netted him fifth. Leary set fast time in qualifying, scorching his way around the high banks in 12.127 seconds.

Hillary Renaud led early in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a mission, blasting from row three as he began to pick up where he'd left off in his championship season a year ago. Taking the lead on lap two, he looked headed for an easy romp in Saturday's 30-lapper. A caution, though,

on lap 24, brought JD Stockwell to his door and the action was just getting started.

Over the last three laps, they rubbed, they pushed, and they traded places, with Zullo prevailing to win by just a foot. Robert Hagar had the best view of the top-two chaos, watching from close behind as he impressed in third. Renaud was fourth on the night, and Erik Smith rounded out the first five.

Kevin Clayton won the Monadnock Speedway Mini Stock championship more than a quarter century ago, taking top honors way back in 2000. In recent summers, victory lane had been like a foreign nation to him. But now, the popular wheelsman has a new streak started.

Starting up front, Clayton led all the way to win by three lengths over third row starter Craig Chaffee in the night's Keene Towing and Recovery Mlni Stock main event. Steady Tim Paquette came home third, Tim O'Shea was fourth, and Dick Lamotte fifth.

Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks, coming off a pair of runner-up finishes at Claremont, the Bay State blaster had his mind set on something a little bit better. Leading all the way, he achieved that goal Saturday.

Zellman's opening night victory didn't come easily though. He had Colton Hull and Carlos Grenier draped all over him every inch of the way. Grenier got up for second on lap 18 and the potent trio raced under a blanket the rest of the way. With Hull third, Josh Brigham impressed in fourth, and Kyle Begos was fifth.

Chris Kingsley won the spirited Beck's Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman feature. Stephen LaPlante was second and Garden State ace Scott Riggleman came home third. It was Kingsley's first career win on the high banks.

Sofia Rego had a memorable night in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns, winning with ease in both her heat and feature races. Eleven-year-old Dylan Stati - yes, just eleven - was second in the 15-lap feature, and Maeve Barry was third.

Monadnock Speedway roars back into action next Saturday, May 2, with a special Todd Martell Memorial 75-lap Modified main event atop a full night of NASCAR Local Racing Series events, and the first visit of the season of the exciting Pro 4 Modified series. Post time is 6 p.m. each Saturday.

T-Birds defeated in series opener with Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds and Providence Bruins fought tooth and nail in another stingy contest, with the Bruins prevailing 2-1 in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Semifinals on Sunday night inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. With that, the series shifts back to Springfield tied at one game apiece in the best-of-five set.

All of the scoring in the game came in a window of less than six minutes' time in the opening period. For a fifth straight game in these playoffs, Springfield succumbed to a 1-0 deficit within the opening half of period one. Frederic Brunet geared a slapper toward Georgi Romanov, who made the initial

save. However, the rebound bounced over to a waiting Matej Blumel on the right wing, and the 2024-25 AHL goal scoring leader rifled it into an empty cage to make it a 1-0 game at 8:34 of the opening period.

The T-Birds were granted a power play and an opportunity to tie the score quickly, and at 11:30, Dillon Dube did just that, parking himself along the left post and guiding a Hugh McGing pass behind Michael DiPietro to even the slate, 1-1. Alek Kaskimaki picked up his second assist in as many games

to round out the scoring play.

The Bruins showed they, too, could answer in a hurry, as Brunet gathered a rolling puck along the right wing and geared a backhand pass across the slot to Georgii Merkulov, who beat Romanov with a quick release to put Providence ahead, 2-1, at 14:02.

Providence outshot the T-Birds 25-14 over the first 40 minutes of the game, but both DiPietro and Romanov were taxed with special teams work in a second period that featured 10 minor penalties and eight combined power

plays of varying lengths.

The T-Birds finally were able to give DiPietro a steady diet of scoring chances in the third, but the Springfield power play left two more opportunities on the table, going 0-for-6 in the final two frames after connecting on their first man advantage of the evening.

Springfield's netminding and penalty killing did everything in its power to buy the offense time for an equalizer. Romanov, for a fourth straight contest, kept his opposition to two goals or less. The T-Birds' backstop has now stopped 116 of 123 shots for a .943 save percentage in the Calder Cup Playoffs.



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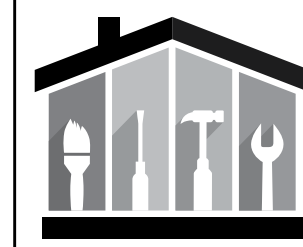
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Legal Notices

Town of Granby Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold the following Public Hearings on **May 27, 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 construc-

tion 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
05/08, 05/15/2026

LIBRARY from page 1

to the library could also have additional impacts on the library service. Aside from the reduced hours mentioned prior, Rodio mentioned additional services that could be cut due to the budget deficit.

"We're looking at losing the equivalent of almost one and a half full-time positions," said Rodio. "So there's going to be definitely less coverage around the building. There's going to be cuts to some services and we're definitely going to have to look at reducing hours open to the public."

Additional questions centered around funding the Gaylord Library through trustees. Trustees are persons or organizations that manage

funds, properties or investments for a trust fund. The idea of donations given to the town could be rerouted to help support the local library, an idea that Rodio identified as a "good answer" if it was a possibility. Currently, the town's funding are at the "minimum state aid requirements."

"I think in the long run, the people who suffer from that are going to be students and families who just are pretty strapped for time and are trying to get to the library when they can. We're just not going to be able, losing almost 60 staff hours. We just won't be able to maintain the schedule that we have now," Rodio said.

HISTORY from page 1

set to bloom, extending the library's reach beyond its walls and into the natural environment.

Gaylord is also an integral part of a larger system. The South Hadley Public Library operates across two locations, with staff coordinating services to meet community needs. One such effort is the home delivery program, based at Gaylord, which provides materials to residents without reliable transportation. It's a reminder that even a small library can have an outsized impact.

That adaptability has helped Gaylord endure through closures, restructuring, and shifting financial realities. "Although the building is historic, the services at Gaylord have kept pace with the needs of local library patrons," Rodio said. He points to the library's intimate scale as a strength, a welcoming

space for families, students, and remote workers alike. Much of its staying power, he added, comes from the Gaylord Memorial Library Association, whose volunteers have "always found the drive and energy to keep Gaylord as a key piece of South Hadley's culture."

Today, financial uncertainty looms following a failed budget override. While trustees remain committed to maintaining services, Rodio acknowledged that "the level of that service will depend on the funding available for library operations."

Even so, Gaylord's roots run, literally, deep. Few visitors realize the library was built on the site of a former town burial ground; the grave of John Preston, who died in 1728, still rests behind the building. It's a quiet reminder that Gaylord is not just a place to read about history, but a place where history endures.

SCHOOL from page 1

school failed due to budget constraints, was to rebuild a third of the existing structure to create new municipal offices for the town.

"Did somebody ask you where town hall is? It shouldn't be a multiple choice answer," said police chief and interim town administrator Kevin O' Grady, when speaking on the current state of government building structure in town. "This will be nice that it's just one place, one-stop shopping, and people can come in and conduct their business."

The first phase of the new restructuring will put all municipal offices under the same roof, a notable improvement over the three offices currently being in three separate locations. Granby Select Board Chair Mark Bail stated that he would not only like to see the municipal buildings consolidated into the new location, but the senior center as well. Fellow Select Board member

David Labonte agreed with his sentiments.

"Our seniors, they have a nice space, but if we can incorporate them into this building at some point, that would be wonderful for everything and everyone," Labonte said.

"The senior center here would be awesome," echoed Chief O' Grady. "We could hopefully use the old gymnasium and have elections here instead of using it at the school where either they have to close school or we have to put more officers into school for protection of the kids. It's a security risk when there's school going on and people are going to vote."

For now, the former elementary school will be used to house the municipal buildings once the first phase of the project is complete. Gratitude was also on the forefront of the Select Board members, thankful that the former school has renewed purpose



Granby Select Board Chair Mark Bail, Select Board member David A. Labonte, Town Moderator Lynn Mercier, and Police Chief and Interim Town Administrator Chief Kevin O' Grady smile for the camera.

in the greater community.

"I just want to make sure Lynn Mercier gets the credit she deserves," concluded Bail. "She really has kept this

project alive. There's been a lot of ups and downs and she's been there every step of the way."



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Citizens gathered to honor the former West Street School and to learn about its future within the community.

PARK from page 1

stage.

Funding for the project came in part from a Massachusetts PARC grant, supplemented by town resources and significant private fundraising. The Friends of Buttery Brook Park, alongside the South Hadley pickleball community, raised more than \$280,000. Their ongoing efforts also support free programming and maintenance initiatives.

"We want to ensure the park remains free and open to the public," Prough said.

Art and culture remain a priority as well. Existing murals created by Mount Holyoke College students continue to brighten the playground area, and a new sculpture titled "Verdance" is slated for installation, supported by grants and donations.

Looking ahead, organizers hope the park's expanded offerings, from disc golf and pickleball to walking trails, will encourage healthy, outdoor activity for all ages. Environmental education efforts are also underway, including the installation of monitored bluebird houses and plans for additional programming.

Prough credited the town's Department of Public

Works, particularly Bill Simard and his team, for their role in maintaining and enhancing the space.

With its blend of recreation, art, and community programming, the newly revitalized Buttery Brook Park stands ready to welcome a new season and a growing number of visitors to South Hadley.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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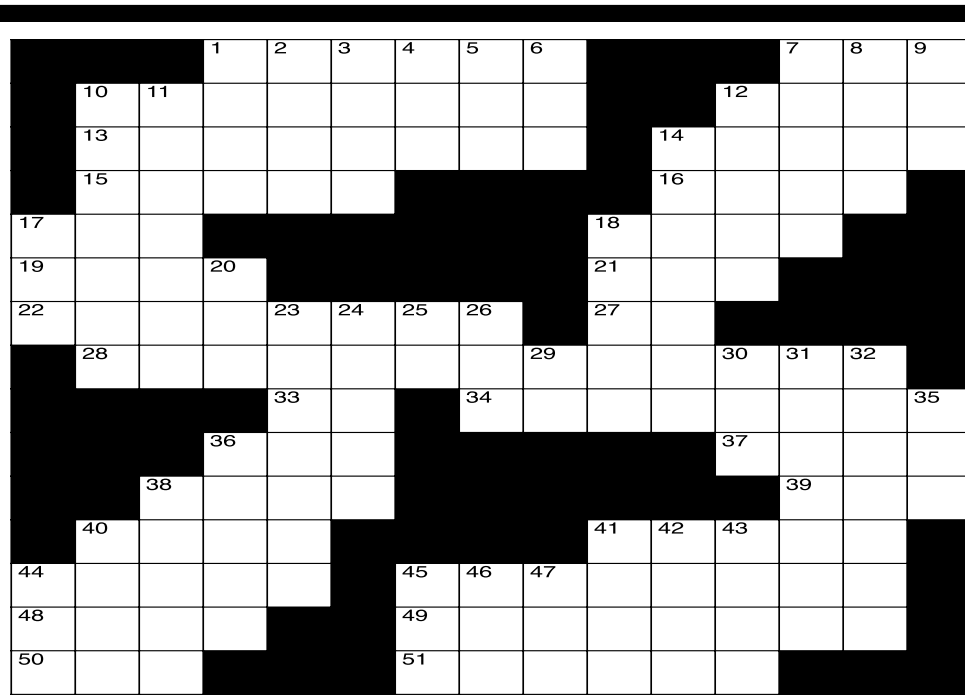
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Thursday, May 21

– Thank you!



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Large dung beetle
 7. Gambling game
 10. Further along
 12. Type of tobacco
 13. Looked for
 14. Silk fabric
 15. Computer method to solve equations
 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 17. Tear
 18. Brews
 19. "Famous" cookie baker
 21. Women's Army Corps
 22. Front parts of an animal
 27. It's causing quite a stir
 28. Beloved March holiday
 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
 34. More impudent
 36. Indicates center
 37. Young woman (French)
 38. A cause of distress
 39. Santa's helper
 40. Hillside
 41. Many wombs
 44. Is afraid of
 45. Popular baked goods ingredient
 48. Popular computers
 49. Conceiving of
 50. Google certification (abbr.)
 51. Sturdy
 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
 6. A place to sleep
 7. Small seeds
 8. Legendary law man Wyatt
 9. Female sheep
 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
 11. A place ships dock
 12. Reciprocal of sine
 14. Discomfort
 17. British Air Aces
 18. Exit sleep
 20. Solar energetic particle
 23. Plagues characterized by starvation
 24. Short musical composition
 25. Trauma center
 26. Habitual twitching
 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
 30. Decameter
 31. Hinged surface in a wing
 32. Shouting
 35. Sports official
 36. Volcanic craters
 38. Supportive device
 40. It's part of a rosary
 41. Two-toed sloth
 42. Body art
 43. Let out
 44. Foreign medical graduate
 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
 46. Couples say it
 47. Bird's beak
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Peruse quickly
 2. Automobiles
 3. Razorbill genus

May activities on tap at South Hadley Public Library

SOUTH HADLEY – It's shaping up to be a busy spring at the library! We're super excited to host our first Picture Book Fair on Saturday, May 9, where picture book authors will be here to read their work and meet their readers. There are also two special events tied into our nation's 250th birthday: Finding Your Revolutionary War Relatives on Wednesday, May 13, and a talk about the Bill of Rights on Wednesday, May 27. Come check us out!

Adult Programs at SHPL

South Hadley Public Library has a full lineup of engaging adult programs this May, offering something for both practical learning and creative fun. On Saturday, May 2 at 10:00, explore Understanding Pelvic Floor Health and gain valuable insight into a part of the body that often goes undiscussed, with simple, practical ways to support everyday health. Then on Wednesday, May 13 at 6 p.m., discover your past with How to Find Your Revolutionary War Relatives, as genealogist Dave Robison guides you through historical records and research tools to uncover your family connections. Step into a world of imagination on Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. with What Is the Magic?, an interactive, audience-driven role-playing adventure led by Jonah the Wizard, perfect for both newcomers and seasoned players. Finally, on Saturday, May 30 at 10 a.m., stop by the Fix-It Clinic—no registration needed—and give your broken or worn items a second life with help from skilled volunteers offering simple repairs, mending, and even plant care advice.

Join our community of readers at an upcoming book discussion group. The Hello Sunshine Book Club meets on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. to talk about The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni. The Between the Covers Romance Book Club meets on Tuesday, May 12 at 3 p.m. to discuss Great Big Beautiful Life by Emily Henry. Haven't read these books? Pick up copies of upcoming discussion titles for both the library and senior center book clubs at the library.

Continuing adult programs include:

- Spanish Conversation Circle on Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Night Knitters each Tuesday at 6 p.m.
- Gatehouse Writers Group, online each Friday at 10 a.m.
- Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)
- How to Robot-Proof Your Kids (and Yourself) with Dr. Vivienne Ming. Award-Winning Theoretical Neuroscientist, Inventor, and Demented Author. Tuesday, May 12 at 2 p.m.
- Reshape Your Beliefs and Unlock Your True Potential with Nir Eyal. Internationally Bestselling Author of Hooked and Indistractable. Tuesday, May 19 at 2 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL

Do you like music, puppets, and stories? Come see Tom Knight on Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Our headline event this month is our first annual Picture Book Fair on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In partnership with the Mass Kids Lit Fest and South Hadley's own Odyssey Bookshop, we're bringing seven picture book authors to read their stories, chat with readers, and sign books. This event is free and open to all; sign up here.

We have some extra special storytimes this month: Japanese storytime with Kanae on Tuesday, May 5 at 4:30 p.m., and a Fishy Storytime with the Connecticut River Conservancy on Thursday, May 7 at 4 p.m. And of course we have our regular Wednesday morning storytime every week at 10:30 a.m., Pajama Storytime every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. (except Memorial Day), and Baby Lapsit Storytime every Friday at 10 a.m. (except May 8). And how about storytime with a dog, where you do the reading? Read to Duchess on Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m. or Saturday, May 30 at 12 noon.

Lego and Games happens every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 4:45 p.m., Pride Club meets Tuesdays, May 12 and 26 at 4 p.m., and Graphic Novel Book Club discusses Wildflower Emily on Thursday, May 14 at 4 p.m. Rhyme Time is every Tuesday at 10:30 and Playgroup meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. Finally, there are two more sessions of Kids Beginner Spanish (Fridays, May 1 and 8 at 4 p.m.), with thanks to the SHHS National Spanish Honor Society.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month. Check out our displays or request a Book Bundle! Questions? Email children's librarian Jenny (jarch@cw-mars.org).

Teen Programs at SHPL

This month for Teens (ages 11 through 19) we have a lot of great offerings! YA Book Tasting happens on the first Monday of the month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This month's Crafternoon takes place Thursday, May 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. We will be making Model Magic creations. Night Craft will be happening on Tuesday, May 26 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will be creating Kinetic Sand. None of these programs require signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be happening on Wednesday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 19 for Xbox X. Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 20 for Switch. All gaming sessions start at 3:30 and run until 5 p.m. No sign up is needed.

Snacktime will be on Thursday, May 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly Teen Take-

aways continue to be available. This month features Herb Gardening. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month. We also have our latest Book-trovert pick: My Roommate From Hell by Cale Dietrich. There are no in-person meet ups, just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for check out. Any questions please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Join us for Long Sword Basics on Friday, May 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Instructors from Castle Nitor will teach a hands-on lesson on this historical martial art.

Drop by Thursday, May 21 from 5:00-8:00 for our Spring Plant Swap. Bring your extra garden plants, seedlings, or house plants and take home new ones. Please label your plants before you drop them off.

For kids we also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.). Our special guest on Friday, May 1, will be Miss Mary from Berkshire Hills Music Academy to read braille books and sing.

LEGO Club meets Thursdays, May 7 and 21 from 3 to 6 p.m. and we have Drop-In

Crafts Thursday, May 14 and 28 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Families can also join us on Saturday, May 16 at 10:15 a.m. to decorate our pavement with Sidewalk Chalk and Saturday, May 30 at 10:15 a.m. for Family Outdoor Games.

Church holding bingo fundraiser

SOUTH HADLEY – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke will host a Spring Bingo Fundraiser to Benefit Community Outreach on Saturday, May 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. (Doors open at 12 noon) A \$30 ticket includes, 10 bingo cards, 1 dauber, and 1 raffle ticket.

For more information or to reserve a table, contact Trudy Monson at gertrudy_1011@yahoo.com, or Barbara Garriga at BGarriga85@gmail.com.

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