

TOWN Reminder

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Congratulations to the Class of 2026

Noah Carillion displays his graduation cap.



The 2026 graduating class smile for the camera.

Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

South Hadley High School graduates celebrated

By Ben Hernandez
bhernandez@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School class of 2026 celebrated their graduation on May 29 on Mount Holyoke College campus grounds.

The ceremony featured speeches from Principal Elizabeth Wood, Superintendent Jennifer Voyik, Class President Colin Zraunig, Valedictorian Ibrahim Salloum and

Salutatorian Allison Fleury, with performances of “Invicta” by James Swearingen, “Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar and the “Star Spangled Banner” by John Stanford Smith. All musical interludes were performed by the South Hadley High School Concert band directed by Matthew Garrity.

In the welcoming speech, the class president reflected on class history and the road ahead after graduation.

He started the speech with a quote from his friend Brady Denniston, calling the occasion “bittersweet” as they look forward to the future.

“We reflect on the careers of those who won’t dawn the black and orange come again next fall,” Zraunig said. “These students have worked diligently, both inside and out of the classroom, bettering themselves not only as students but as people in the process.”

The class president reminisced on past hiccups during his time in school; late submitted papers, missing assignments and the struggles of writing a graduation speech. Throughout the course of his speech, he stressed how far the class had come in such a short span of time. He joked about how he wouldn’t miss what he referred to as “mad math minutes” and apologized for all the times the class “played some noise on

various instruments that we claimed was music.” As the speech gravitated away from joking reflections on the past years, he reflected on the future and how the past determined his present.

“There’s that small voice on your shoulder that tells you every choice you make determines your future and you’re choosing what you want to do right now,” Zraunig said. “Even right in this very moment, there’s much

reflection to be done.”

Superintendent Jennifer Voyik took the stand to celebrate the graduating class. Her speech spoke on the hard work, dedication and perseverance of the student body. She considered interviewing the senior class as one of the most meaningful experiences she had during her first year in the role. She stated

Please see **GRADUATES**, page 10

First foraging walk conducted at library

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

GRANBY – Saturday, May 30 marked the first foraging event at the Granby Free Public Library. Resident forager Arianna Alexandra Collins conducted a walk around the library campus to identify edible and medicinal plants. During the interactive lesson, Collins not only pointed out what was edible on campus but also invited participants to sample test what was safe to eat without preparation.

Collins started her career as a naturals educator at the Bonnie Vail Environmental Education Center in Brattleboro Vermont and learned her craft working for “different institutions” around Massachusetts. She has 30 years of experience identifying flora and partners with local libraries. She also conducts private tours of resident properties where she educates clients on the area’s surrounding flora.

“It’s just a lovely event for people to get to be more familiar with wild edibles,” said Collins. “I’ve noticed over the years as I’ve been doing this is that when I was just doing walks, people still felt kind of nervous.”

Collins expressed a major barrier she noticed on these walks is people’s hesitancy in handling the wild plants. She believes much of the concerns stem around the unfamiliarity residents have with the local ecosystem.

“Well, what can I really do? What can I add these ingredients to,” said Collins as she echoed sentiments from



Arianna Collins shows off edible foliage during her demonstration.

previous clients. Frequent questions such as these inspired her to incorporate cooking lessons into her talks. “That’s when I started adding this component of a feast, so that people could try different wild edibles in salads, soups, pesto, desserts and drinks.”

The naturals educator stated her love for “bringing people outside” and helping establish a connection with nature. She reflected in the past there were concerns in the area around foraging as a practice due to potential liability issues. She mentioned foraging was an im-

portant skill to learn in light of growing concerns around food security.

Collins expressed a wealth of information and pointed out many surprising and common plants around New England as edible. She

Please see **FORAGE**, page 2

Library plants seeds for Summer Reading

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - As summer approaches, the South Hadley Public Library is preparing to welcome readers of all ages back for one of its most anticipated annual traditions: the summer reading program.

This year’s theme, “Plant A Seed, Read!,” celebrates the agricultural roots and gardening culture that are woven throughout Western Massachusetts. According to Children’s Services Librarian

Jenny Arch, the theme provides opportunities to highlight books about gardening and cooking while still maintaining the program’s core philosophy.

“We’ll have special lists of books about gardening and cooking, but there are no required books. Read what you want,” Arch said.

The program officially begins June 18, the last day of public school, and is open to residents of all ages. Separate reading programs are

Please see **READ**, page 7

Selectboard backs 20-car limit for West St. used-car lot

Trash contract, animal control case advances

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Selectboard approved a full 20-car Class II used-car license for a West Street service station, endorsed a new town-wide trash and recycling contract with USA Municipal Collection and moved to escalate enforcement in a long-running animal control case ahead of next week’s annual town meeting.

The board’s decisions came during a roughly 70-minute session that ranged from curbside collection logistics and conservation talks to a pending Open

Meeting Law complaint and preparations for town meeting articles and outreach.

Used-car license clears after debate over parking, safety and process

After extended back-and-forth between public safety officials, the Planning Board chair and the applicants, the Selectboard voted to grant Smith Merrill Inc. a Class II license allowing up to 20 used vehicles for sale at 161 West State Street, matching the Planning Board’s earlier site plan approval.

Board Chair David Labonte opened the discussion by stressing concern that the station’s lot could become overcrowded with the addition of used-car inventory.

Police Chief Kevin O’Grady told the board Please see **BOARD**, page 5

Cemetery hosting America 250 event

SOUTH HADLEY – As our nation is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War and our Independence, a special event was held recently at the Village Cemetery in South Hadley Falls. The American Legion, under the direction of Brian Willette, honored the eight Revolutionary War soldiers who are interred in the Old Village grounds. A Revolutionary War plaque was placed on the flagpole

in the Veteran’s Memorial Area and each soldier had a bronze plaque placed at his grave. Troop 303 Boy Scouts and a large contingent of Cub Scouts, under the direction of Brian Regan, attended the ceremony and helped reflag the veterans graves. There was also a reenactor detailing and firing his musket in support of the Veterans. We thank Brian Willette and the American Legion for honoring all the veterans.

Gaylord Library hosting America 250 celebration

SOUTH HADLEY – The Gaylord Memorial Library Trustees invite you to join them in celebrating America’s 250 Anniversary on June 12.

The party begins with a pop-up concert by a quintet from the Bombyx Brass Collective, a roster of 49 brass and percussion players, housed at the

Bombyx Center in Florence, MA. Join us on the library lawn from 5:20 to 6 p.m. for a musical tribute to the past 250 years.

The party continues inside join us from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for amazing appetizers, a special wine tasting, door prizes, a raffle to win items especially selected for this celebration, and a sale of books curated from local readers and the libraries’ collection. Tickets are \$20.00 a person and you must be 21 or older to attend the indoor celebration. Money raised from this party will go toward maintaining the building and grounds of the Gaylord Library.

Administrators holding office hours June 16

SOUTH HADLEY – Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti are having in-person office hours at the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, June 16: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center

Town Administration is also available by appointment. Please call Kristin at (413) 538-5030 ext 6135 or email KMaher@southhadley.ma.gov

Clerk asks for census to be returned by June 1

SOUTH HADLEY – Still have your 2026 Annual Town Census form? Please return it to the Clerk’s Office by June 1 to remain on the active voter list. Census forms may be returned in person, mailed back in the enclosed envelope, or left in the secure “Treasurer/Collector” drop-box located behind the Police Station.

In accordance with state law, the Town Clerk’s office must inactivate all voters who do not have a current Census form on file. Even if you voted in the April 14 Town Election, you will be inactivated if you do not have

a current Census on file.

Inactive voters can still vote, but must show ID and fill out an Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence. Learn more about the inactive voter list here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/inactive-voters.htm>

Learn more about the Annual Town Census here: <https://www.southhadley.org/1162/Annual-Town-Census>

Please contact the Town Clerk’s office with any questions, comments, or concerns at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183.

South Hadley Spring Bike Ride on June 6

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, June 6 the public is invited to participate in a Bike Ride hosted by the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee. The Ride, which will have a casual pace, is approximately 7 miles long, with some hills. This ride is for adults and teens; any younger children should be accompanied by an adult. Participants should plan to bring a water bottle. Grab your bike and helmet and let’s have some outdoor, spring fun!

Meet at 12:45 p.m. in the lower parking lot behind Village Commons, at the end near the street. Traveling west on Hadley Street (Rt. 47) from College Street (Rt. 116), the lower lot entrance is just past the main lot entrance. We will leave at 1 p.m.

Riders will turn left out of the parking lot onto Hadley Street, and then left again onto Ferry Street, which continues past Brunelle’s Marina on the riverfront, and onto Alvord Street. At River Lodge Road, we’ll turn right to ride to the end of Upper River Road and then back to

Alvord Street. A short ride on Alvord will bring us to McCray’s Farm Creamery for a rest stop and optional home-made ice cream. On the return, riders will continue back along Alvord, Ferry, and Hadley Streets to the Village Commons Lot. There is also an option to do an additional 1-mile loop at the River-to-Range Trail, which has a lookout over marshy wetlands and a short spur that leads to the Connecticut River.

Weather/cancellation information: Bike/Walk Rides and Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please check the Bike/Walk Committee page on Town website at www.southhadley.org/bikewalk for any cancellation notices or other details, including upcoming Treks and Rides. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

For more information on Bike Walk South Hadley visit our site. <http://www.southhadley.org/739/Bike-Walk-Committee>

Crafters still wanted

LUDLOW – Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658. Light refreshments will be available.

FORAGE from page 1

mentioned dandelions are very versatile, able to be added to salads and brewed as teas. She stated harvesting some edible plants can actually help the environment. She mentioned there are numerous invasive edible plant species which can be used as common ingredients in the kitchen.

“So, as my friend Blanche Derby says, ‘if you can’t beat it, eat it,’ said Collins. ‘Eat as much garlic mustard as you would like. Make all the pesto from garlic mustard that you would like. Use it in place of garlic.’”

The walk was the first for the Granby Library. Collins stated she would be more than interested in running another event depending on community interest and should the library have enough funds to host another interactive seminar.

“I just love sharing this knowledge about that there’s free food and medicines all around us,” said Collins. “If we just connect with our environment and really have a deeper awareness about who is out there that can provide food and medicine and have a reciprocal relationship with these flora and fungi, it just helps our bodies and our beings.”



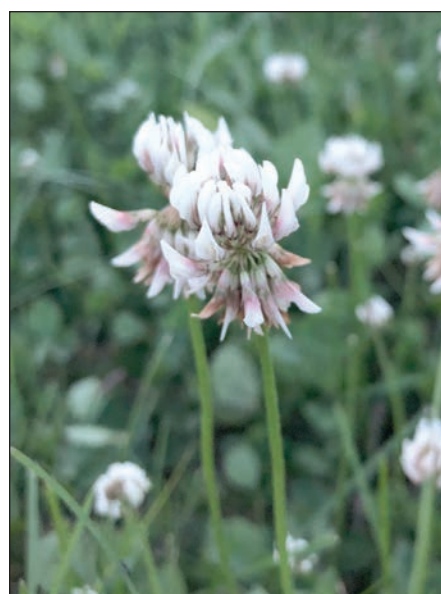
Arianna Collins teaches about Queen Anne Lace during the event.



A look at pineapple weed.



Mugwort leaf has a long history of being used for medicinal and culinary purposes.



White Clover is another such usable plant for various purposes.

Granby Lions sponsoring bus trip

GRANBY – The Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The chartered bus will be leaving the East Meadow School Parking Lot at 8 a.m. and dropping us off in the Seaport District at approximately 10 a.m.

Come help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States at SailBoston 2026, an international maritime event that brings tall

ships and naval vessels from around the world to Boston Harbor. You will be on your own to visit the ships and the bus will depart Boston at 4 p.m.

The cost per person is \$75. Please make your checks payable to the Granby Lions Club, and mail to Granby Lions Club, c/o Jim Pietras, 280 East State St, Granby, MA. 01033. Questions – email Jim at jpietras@comcast.net

Brown Completes Intensive Capstone Research Project

WORCESTER – Griffin Brown, of South Hadley, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Computer Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), recently completed a senior thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university’s distinctive project-based educational experience. Griffin’s Major Qualifying Project (MQP), a research-driven, professional-level project that challenges students to solve the kinds of problems they would typically encounter in their professional discipline, was titled “Optimal Piano Fingering Using Dynamic Programming”.

“It’s inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research,” says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Their experience managing a major project like this-including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team

dynamics over an extended period of several months-sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers.”

WPI’s innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that offers students opportunities to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. These projects produce tangible results that affect the quality of people’s lives, an experience that changes both the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students’ work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

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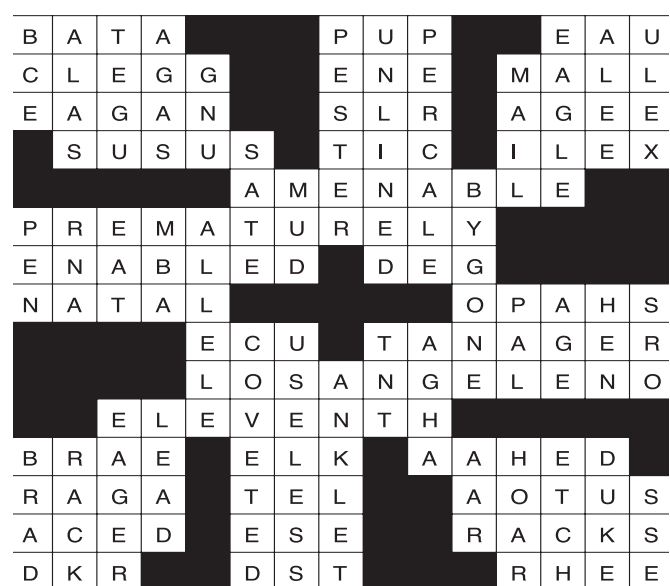
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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC	\$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF BACK RIBS	\$2.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB. BAG	77¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.39 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN POPEYE'S PIEROGIES CHEESE & POTATO	\$2.49 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN PEPPERIDGE FARM CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA SNOW CRAB CLUSTERS.....	\$9.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN POPEYE'S POTATO & SOUR CREAM 13 OZ	\$2.49 ea
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Farmer's Market set to open this Sunday

BELCHERTOWN – And every week will be the Opening Day of the 2026 season of the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market is Sunday, June 7 at 10 a.m. on the Belchertown Common (corner of Rt. 202 and Jabish Street). Organizers are excited to welcome the community back to the Common with a fresh new season filled with local farms (14 of them!), handmade goods, baked treats and drinks, food trucks, artisan products, and a chance to connect with neighbors and support local businesses.

Brittini Robidoux, Manager of the Belchertown Market is looking forward to opening day. "We have an amazing opening day on deck, and an amazing 2026 season planned!" With 14 farmers signed up for the market this year, the season promises to be one of the best yet. Live music every week – opening day will be Bruce Colegrove.

To help make it a great day for everyone, organizers have a 'Dino Dig' planned for kids on opening day.

And every week will be the 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. 'Sensory Hour' for those that prefer a quieter market setting.

Belchertown Farmers & Artisans Market accepts SNAP and HIP benefits – stop by Brittini's Market Manager tent for information on how to use those benefits. Market organizers wish to thank their sponsors for again making a '\$10 Snap Match' every Sunday available to those that qualify.

The market runs every Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the beautiful Belchertown Common. Bring a chair and spend time in your community.

Follow Belchertown Farmers Market on Facebook and Instagram to get all the latest updates and get to know their amazing vendors and wonderful products. Sign up for their weekly Newsletter to keep up-to-date on products available each week – visit www.belchertownfarmersmarket.weebly.com to easily sign up for the Market Newsletter.

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites businesses to participate in 58th Annual Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE — The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building.

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome,



Submitted photo

The 58th Annual Chamber Cup will be held in September.

becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course,

breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokeychamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.



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FD2 water quality information available

WONDERING ABOUT YOUR WATER QUALITY IN SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO.2?

To view your Annual Water Quality Report and learn more about your drinking water, Go to, <https://www.shdistrict2.org/DocumentCenter/View/840/2025-Annual-Water-Quality-Report>

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home please call, 413-532-9210.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm being released from Incarceration. What are my Social Security options?

Dear Rusty:

In a previous column, you wrote about people who filed for Social Security late in life.

I am currently incarcerated and will be filing for Social Security in the fall of 2029. I will be 74 years old in the first week of January 2029. Unless I read it wrong, could I be eligible to collect the previous six months?

If this is so, how would that work? Would I get that all at once or incrementally? According to the chart we once got in the mail, I should be collecting the maximum amount. I've worked all of my life and never collected Social Security before. Also, my ex-wife remarried and has since passed away. Do I qualify for part of her Social Security?

Signed, "D" in Danbury

Dear "D" in Danbury:

I'm afraid you cannot receive Social Security benefits while you are incarcerated, even if you are eligible for them prior to your release.

Thus, you cannot get retroactive Social Security benefits for any period you were still incarcerated. For clarity, although most who apply at a later age (e.g., in their 70s) do have the option to claim retroactive benefits, you cannot get any SS benefits for any month you were still incarcerated. Further, you will not get credit for delaying your application for SS benefits while you are incarcerated (you won't earn Delayed Retirement Credits during your incarceration).

Assuming (from what you shared) that you expect to be released from incarceration in the fall of 2029, you can apply for your SS benefits to start upon your release. Be aware, however, that it usually takes several months for your application for SS benefits to be processed and you can specify the month you wish your benefits start.

Your benefit amount will be based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime.

But you cannot get retroactive SS benefits for time prior to your release from incarceration. Since Social Security does not pay benefits for partial months, you can file for your SS benefits to start effective with the month following the month in which your incarceration ends. Be sure you have your official prison release documentation (parole or discharge papers) in hand when you apply for your Social Security benefits.

FYI, some correctional facilities have a "Prerelease Agreement" with Social Security, which may enable you to file for your SS benefits three to four months prior to your release from incarceration. Be sure to check with your facility to see if they have such an agreement with Social Security and, if so, use it to apply for your benefits in advance of your release. This will facilitate your SS benefits starting more quickly upon your release.

You did not ask about healthcare coverage, but since you will be eligible for Social Security, you will also be eligible for Medicare upon your release. When you apply for your Social Security benefits, you can also apply for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services), the premium for which will be deducted from your Social Security payment. FYI, Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) is free and automatic because you are also eligible for Social Security.

Finally, regarding survivor benefits from your ex-wife, you can only get a surviving ex-spouse benefit if you were married for more than 10 years and your own SS retirement amount is less than your ex-wife was receiving at her death. In other words, you can only get one SS benefit either your own or your deceased ex-wife's amount, whichever is higher.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation

Please see **SECURITY**, page 5

A question and an answer?

Carole, who faithfully reads the column in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times each week, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady:

"I am hoping you can provide me with some advice as to how to rid my garden of an incredibly invasive plant. It is called Houttuynia cordata or chameleon plant. I bought a single variegated plant about 25 years ago and now I literally have hundreds of them in my gardens and lawn.

The plant is no longer variegated but reverted to green with red around the edges. For at least three or four years, I have been trying to dig them out one by one which has been extremely difficult due to the long roots – some can be over a foot long – which become intertwined with other plants, choking them. I have not been very successful, despite spending hours at a time. And I painstakingly try to get every piece of root out. I am not sure if they are spreading solely through the roots or also from the flower pod seeds.

I notice they also spread under my brick walkway even though they get no sun there. It's been very frustrating. For that reason, I am considering using a herbicide, but am concerned that it might poison nearby plants or may not be effective due to the long roots. Yet, at this point, I am open to the idea. I look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Incidentally, I just learned from the internet that it is considered to be a medicinal herb, which I find quite shocking, given how much I

have come to dislike them! Thank you very much for your time and assistance."

Happy to help, Carole! It's funny you mention that this plant is a medicinal herb.



Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

While I have never grown Houttuynia cordata, I have dealt with similar invasive plants. Not always have I been successful, but here are a few tactics you can try.

If there is a way to smother, go for it. Try black plastic, a thick tarp or cardboard covered in mulch.

Eventually, if the plant can't photosynthesize, it will die.

You are smart to try and remove every little bit of root when hand digging it out; it's kind of amazing how a tiny piece will start a whole new plant. For that reason, never take the rototiller to a patch of any invasive plant, especially those that spread by rhizomes. The roots will be dispersed throughout the garden.

I also read about cutting the stems of the plants and then "painting" the open cuts

with herbicide. To me that sounds like a smart plan to get the chemical right to the roots. Time consuming, but targeted.

I'll be curious to know how you make out trying to rid your landscape of this plant.

Diane, who gardens in West Chesterfield, had a possible solution for my hyacinths getting cut off at the soil line.

"We had a great disappointment this spring when something chopped off most of our cultivated black berries. When I was trying to prune what was left and save something I found the stalks laying on the ground but the tops were eaten. It looked like someone took a clean angle sweep with a hatchet to cut down the stalks. Then one evening at dusk we saw the culprit. It was about a 60 pound porcupine! He was chomping on our wild white rose bushes. He would bite the stalks off but since the rest of the bush wouldn't let the branch fall, he couldn't eat the top. What a mess. When I read your article I was thinking this might be the answer to the mystery."

Hmm, I will have to keep on the look out for a porcupine; you never know.

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.



John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a green heron catching a fish at Lake Wallace.

The green heron is solitary at most seasons and often somewhat secretive, living around small bodies of water or densely vegetated areas.

When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously and raises and lowers its crest.

The small heron is about 16 to 22 inches long. The green on this bird's back is an iridescent color and often looks dull bluish or simply dark.

They have orange yellow legs, chestnut neck, black crown feathers. Young birds are duller and brown with a striped neck.

Northern birds migrates as far as Panama and northern South American. Green herons in the most southern states do not migrate.

Green herons inhabit

coasts and shorelines, forests and woodlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and saltwater wetlands. Their call is a sharp "kyowk" or "skyow."

They nest in a wide



By Ellenor Downer

variety of situations, including willow thickets, mangroves, dry woods and open marsh. The female lays three to five pale green or blue green eggs. Both the male and female incubate the eggs which takes 19 to 21 days.

The male chooses nesting territory and calls repeatedly from prominent perch in tree or shrub. Displays of male include stretching neck forward

and down and snapping bill shut, pointing bill straight upward while swaying back and forth. Male and female may perform display flights around territory. Nest site is usually in shrub or tree 5-30 feet above ground, but sometimes on the ground.

It is often very close to water, but it can be quite distant away. The nest is a platform of sticks. The male begins construction, then female builds while male brings materials.

Both parents also feed their young by regurgitation. Young begin to climb about near nest by 16-17 days after hatching, usually make first flight at 21-23 days.

They are fed by parents for a few more weeks. Young are reportedly capable of swim-



Green heron

Photo by John Kunhardt

ming well. These herons have one to two broods per year.

These herons forage mostly by standing still or stalking very slowly at edge of shallow water, waiting for prey to approach. Sometimes they use bait" by dropping a feather or small twig on surface of water to lure fish within striking distance.

They eat mostly small fish, but will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs and tadpoles.

Other items include grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms, snails and small rodents. Black and white warbler

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler by the cross country trail at Quabbin Regional High School last week. As the name implies, the warbler has black and white feathers with black streaking on the breast and white wing bars, white eye line and white belly.

Red shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident had a red shouldered hawk in her yard. She sent a photo of it in flight.

Whippoorwill

I received an email on May 15 from a Belchertown resident. She stated, "The whippoorwill is back in my yard again this year. The calls starts around dark and contin-

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

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Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 128 calls for the week May 22, through May 28. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Monday, May 25
3:25 a.m. – Officers assisted the Granby Fire Department with structure fire on South Street. The incident is under investigation.

2:26 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car motor vehicle accident with airbag deployment on Amherst Road. Minor injuries were reported.

Tuesday, May 26
12:34 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car motor vehicle accident on Carver Street. No injuries were reported.

Wednesday, May 27
6:32 p.m. – Officers investigated a neighbor dispute.

Friday, May 22
2:10 p.m. – Officers investigated a single car motor vehicle accident on West State Street. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, May 24
6:18 a.m. – Officers investigated theft from a new construction jobsite. The incident is under investigation.

SECURITY from page 4

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 Ma-

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

BACKYARD from page 4

ue off and on till sunrise. She or he perches on the roof and calls all night. It can be very annoying as you are trying to sleep, but I still feel blessed or cursed."

Common Ravens
A Brimfield couple had common ravens in their yard last month. They stated in an email, "We mostly hear them and sometimes see them flying over a local feature called West Mountain that is about 1000' elevation and runs north/south about a half a mile east of our house."

They stated, "On a Thursday a raven was in the driveway where I throw a seed mix daily for ground feeders. I saw the bird from inside the garage, my wife saw it with binoculars from inside the

house."

They stated, "We both noticed the larger size, bigger than the American Crows that often feed in the same area. I noticed the wedged shaped tail when it flew away and my wife saw larger, heavier bill and the shaggy throat feathers." A few days later they saw three ravens.

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.

BOARD from page 1

that he, the fire chief and the building inspector had walked the site and were comfortable with 15 clearly defined spaces for used cars, citing emergency access and potential congestion as reasons to start below 20.

Planning Board Chair James Trompke pushed back, warning the Selectboard not to undermine his board's authority on site plan approval.

"It seems like it's a little bit of a disrespect, saying that you're only going to approve it at 15 based on your perspective, rather than planning board's perspective," he said, adding that the move could "open you up to appeal."

Town consultant Bernard Lynch aligned with the Planning Board on jurisdiction, saying he had "no problem with the 20 cars that the planning board approved" and noting that board's role as "the authorizing authority on this."

Co-owner Brett Merrill told the board the business would ramp up slowly, not immediately filling all the spaces.

He suggested they would "test the water with five cars" and self-limit to avoid operational problems.

"We would never do anything that's going to make our lives more miserable," he said.

O'Grady reiterated public safety concerns, including late-night tow drop-offs and drivers "jamming on their brakes" to look at vehicles out front.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Lawson ultimately argued against trimming the Planning Board's number.

"I would hate to see the board decide to limit, take 25% of your business away from you right off the bat," he said.

After clarifying the site plan and lot lines, the board approved the Class II license as recommended by the Planning Board—up to 20 used cars—while making clear they will monitor for overcrowding and safety issues.

The license runs through the end of the calendar year.

Trash contract: carts compact, blue bags going away

Earlier in the meeting, Lynch reported that a contract from USA Municipal Collection had been reviewed by him and Town Counsel and found to be consistent with the proposal the board previously endorsed.

The board voted to enter into the contract with USA, setting up a July 1 start date with new carts and a shift away from the town's long-standing blue-bag system.

A USA representative said carts are scheduled to begin deployment around June 15, with 96-gallon single-stream recycling carts and roughly 65-gallon trash carts for each household.

Labonte emphasized there will be no more blue bags and weekly recycling pickup.

"You'll have a 96 gallon for recycling... and for the trash is a 65 gallon, I believe," he said, describing

recycling as "single stream," meaning "your glass, plastic, and cardboard all goes in there."

Animal control: chronic loose dogs headed to hearing, court

The board also heard from the animal control officer about a long-running case involving loose dogs and peacocks repeatedly wandering off a property despite warnings and citations.

The ACO said she has received approximately 20 complaints, issued multiple verbal and written warnings and written at least 13 paid and unpaid citations, most at the higher \$50 level.

Despite the escalating enforcement, she said, "there really hasn't been any effort to do anything" to prevent the animals from roaming, and some recent tickets remain unpaid.

O'Grady said the unpaid tickets will now be treated as bylaw violations and taken to court.

The board agreed to put the matter on the next Selectboard agenda and to summon

the owners for a formal hearing.

Town meeting prep, easement, hiring and Open Meeting Law response

Other actions included: Council on Aging director: The board approved reposting the Council on Aging director job to replace the outgoing director effective July 1.

National Grid easement: The board approved a grant of easement to National Grid so the utility can bring electric service to the West Street building (former West Street School).

Town meeting logistics: Town Moderator Lynne Mercier walked the board through Articles 21 through 32, assigning who will move each motion and confirming language to be provided to voters.

Town meeting explainer: The board voted to approve the Communications Committee's plain-language "town meeting explainer" for posting on the town website and social media.

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<p>Sat., June 6</p> <p>Dee Reilly</p> <p>6-9pm</p>	<p>Sat., June 13</p> <p>Frank Serafino</p>	<p>Sun., June 14</p> <p>The Healy's</p> <p>2-5pm</p>
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THURSDAY

6:00pm



PRESENTED BY:
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'Normal' year expected for South Hadley High School sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Thanks to a recent town meeting vote, all threats of deep slashing cuts to South Hadley High School's sports programs will not be happening.

As has been widely publicized and reported, the Town of South Hadley has gone through a lot of issues with its budget process, having to make major adjustments after

two attempts at Proposition 2 ½ overrides were voted down. They were originally approved by representative town meeting, only for both options, a \$9 million override, and an \$11 million override option to fail at the ballot by a sound margin. The overrides failed in mid-April, with town and school officials left to pick up the pieces and figure out how to fund major basic town and schools services.

Among the cuts that were

on the table, was the complete elimination of high school sports at both the junior varsity and varsity level.

That cut, however, has been staved off for at least one full school year, the high school's athletic director says.

"Yes, it will be normal for this year," South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay said this week. "We will have all sports like nothing happened."

South Hadley, due to pre-

vious budget cuts, became one of the only schools to charge admission for many sports that don't normally charge, such as softball and baseball, and lacrosse and soccer for day games. Typically, schools will charge admission for night games, which include all winter sports like basketball and wrestling. Football typically has an admission price. But to help fund the sports programs, Castonguay added admission for base-

ball and softball games, and almost all soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse games. That practice will likely continue.

But the recent town meeting vote made a free cash authorization that will fund all high school sports, both junior varsity and varsity for the next school year in 2026-2027. Castonguay's job as athletic director would have been included in the cuts to programming.

Castonguay confirmed

Wednesday that included in the funding will be funds for the athletic director position.

The sports program is not out of the woods yet. The can has just been "kicked down the road." The funding is only for the next school year and school and town officials will be facing the same issue next year during the budget cycle. Though the schools are just one part of the town's funding woes that they will be looking to address in 2027.

Mutiny battles Hartford to scoreless draw

LUDLOW – On Friday, May 22, the New England Mutiny battled the Hartford Athletic to a scoreless tie. The Mutiny is now 1-1-1 on the season. They previously

defeated the Worcester Wanderers and had a defeat against the Hudson Valley Crusaders. More on the Mutiny and their new challenges in next week's edition.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Kendall Bodak, of Monson, sends a free kick away.



Se-Hanna Mars fights for the ball.



Nadia Cassmajor sends a pass away.



Kayleigh Lukasik sends a pass away.



Chicopee's Sam Breton clears the ball away.



Kurstin Shade looks to shoot in traffic.

WMass Pioneers fall to NEFC

LUDLOW – On a very rainy evening, the turf was not kind to the Western Mass. Pioneers as they fell at home against NEFC 4-2. The Pioneers, which have a lot of new players on the roster this season, fell to a disappointing 1-2 on the short regular season. The Pioneers had another home game scheduled during the weekend, and were in action on the road against Black Rock FC. The Pioneers are on a lengthy road trip and are not playing at home until Friday, June 19.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Dylan Hunston looks to clear the ball.



Pearse O'Brien seeks to settle the ball.



Michael Gouvin sends a pass away.



Jaiden Williams makes his way up the field.

Above: Thomas Wadas, of Ludlow, eyes a teammate up the field.

Right: Ben Alexander gets ready to clear the ball.



Legal Notices

Town of Granby Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that the Selectboard will hold a public hearing on **Monday June 15, 2026, at 5:35 P.M.** at 10-B West State to consider the application for a Wine & Malt Beverage Package Store license by Casefits, LLC d/b/a Stackcart. Premises describe as follows: Business is a 1200-square-foot commercial retail space known as unit #5 in a single-story commercial building with one entrance, 2 exits and shared parking, located at 77 West State Street, Granby MA.
David Labonte
Mark Bail
Jeffrey Lawson
Granby Selectboard
06/05/2026

Remote Meeting Connection noted below:

Dial-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Webinar ID: 899 6563 3595
Passcode: 028272
Please use this URL to log-in:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89965633595?pwd=yWDrb3ZjNDYiFNyoHYh9nqMwNbZmI1>
Meeting attendees should mute phones (*6 for landlines) unless asking questions or commenting. All attendees should wait to speak until other participants are finished.

Town of South Hadley Selectboard, Licensing Authority
Jeff Cyr, Chair
Carol Constant, Vice Chair
Priscilla Marion, Clerk
Renee Sweeney, Member
Kevin Hennessey, Member
Under M.G.L. Chapter 138, § 15A and §16C, any school, church, or hospital within 500 feet of 50 College St., South Hadley, MA, 01075 wishing to object to the issuance of such license must voice objections in writing.
06/05/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that an auction **OPEN TO LICENSED DEALERS ONLY** with bids due **Monday, June 11, 2026 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles will be auctioned online via Peak Auto Auctions with bidding open to registered licensed dealers www.peakautoauctions.com.

2007 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR32E27C777840
Benjamin Rodriguez
227 N. King St., OFC
Northampton MA 01060

2007 Saturn Ion
VIN: 1G8AJ55F27Z152275
Charles Beaudry
1515 Northampton St., #213
Holyoke MA 01040

2004 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGEM21994L041249
Raulisha Agramonte
275 Walnut St.
Holyoke MA 01040

2007 BMW 3 Series
VIN: WBAVA375X7NL16909
Jean Octa
500 NW 24th Ave., Apt 27
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33311

2007 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E67C214684
Dary Tavaréz Valenzuela
41 Mosher St., Apt. 1R
Holyoke MA 01040

2002 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR18E72C554617
Jonathan Estrada
60 Center St., Apt. 2R
Holyoke MA 01040

2007 Toyota Avalon
VIN: 4T1BK36B07U200940
Moyses Roman-Roman
120 Alderman St., Apt. 3
Springfield MA 01108

2005 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CL96945C032341
Jonathan Morse
24 Woodland Ave.
Keene NH 03431

2003 Acura RSX
VIN: JH4DC54833C003644
Angelique Lopuk
563 S. Summer St.
Holyoke MA 01040

2017 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPE24AFXHH584934
Patricia Laureano
74 Linden St., Apt. 3
Holyoke MA 01040

2009 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZG57B694235363
Zulmarie Iris Flores Alers
15 S. 6th St.
Shamokin PA 17872

2000 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCG3266YA008509
Omayra Figueroa
25 Jade St., Apt 17
Methuen MA 01844

2008 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CL96978C006434
Kira Tillman
12 Grover St.
Holyoke MA 01040

2007 Lexus ES 350
VIN: JTHBJ46GX72150096
Tommie Flounery
11 Central St., #2B
Springfield MA 01105

2005 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2CNDL73F856125193
Enid Lugo Toledo
485 South St., Apt. 413
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Chrysler Town & Country
VIN: 2C4RC1CG1CR401774
Dariel Serrano Acumulado
PO Box 46
Holyoke, MA 01041

2002 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GG65552H830663
Darrick Roberts
25 Canby St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Toyota Corolla
VIN: JTDDBR32E930026271
Willie David
503 Plainfield St., Apt 2R
Springfield, MA 01107

1997 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCD5603VA198680
Carlos Gonzalez
722 Chicopee St., Apt E
Chicopee, MA 01013

2012 Nissan Maxima
VIN: 1N4AA5AP5CC865677
Zaida Valdez
33 Glenmore St.
Springfield, MA 01129

2005 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GD66505G524780
Raymond Aiken
368 Wilbraham St.
Palmer, MA 01069

2010 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA1F89AH531707
Jovanni Feliciano
17 Spring St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Mitsubishi Outlander
VIN: JA4MS31X87Z011434
Ivelisse Medina Reveron
4 Columbia St., Apt. 3
Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Infiniti FX35
VIN: JNRAS08W74X216626
Wilton Delacruz-Cordero
107 Clark St., Apt. 2
Brattleboro VT 05301

2005 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF1SG65685G732207
Jesus Echevarria
475 Maple St., Apt 406
Holyoke MA 01040

2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN: 2GCEK19T841397602
Jesus Echevarria
475 Maple St., Apt 406
Holyoke MA 01040

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E38N552629
Marisol Mendez
561 S. Summer St., Apt. 1
Holyoke MA 01040

1996 GMC Jimmy
VIN: 1GKCS13W9T2530526
Suzie Davila Joplin
PO Box 1608
Atascadero CA 93422

2016 Kia Sedona
VIN: KNDMB5C12G6189500
Janoi Vilayvanh
4 Frank St., Apt. 3
Worcester MA 01604

2005 Toyota Matrix
VIN: 2T1KR32EX5C500589
Ruth Kosiorek
43 Hillcrest Prk
S. Hadley MA 01075

2004 Toyota Corolla
VIN: JTDDBR38EX42023893
Edwardo Feliciano
139 Sargeant St., Apt. 102
Holyoke MA 01040

1996 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCD563XTA162833
Luis Dejesus
33 James St., Apt. A
Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 Hyundai ELANTRA
VIN: KMHDU46D68U406548
Jessica Diaz
10 Dwight Ter.
Chicopee MA 01013

2007 Buick Lucerne
VIN: 1G4HE57Y57U202604
Darius Burton
44 Autumn Ln.
Amherst, MA 01002

2016 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AT2MV3GW151732
Ariella Chase
495 Appleton St., Apt. 2L
Holyoke, MA 01040

2017 Hyundai TUCSON
VIN: KM8J3CA41HU288786
Jeffrey Hodge
30 Sydney Ave.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 BMW 3 Series
VIN: WBAVD53558A286106
Carlos Garcia
11 Newhall St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2017 Lincoln MKC
VIN: 5LMCJ3D96HUL34096
Tamara McKoy
250 Canon Cir.
Springfield MA 01118

2014 Volkswagen Jetta
VIN: 3VWL17AJ3EM217179
Jeffrey Ball
608 Westfield St., Apt. 20
W. Springfield, MA 01089

2002 Mitsubishi Eclipse
VIN: 4A3AC54HX2E028335
Keith Kourafas
8 Providence St.
Acushnet, MA 02743

2010 Honda Accord Crosstour
VIN: 5J6TF1H56AL012505
Matisse Smith
41 Chapel St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2011 BMW 3 Series
VIN: WBAPK5G59BNN27920
Jeremy Lacourse
1554 Memorial Ave., Apt 2B
W. Springfield, MA 01089

2007 Audi A4
VIN: WAUDF78E47A210871
Heriberto Serrano
10 Colony Rd., Apt. 2A
W. Springfield, MA 01089

2016 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP6GL681140
Deborah Murach
379 E. Street Annex 4
Pittsfield, MA 01201

2014 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SJAJC0EH476621
Steven McIn
156 Liberty St.
N. Adams, MA 01247

2022 Trailer
VIN: 46UFU4424N1258368
Kevin Archambault
231 Willimansett St.
South Hadley, MA 01075

2008 BMW 5 Series
VIN: WBANV13528CZ57015
Latia Cohill
55 Dresden St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2024 Honda CR-V Hybrid
VIN: 7FARS6H52RE077914
Muhawenimana Julienne
34 Laurence St.
Springfield MA, 01104
05/22, 05/29, 06/05/2026

Town of South Hadley NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RE: Application for a Transfer of License, Change of Location and Change of License Type

50 College St., South Hadley, MA 01075

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Section 15A of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended, Trustees of Mount Holyoke College, LLC d/b/a Willits Hallowell Center has applied for a Transfer of License, Change of Location to 26 Park St., and Change of License Category from Club License to a Hotel License, to be exercised at 26 Park St., South Hadley, MA.

The Selectboard as Licensing Authority will hold a public hearing on said application on **June 16, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.** at 45 Dayton St. The hearing will be held in a hybrid fashion with the opportunity for both in-person attendance and remote. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person or virtual attendance accordingly. For purposes of in-person attendance, the Selectboard will host the meeting in the multi-purpose room with remote participation details noted below.

READ from page 1

available for children from birth through age 10, teens ages 11 to 19, and adults.

At its heart, the summer reading initiative is designed to encourage reading for enjoyment while introducing participants to the library's many resources.

"The goal of the summer reading program is to encourage everyone to read for pleasure, and to discover the additional resources the library has to offer, like free programs, museum passes, e-books and digital audiobooks, and more." Arch said. "For kids who are still developing their reading skills, reading consistently, 20 minutes a day, throughout the summer prevents summer slide, or learning loss, so they are prepared for the new school year."

The library is pairing reading incentives with a full schedule of special events throughout the summer. Children who register receive a

coupon for ice cream at Cindy's in Granby, while those who complete their reading logs earn a small prize and are entered into a raffle for additional rewards.

Special programming begins June 25 with a performance by Chinese acrobat Li Liu. Other featured events include a storyteller program, a "Breezy Seeds" engineering challenge in July, indoor mini-golf in August, and a school supply swap. These events join the library's regular offerings, including Storytime, Rhyme Time, Playgroup, and Graphic Novel Book Club.

A key feature of the program is its flexibility. Participants are encouraged to read whatever interests them.

"Kids can read whatever they want. Everything counts," Arch said. "Graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, books you've already read a dozen times. Choice is motivating, and there's something for everyone. If you haven't found a book you love yet, come talk to a librarian. We'll help you find one."

The enthusiasm surrounding the program is evident long before summer begins.

"People start asking about the summer reading program every year in May," Arch said. While many regular patrons continue visiting throughout the summer, she noted that the program also brings back families who visit primarily during school vacations and introduces new visitors to the library.

For families considering participation for the first time, Arch has a simple message: "Welcome! This year is a great year to start."

She encourages newcomers to explore the library's many free offerings, from Book Bingo and Read to a Dog programs to personalized book bundles and museum passes.

"Come visit today," Arch said. "We're excited to see you!"

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CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Turkish leader title
- Nag
- Blank
- Closely woven cotton fabric
- A nice shot in golf
- Away from wind
- Evergreen shrub genus
- Large African antelope
- Something you receive
- Satisfy
- Wet dirt
- No longer here
- Writing utensil
- Ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- Licensed for Wall Street

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- Small American songbird
- One from L.A.
- After tenth
- Hillside
- Red deer
- Partner to "oohed" pattern
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Golden peas plant
- Breezed through
- Midway between east and southeast
- Frameworks
- Danish krone
- Fall back
- Influential Korean leader
- Alternative forms of a gene
- Buddy
- We all do it
- Chicken
- No seats available
- Yearned to possess
- Ineffectual
- Explosive
- Turkish title
- Worn near the foot
- Impatient
- Set an example for others
- Actor Pitt
- Instrument of torture
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to print
- Storied college hoops program
- Midway between south and southeast

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

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SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026



Huthaifah Abbasi



Anthony Adams



Ari Alatalo



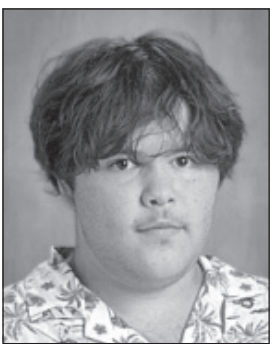
Trevor Archambault



Rubie Benoit



Mike Berneche



Gavan Bernier



Leah Bobrowski



Nya Braithwaite



Hayden Brown



Madison Bruso



Ana Bustos Romero



Noah Carillon



Colby Carleton



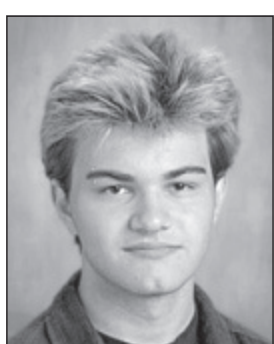
Gavin Carpenter



Logan Carpenter



Renzo Carrero



Eli Cestero



Lilliana Chandler



Devon Cote



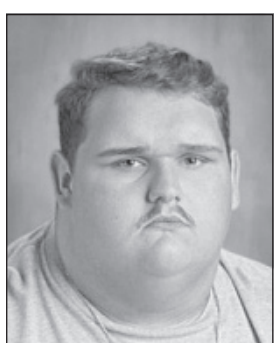
Meredith Craven



Viviana Daniele



Adrian DeBeer



Brady Denniston



Saydee Dewey



Caiden Drohan



Rejoice Ebai-Bate



Jackson Erali



Jenessa Figueroa



Allison Fleury



Benjamin Gillis



Matthew Gillis



Elise Gingras



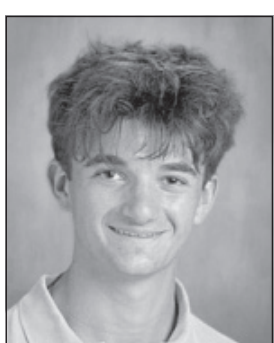
Anastazia Gonzalez



Matthew Goudreault



Michael Goudreault



Luke Guiel



Molly Haynes



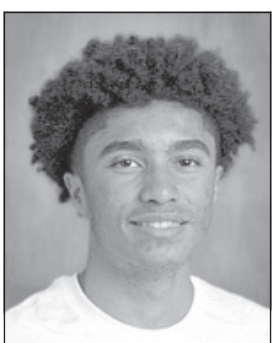
Jhaymhar Henry



William Henson



Memphis Huertas-Febles



Isiah James



Brandon Jarry



Nicholas Jimenez Herrera



Brea Johnson



Brayden Koske



Mars Lambert



Cooper Lavelle



Patrick Lavelle

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CLASS OF 2026



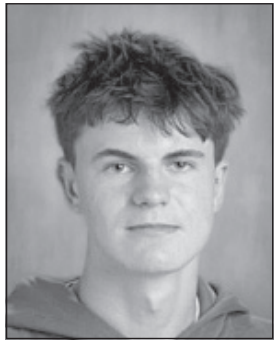
Gracie Levreault



Mallory Levreault



Olivia Lorenz



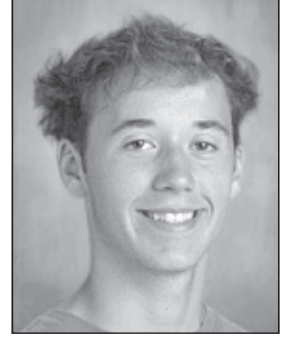
Gavin Losty



Joshua Lucas



Logan Luis



Colin Lumb



Ryan MacGregor



Ethan Markham



Gwen Marion



Miguel Martinez Lebron



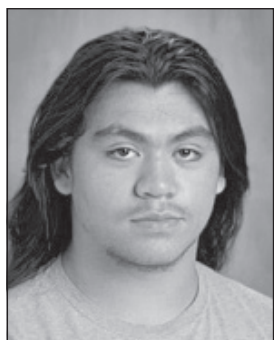
Josiah Mateo



Oliver McFarland



Nathaniel McMains



Jaime Medina Jr.



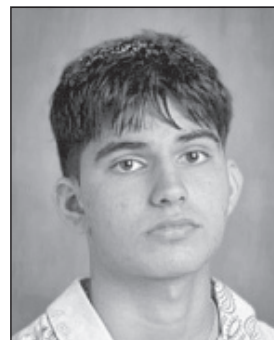
Alivia Menard



Alexis Mendoza



Justin Moskal



Haroon Nasir



Zander Nepal



Ryan Netkovich



Abigail Ngure



Brooke O'Neill



Grace O'Shea-Griffis



Kaan Ormanci



Lily Orsman



Jaydian Ortiz Rivera



Ainsley Petell



Caden Peterson



Steven Plotniak



Sofie Quinn



Jasiel Ramos



Kiana Ramos



Quinlan Randall



Kaylee Renski



Emma Roberts



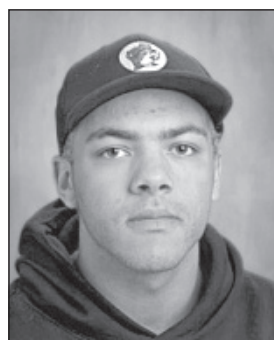
Jameson Sabourin



Yair Cantu Salazar



Ibrahim Salloum



Kayden Salters



Ilaiisa Sanchez



Griffin Soderbaum

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Thomas

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SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026



Isabella Sotiropoulos



Milana Stefoglo



Bri Teixeira



Abdias Vargas



Natalie Wells



Tovah Woldorf



Logan Wolowicz



Eli Yakovlev



Colin Zraunig



Vocal Roar, the South Hadley high school choir, sings the Star Spangled Banner.

GRADUATES from page 1

the interviews were a district tradition, where the superintendent asks the class about what the students enjoyed the most, what they were looking forward to during senior year, their plans for the future and also what walk out song would play if they entered a room to fanfare.

“They ranged from Land-slide by Fleetwood Mac to Unwritten by Natasha Benningfield to Time of Our Lives by Pitbull,” Voyik said. “Those answers reflected this class perfectly; thoughtful, funny, reflective and completely your own.”

She described the graduating class as “resilient” and advocates who were willing to stand up for their beliefs. She went on to state the class cared deeply about their own experiences but also showed “care about what future students in South Hadley will need.” She applauded the behavior and remarked on how it reflected the class’ character.

“South Hadley is stronger because of the mark you have left here and wherever you go next, your communities will be stronger because of what you bring to them,”

Voyik said. “You reminded people to show kindness and empathy every day, to be nice to everyone because you never know what someone is facing, to enjoy every second because time goes by fast... That is powerful advice and it is not just advice for our graduates; it’s advice for all of us.”

Ibrahim Salloum’s poignant speech highlighted a time period of 50 million seconds, the amount of time from birth until graduation day for the class. The speech reflected on what the passage of time meant and how precious and fleeting life is. He recalled moments in the student body’s collective lives, such as getting ready for the Lion King Jr. play at Michael E. Smith Middle School, playing kickball at Moiser Elementary School and how cold it was in Coach Benoit’s room in the winter.

“Each of us lived these 50 million seconds in our own unique and beautiful way,” Salloum said. “Yet here we are, same caps, same gowns, in the same amphitheater, sitting beside people whose lives we shared but never fully knew until right now; the final seconds.”

Salloum mentioned there was no bell and no readi-



The class await the presentation of awards from Principal Wood.

Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

ly made schedule available to them outside of school walls and for students to trust themselves, “not AI, not your friends, not the noise of a world that spends every second telling you what to want.” Over the speech’s course, the valedictorian described how he learned how to navigate suffering, how to handle loss and how important it was to find beauty in the world “no one else can find for you.”

“Hold onto that beauty with both hands,” Salloum said. “Find the people who are different from you, the

people you’ll share difficult conversations with. Sit with them the way I wish I had sat with more of you. Find what you love. Hold on to it fiercely.”

Salutatorian Allison Fleury started her speech with a question. She instructed the student body to raise their hands if they ever said the words “I can’t wait” throughout the course of her life. With rows of hands in the air, Fleury cautioned not to wish life away and stated to those who didn’t raise their hands their secret was safe with her.

“Instead of constantly looking ahead, choose to live in the moment and live for the moment,” Fleury said. “Think of the friendships we wouldn’t have made, the opportunities that would have passed us by and the memo-

ries we would have missed if we had failed to be present.”

She urged the graduates to choose to live for the moment and to overcome one’s fears. She admitted public speaking was one of her biggest fears and discussed how stepping out of one’s comfort zone was essential to a fulfilling life.

“I try to put myself out there, meet new people, make new friends and say yes to opportunities that scare me,” Fleury said. “And that’s what I want to encourage all of you to do; wake up each day willing to seize the moment and appreciate this time for what it is truly worth.”

Principal Elizabeth Wood celebrated the class of 2026’s accomplishments and presented awards to the graduates. Before the awards ceremony, seniors Logan Luis and

Eli Yakovlev were recognized for their decision to joined the armed forces after high school. The first award was from the National Honor Society for students who maintained a 3.5 GPA or better and performed a prerequisite amount of community service. The following students were recognized:

Ari Alatalo, Leah Bobrowski, Devin Cote, Meredith Craven, Adrian DeBeer, Allison Fleury, Elise Gingras, Matthew Goudreaux, Nicholas Jimenez Herrera, Gracie Levreault, Mallory Levreault, Colin Lumb, Ryan MacGregor, Gwen Marion, Lily Orsman, Quinlan Randall, Ibrahim Salloum, Isabella Sotiropoulos, Milana Stefoglo, Tovah Woldorf, Logan Wolowicz and Colin Zraunig.

Four pro-marital graduates were highlighted during the ceremony, which recognized those in the top five percent of their class. Recognized students were Allison Fleury, Matthew Gillis, Nicholas Jimenez Herrera and Ibrahim Salloum.

The Maurine J. Moriarty Award for excellence in written and spoken English went to Allison Fleury. The Edward P. McGovern Award was given out by Class of 1929 in memory of a classmate who sacrificed their lives in World War II. The award was for a senior student “whose success in life seems assured by their friendly and cooperative spirit” and was given to Leah Bobrowski.

Additional awards were the Jeremiah A. Foley Award for “excellence in critical thinking and historical inquiry;” the David E. Barney Memorial Award for the student who “best exemplifies the spirit of sportsmanship with the school and on the playing field;” the Donald F. Graham Memorial Award for “positive spirit and character;” the South Hadley Chamber of Commerce Award for the “spirit of sportsmanship;” the Class of 1922 Award for the “student who has done the most for South Hadley High School”, the Seal of Bili-teracy and the Class of 1979 Award in memory of former classmate Andrew Ye.

A full list of the awards and the recipients are listed on page 12 with additional photos.

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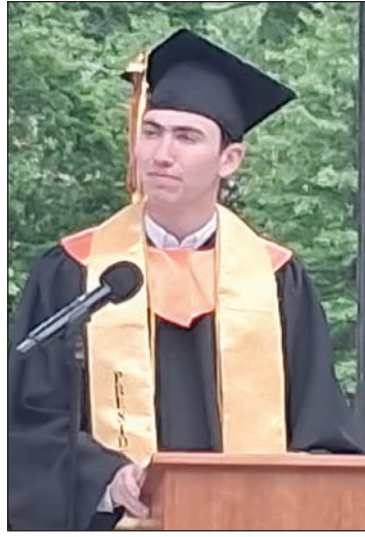
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Class President Colin Zraunig conducts the Students' Welcome speech and reflects on his time at South Hadley High School.



Michael Goudreaux, Elise Gingras and Nya Braithwaite display their customized graduation caps.



Salutatorian Allison Fleury urges classmates to live in the moment during her class address.



Valedictorian Ibrahim Salloum reflects on the 50 million seconds he lived up to this point during his emotional graduation speech.



Superintendent Jennifer Voyik addresses the graduating class.



Nya Braithwaite offers farewell remarks as the class prepares to receive their diplomas.



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

SHHS Graduation 2026 17 -School Committee Chairperson Eric Friesner, Superintendent Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent Lyn Jacques, Principal Elizabeth Wood and Assistant Principals Mary Bonavita and Patrick Lemieux congratulate the graduating class for receiving their diplomas.



Principal Elizabeth Wood welcomes the audience to the Class of 2026's graduation.



Assistant Principal Patrick Lemieux posed for a photo before the ceremony.



The class perform the traditional cap toss to conclude their graduation ceremony.

Class of 2026 award winners:

- Maurine J. Moriarty Award:** Allison Fleury
- Edward P. McGovern Award:** Leah Babrowski
- Jeremiah A. Foley Award:** Colin Zraunig
- David E. Barney Memorial Award:** Allison Fleury
- Donald F. Graham Memorial Award:** Meredith Kraven
- South Hadley Chamber of Commerce Award:** Gwen Marion
- Class of 1922 Award:** Colin Zraunig
- Seal of Bilingualism:** Nicholas Jimenez Herrera, Olivia Lorenz, Lily Orsman, Ibrahim Salloum
- Class of 1979 Award:** Colin Zraunig



Valedictorian Ibrahim Salloum and Salutatorian Allison Fleury lead the procession to the Gettell Amphitheater.

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