

# TOWN Reminder

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## Camp Perkins celebrates 100th Year Anniversary

By Ben Hernandez  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Residents flocked to Camp Perkins in celebration of its 100th year anniversary on May 31. The Girl Scout camp is one of the only three in the country celebrating a centennial.

“That’s pretty exciting because the Girl Scouts is only 114 years old,” said Central and Western Massachusetts Girl Scouts CEO Theresa Lynn. “It means we’ve been in the outdoor and camping world since the beginning, really.”

Camp Perkins is used by the Girl Scouts as a day camp. The area also includes a pool, which Lynn identified as a very popular attraction for the kids and as a good transition for more natural swimming resources.

“The pool has been a huge attraction,” said Lynn. “A lot of kids aren’t used to swimming in lakes and ponds. It’s a good way to get swimming under your belt... before you make the leap to boating and swimming in lands and ponds because it is very different in terms of the experience.”

Please see **CAMP**, page 12



The morning flag ceremony kicked off the day’s celebrations.

Turley photos by Ben Hernandez



The festivities also included edible campfires to safely teach kids how campfires are made.

## Library runs first-ever Fix-It Clinic

By Ben Hernandez  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Saturday, May 30 marked the first Fix-It Clinic event at the South Hadley Public Library. Volunteers troubleshooted and fixed personal belongings of local residents. Desiree Smelser, the Adult Services Librarian at the public library, stated the initiative was to “help people keep things out of landfills” and also to foster community spirit.

“It was a way to help people figure out how to fix things so that, in turn, you

could A, get to know your neighbors better and realize ‘hey, you know, this guy next door actually knows how to fix a bike chain,’” said Smelser. The librarian indicated a major factor in running this event was to get the community involved and feel more interconnected.

“I mean, there’s so many things that can be fixed that are just a minor fix that people don’t know how to do,” said Smelser. “It’s really neighbors learning how to help neighbors.”

FixIt Clinics, a loose organization and outreach pro-

gram, are free workshops founded in 2009 by MIT graduate Peter Mui in the San Francisco Bay area. The goal is to unite communities through a mutual desire to combat waste and empower citizens through the ability to leverage their existing hands-on skills to support their fellow neighbors.

“They’ll help you figure things out to be able to say ‘oh try this. Look at that,’” said Smelser. She stated she was particularly excited about swaps for small ap-

Please see **FIX-IT**, page 11



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Practiced hands help mend fabric.

## Local church celebrates 75 years of community

By Ben Hernandez  
Correspondent

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary celebrated its 75th anniversary in the town of Granby. A native of Wilbraham, Father Michael Goodreau has been the resident pastor for the church since Jan. 1, 2023 and commented on his time serving the local parish.

“It’s a small town-type parish you know,” said Goodreau. “I came from a bigger parish before I got here. It’s a smaller parish but it was, like, very active.”

The idea to build the Granby church began in the early 1920s, when local Catholics found it difficult to conduct weekly worship in town. Horse buggies proved to be difficult transportation as residents traveled to Holyoke, Amherst and South Hadley to observe mass. In the late 1920s, residents used Kellogg Hall to conduct their Sunday



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Immaculate Heart of Mary continues to remain part of town since its creation in 1951.

Please see **CHURCH**, page 2

## Repair shop applies for used car license

By Ben Hernandez  
Correspondent

GRANBY – Smith Merrill Incorporated petitioned the Granby Select Board on June 1 for a Class II license. The company plans to make a used car dealership at their existing repair location at 161 West State Street, inspired by existing customers prompting them to get into the business. Owners Nicholas Smith, Aldina Smith and Brett Merrill mentioned they already met with the fire chief and the building inspector for lot inspection.

“I believe we are in agreement with this as far as your class two license goes,” Select Board member David Labonte said. “We do have a little bit of concern that the parking lot may become overcrowded.”

Class II licenses are required in the state of Massachusetts to run a used car business. The license permits the commercial buying and selling of pre-owned cars within the state, a process which requires a \$25,000 deposit, zoning approval with written sign-off from a local building inspector, a business certificate from Granby’s Town

Clerk if not operating under a registered corporate name, access to a repair facility and a place to conduct site inspections.

“They showed us 15 spots,” said Interim Town Administrator and Police Chief Kevin O’Grady as he recalled results from the state required inspection. “I think that’s in one of the last photos. I know the planning board did approve up to 20. We kind of agreed that we could try 15 if you guys are onboard with that?”

Please see **REPAIR**, page 2

## Aging in Place Health and Wellness Fair

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Council on Aging presents the 2026 Aging in Place

Health and Wellness Fair on Wednesday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It is open to the public, seniors, family members and caregivers.

There will be 40 plus vendors and elder care providers, free raffles and giveaways.

This event will provide attendees with comprehen-

sive information on a variety of aging in place

options, equipment, devices, services and resources.

Gather important information provided by health care professionals all under one roof.

FREE beverages supplied by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

FREE Grocery Bag courtesy of South Hadley Big Y.

Please call 413-538-5030 for more information.

## 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 jpietas@comcast.net

## 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.

## Council-on-Aging holding health, wellness fair

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Council-on-Aging will be holding the 2026 Aging in Place: Health and Wellness Fair coming up on Wednesday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the South Hadley Council-on-Aging located at 45 Dayton St. The event is open to the public, including se-

niors, family members, and caregivers. There will be 40-plus vendors and elder care providers and free raffles and giveaways. This event will provide attendees with comprehensive information on a variety of aging in place options, equipment, devices, services, and resources. For more information, call 413-538-5030.

### REPAIR from page 1

The chief explained 15 would be preferable, as the added spots would give access to a parking lot "in case of an emergency." The chief stated he would be fine with giving them 20 spots should the need arise.

Merrill agreed with the assessment but questioned if a re-approach would be necessary should their lot be reclassified as a 20 spot area. He expressed his hesitations, as "this was about a year process" for the initial request, and was concerned a reclassification would force them to go through the current process again.

"As we start to approach another cycle with the licensing, just reach out to myself or to whoever here at town hall and just indicate that, yes, you would like to explore the 20," Town Clerk Glen Saxton said. "The chief, Chief Briant would go out there, re-investigate and they would come back with their recommendations."

Merrill stated they agreed with the planning board's decision and mentioned they highly doubted they would "even be getting getting to the capacity" they were talking about in their first year of selling cars. Merrill mentioned the only reason

they considered selling vehicles was due to customer feedback.

"We really did this because we have so many people saying 'you guys do a great job working on the cars. We want someone we can trust to buy a vehicle from,'" Merrill said. "And that's really the kind of service we want to provide. So that's where it came from."

Smith and Merrill plan to start with five cars on the premises. Merrill reiterated they weren't comfortable with more until they knew how many cars would "move in and out" of the lot. The current business works as an appointment-based service and includes online scheduling services. The Select Board asked how many vehicles on average they would have in the lot.

"Changes every day," co-owner Aldina Smith said. "Today I had four cars parked out front because we had bigger jobs and they were all in the garage."

The motion to approve the Class II license was proposed and voted on by the Select Board. The license is good until Dec. 31. With the license approval, Smith Merrill Incorporated is one step closer to their dealership goals.



Submitted photo

The anniversary mass celebrated 75 years of community and was attended by the local bishop.



Submitted photo

Father Goodreau oversees the anniversary ceremony.

### CHURCH from page 1

services, though the building proved unsatisfactory to the town worshippers.

The plan to build a church on the current parish grounds began in October 24, 1930, when 14 town residents gathered in Attorney Thomas F. Bradley's office to create a corporation for the project. The corporation, named "The Granby Welcome Society Inc.," was made for the purposes of fundraising to buy the required land needed to build the chapel.

The Welcome Society eventually went away in favor of the Catholic Women's Club and Catholic Men's Club, which became the foundation for the early church. The church was built from crowd sourced materials donated by future parishioners, their families and friends from the larger community. Additional needed stone was gathered from

the surrounding fields, given away by area residents and local farmers; a collaboration Goodreau called an "all hands on deck" initiative.

The first mass conducted on the grounds was held before the church's construction in a downstairs "Pine Room" on Christmas Eve in 1949. The project completed on May 6, 1951, an Easter Sunday, and consecrated as a Catholic church on the same day. Goodreau stated the goal for the future was to "get more people" to become members of the church. He described the local parish as "very close-knit, very prayerful" and mentioned each mass time had its own personality.

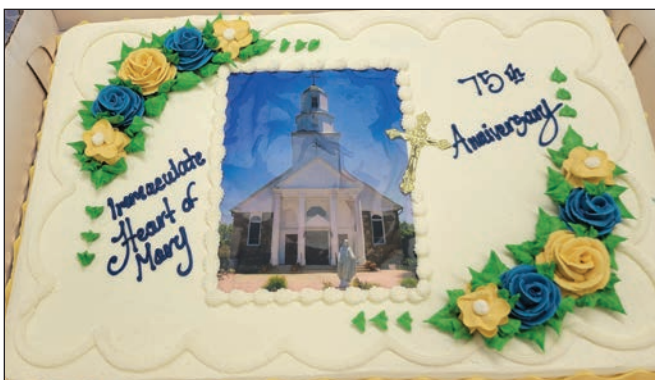
"The eight o'clock in the morning mass, for example, is more of a lower-key quieter mass. The 10:45 is very boisterous," Goodreau said. "The four o'clocks like a mix of people working different shifts and a lot of the older folks...so it has energy but it's

a different energy."

Goodreau stated the church's roof was fixed last summer and the front doors were recently painted. He reported the main concern for him was the many ongoing maintenance projects at the church. He cited the need to repave the parking lot as a major project but identified the pavilion as the current concern, as the structure either needs to be stabilized or torn

down.

"It's a beloved thing," Goodreau said. "But to fix it, it's going to cost well over \$100,000. So that's something we have to really study and fundraise for, so maybe if we get a miracle donor out there, that would be a great thing to fix that pavilion 'cause then you could open that outdoor space to not only just our parishioners, but for the greater community to use."



Submitted photo

The commemoration cake shared by the congregation included a screen print of the church.



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

The on-campus signpost proudly declares the church's 75th anniversary.



Submitted photo

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish sits in the heart of Granby.

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USDA INSP. SMOKED SHOULDER PORK PICNIC..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL <b>\$7.77</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK ..... <b>77¢</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG ..... <b>\$3.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG ..... <b>\$4.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... <b>\$2.89</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL <b>\$7.77</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK ..... <b>77¢</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG ..... <b>\$3.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG ..... <b>\$4.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA ..... <b>\$2.89</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL <b>\$7.77</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK ..... <b>77¢</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG ..... <b>\$3.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG ..... <b>\$4.99</b> ea
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<b>GREAT ON THE GRILL</b>	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN ..... <b>\$2.49</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL <b>\$7.77</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG ..... <b>\$3.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS ..... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG ..... <b>\$4.99</b> ea
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## Concert band to headline opening night of 2026 Summer Concert Series

SOUTH HADLEY – The A Natural Concert Band, a premier symphonic wind ensemble drawing professional musicians from Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire, will perform at the South Hadley Town Commons on June 18 at 6:30 p.m. kicking off the 2026 South Hadley Summer Concert Series. In the event of rain, the performance will be held across the street at the Center Congregational Church. The performance marks the band's first appearance outside of the tri-state border region in many years.

Founded in June 2014, the approximately fifty-member ensemble is composed primarily of music educators and professional musicians committed to performing the highest caliber of symphonic wind music. The June 18 program will feature works by celebrated composers including John Williams, Connie Ellisor, Percy Grainger, and Julie Giroux, among others.

The concert will also include the Massachusetts premiere of Solutions, by composer Sonya Leonore Stahl. The A Natural Concert Band has a distinguished history of presenting premiere performances, having been the first ensemble to perform Peter Boyer's Fanfare for Tomorrow

following its world premiere by the United States Marine Band at the inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted at the event, with proceeds benefiting the South Hadley Public Schools music program. The band and organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of Gerry's Music Shop, whose commitment to music education in the region helped make this performance possible.

"What an amazing time and honor to have them perform twice on the beautiful grounds of the Whately library," said Wendy Peppercorn, former Head Librarian at Whately's S. White Dickinson Memorial Library. "The air was alive with beautiful concert music."

For more information about the A Natural Concert Band, visit the ensemble's official Facebook page at [facebook.com/ANaturalConcertBand](https://facebook.com/ANaturalConcertBand). For updates on the South Hadley Summer Concert Series, visit [facebook.com/southhadleyrecreation](https://facebook.com/southhadleyrecreation). To support South Hadley Public School Music, donate at <https://givebuttr.com/shmpa-ongoing-support> or contact them at [www.southhadleymusic.org](http://www.southhadleymusic.org)

## 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@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:KMaher@southhadleyma.gov)

## Granby Police Log

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 152 calls for the week of May 29, through June 4. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

**Friday, May 29**  
12:05 a.m. – Officers investigated an incident involving harassment. The incident is under investigation.

9:46 p.m. – Officers investigate motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles on Pleasant Street at West State Street. Minor injuries were reported.

**Saturday, May 30**  
8:46 a.m. – A criminal ci-

tation was issued to a person for motor vehicle operation with a suspended license.

**Sunday, May 31**  
3:57 p.m. – A citation was issued to a person for uninsured motor vehicle operation.

**Wednesday, June 3**  
12:39 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on West State Street. A motor vehicle struck a bicyclist on the roadway. Injuries were reported.

**Thursday, June 4**  
3:19 p.m. – Officers investigate motor vehicle accident on Carver Street. An operator drove off the roadway and caused damage.

## Multiple events coming up at Granby Free Public Library

Join Summer Reading for All Ages! Plant a Seed, Read! Summer Reading Programs for all ages start on June 23. Stop in to the Library to sign up and get your reading logs and raffle tickets. Join us for some amazing programming all summer long.

**Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club**  
**Storytelling in Urban Sketching**  
**Saturday, June 20 at 11 a.m.**

Join returning local artist Jaime Bohorquez to learn about storytelling through the art of urban sketching. Sign-up is required for this event.

**Tabletop Games Club**  
**Saturday, June 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

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

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

**Knitting Group**  
**Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.**

Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

**Friends of the Granby Library Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 18 at 4:30 p.m.**

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

**Upcoming Events:**  
The Lost Gem: A Dungeons & Dragons inspired event with Jonah Knight!  
Wednesday, July 29 at 2 p.m.

## Granby Jr-Sr. High announces Third Term Honor Roll

**7th Grade Maximum Honors** – Emily Bond, Landon Brown, Gavin Guilbert, Kyla Houle, Jude Joslyn, Savannah Kraus, Leighton Ladas, Lillian Los, Abigail Schmeiding, Aubree Wonderlie

**7th Grade High Honors** – Zoey Cutrumbes, Emily Durham, Oliver Francis, Lily Paquin, Wallace Trafford, Avery Henderson

**7th Grade Honors** – Ryan Burke, Jace Cruz, Madelynn Heroux, Olivia Heroux, Pdraig Kearney, Madison Parker, Julianna Roberts, Milani Tapia, Weston Tierney

**8th Grade Maximum Honors** – Andrew Bond, Jeriel Gonzalez, Leely Kim, Bri-Anne Kraus, Sofia Marsh, Samantha Samonte, Ryan Smith, Henry Stewart

**8th Grade High Honors** – Raymond Barrett-Lorenzi, Kingston Cruz, Avery Gagnon, Caroline Koziol, Lucas LeVierge, Ella Ludkiewicz, Alexander Tetreault

**8th Grade Honors** – Ava Belliveau, Eloise Ciosek, Kaylannie Colon, Allison Cross, Ethan Fenn, Tage Flowers, Colten Gagne, Lilyana Gagnon, Peyton LaFlamme, William Pula, Charlotte Shewmaker, Michaela Slater, Avery Tetreault, Lauren Walker, Sophia Wright

**9th Grade Maximum Honors** - Rowan Cook, Alisandra Crowley, Honor DeCarlo, Gwen LePage, Arian-na Mislak, Mia Smith, Avery Tipton-Wolmart

**9th Grade High Honors** - Ella Clark, Jocelyn Curran, Addison Hill, Sophia Silchuk, Stella Siudak, Marley Skipton

**9th Grade Honors** – Nathaniel Gomez, Jack Krupski, Ruby Murdza, Raylin Paquette, Marcela Tapia, Kaylee Vincelette, Kara White

**10th Grade Maximum Honors** – Jaxtin Bednar-

ski-Loughman, Gianna Capone, Emily Durham, Ralph El Aouji, Abigail Esquivel, Vitaly Gavel, Gabriel Helbok, Sophia Labonte, Abigail LaDuke, Emma Murphy, Grace Pula, Madison Scheinost, Colin Sicard, Kaelynn Slapski, Richard Sweet, Isabella Tetreault

**10th Grade High Honors** - Gina Auselle Casadevall, Lauren Barlow, Amelia Gardner, Anthony Misiaszek, Sophia Press, Sophia Rodrigues, Carli Zobka

**10th Grade Honors** - Jacob Fuller, Jacob Weglarz, Catelynn Rivera

**11th Grade Maximum** – Meredith Bartosz, Madelyn LaPointe, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Jaidyn Roberge, Gilmarie Vega Febres

**11th Grade High Honors** – Lyla Bergeron, Sydney Chateaufneuf, Liam Everson, Kyrsten Gaj, Christopher Gregorio, Morgan Justin, Audrey Pleisch, Mckenna Zumbuski

**11th Grade Honors** – Joseph Barrett-Lorenzi, Brandon Carillon, Parker Dufresne, James Duga, Ayden Kazemi, Samuel Moure, Autumn Swistak, Eleanor Szlosek, Nathan Walsh, Kalli White

**12th Grade Maximum** - Lea Charest, Allison Charon, Kaitlyn Curran, Leonardo Esquivel, Quinn Fuller, Brodie Funk, Braeden Gallagher, Maxwell Kennedy, Braydon LaDuke, Mylin Laliberte, Blake Lashway, Allison Maslak, Keith Patterson, Addison Scott

**12th Grade High Honors** - Jake Gagnon, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Annalise Patterson, Isabella Woods

**12th Grade Honors** - Emma Beaulieu, Brandon Chatel, Benjamin French, Rosalba Manduca, Anthony Santiago, Daniel Santiago, Nathaniel Valle

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

#### Why can't I get a lump sum death benefit from my wife?

##### Dear Rusty:

My wife passed away in September 2025 at age 64.

We had been married for 43 years and started collecting benefits when I turned 62 and she was 63. She did not have enough work credits to claim her own SS and thus collected on my record. SSA told me that I was not entitled to receive the lousy \$255 death benefit because my wife was collecting on my work record. Is this correct?

**Signed: Grieving Widower**

##### Dear Grieving:

We extend our sincere condolences on your wife's passing.

But I must tell you that what the Social Security Administration told you is correct.

Although we often see assertions that the so-called "one-time lump sum death benefit" is always paid, there are specific rules for when that admittedly small SS benefit is available. And there are also specific rules regarding who is eligible to receive it.

Essentially, the lump sum death benefit is paid when the deceased person was collecting Social Security retirement benefits or at least entitled to SS retirement benefits. And that one-time lump sum death benefit usually goes to the deceased person's surviving spouse, more on that later.

But for the death benefit to be paid, the deceased person must have been collecting Social Security retirement benefits or was at least entitled to SS retirement benefits.

In your specific case, because your wife was not eligible for her own SS retirement benefit and was, instead, just collecting a spousal benefit from your SS record, you unfortunately are not able to collect the lump-sum death benefit as your wife's surviving spouse. So, what you were told by Social Security about this special survivor benefit is, indeed, correct.

For information, here is a bit more on who can collect the SS death ben-

efit: the one-time lump sum death benefit is normally paid to the eligible surviving spouse of a deceased person, who was collecting Social Security.

But if there is no surviving spouse to receive the onetime payment, the death benefit may be paid to someone else who was also a dependent of the deceased. That might be a minor surviving child or a surviving adult disabled child, who was collecting dependent benefits from the deceased person's SS record. In rare cases, a dependent parent may be paid if no other surviving dependents are eligible. FYI, ex-spouses are not eligible for a death benefit from a former spouse.

The lump-sum death benefit must be applied for by contacting Social Security and the benefit must be claimed within two years of the person's death. You will need to verify your identity and confirm your eligibility for this survivor benefit and you will need to provide other information about the deceased also including a death certificate.

There is an SSA form to apply for the lump sum death benefit (SSA-8), but calling your local SS office or 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for the one-time lump-sum death benefit in person is usually all that is needed.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

A reader emailed she saw an indigo bunting at her feeder.

The indigo bunting is sometimes called the "blue canary."

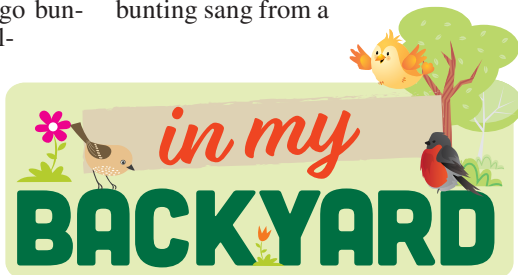
However, the indigo bunting like all blue colored birds, lack blue pigment. Their color comes instead from microscopic structures in the feathers that refract and reflect blue light, much like the airborne particles that cause the sky to look blue.

Bunting plumage contains the pigment melanin, whose dull brown-black hue is seen when holding a blue feather up so the light comes from behind it, instead of toward it.

The bunting is sparrow size and about 4.7-5.5 inches long. The adult male Indigo Bunting is dark blue in the spring and summer. Females are brown, usually with fine streaks on the chest and a

blue tinge on the tail. A one-year-old male in summer may be blue with a white belly.

Males are often seen singing from a perch in a tall tree. For years, a male indigo bunting sang from a



By Ellenor Downer

dead limb on a tall tree. Rarely, I spotted the female usually in a brushy area.

They inhabit brushy pastures and bushy wood edges. For nesting, the indigo bunting favors roadsides, old fields growing up to bushes, edges of woodlands and other edge-habitats such as along rights-of-way for power lines or railroads.

The male indigo bunting establishes territory in the spring and defends it with

## Foxgloves take the stage in June

I came around the corner of the house and to my surprise, the purple foxglove was in flower! Yippee!

This is just the start of a wonderful sequence of blooms lasting the rest of the month and then some. Read on, straight from the archives to learn more about these unique plants.

Those of us who favor romantic, old-fashioned flowers have likely devoted some space in our gardens to the common purple foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) or one of its cultivars. This is for good reason, as there are few plants more breathtaking than a foxglove in full bloom. Imagine three to five-foot tall spires of uniquely marked bell-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink, and rose.

One well-grown plant may yield five or more stalks! Group several plants together for a show stopping display come the end of June.

Native to western Europe, the common foxglove has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times.

There has always been a mysterious side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame.

In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of foxglove as a heart medicine. Although far too dangerous to

be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with certain types of heart disease.

Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as

the flowers especially easy.

There are other more subtle species of foxglove worthy of placement in your garden.

One of my favorites is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-foot stems late in the summer.

Although touted as being a biennial this species has returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive location.

The yellow foxglove is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24-30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture.

The Grecian foxglove, a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems.

The straw foxglove is relatively new to my garden, blooming happily for the first time last summer. It is the most diminutive flower-wise of any mentioned thus far and it tops off about two and a half feet tall.

Whether you plant the common foxglove for a show stopping display or settle on one of its more subtle cousins, do give these old-fashioned beauties a place in your garden.

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, of Star Route 2, Box 337, La Honda CA, 94020 offers an extensive collection of foxglove seed for sale. Send along \$1 for a very interesting catalog.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials.

In my garden all types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do. When purchasing foxgloves from garden centers start with a first year plant, nourish it well and enjoy blooms the following year.

Steer clear of plants already in flower, it is likely they will perish after blooming.

Of the 10 or so species of foxglove grown today, the most popular are the cultivars of the common foxglove.

"Foxy" flowers a mere five months from sowing; it is often grown as an annual. Even taller and denser clumps of rose, white or yellow flowers may return in following years. "Giant Shirley" can grow to a whopping nine feet, sporting tightly packed, spotted flowers in rich hues of pink.

Other cultivars include the all white "Alba," the unusual "Apricot Beauty," and the widely available "Excelsior Hybrids" whose placement of florets horizontally around the five-foot stem makes viewing the unique inner markings of



song. A male may have more than one mate at a time living on his territory.

The nest site is usually one to three feet above ground, rarely up to 30 feet or more, in dense shrub or low trees.

The female lays three to four white to bluish-white eggs with brown or purple spot. Females incubate the eggs and feed the young.

Males will help feed young when they are nearly old enough to fly. Young usually leave nest 9-12 days after hatching.

The male sometimes takes over feeding of fledged young while the female begins second nesting attempt as she has two broods per year.

Indigo buntings forage at all levels from the ground up into shrubs and trees. They take insects from leaves, seeds from the ground or stems and berries from shrubs.



Indigo bunting

They eat mostly seeds and insects. In breeding season, the indigo bunting feeds mainly on insects and spiders and also some seeds and berries.

Young in the nest are fed mostly insects at first. In winter, they eat many seeds and also some insects.

Indigo buntings migrate

at night, using the stars for guidance.

The oldest recorded wild indigo bunting was a male and at least 13 years, 3 months old when he was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Ohio in 2013.

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

## 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](mailto:townreminder@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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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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**BACKYARD** from page 4

**Other birds**  
Besides seeing an indigo bunting, the reader also has several Baltimore orioles, rose breasted grosbeaks and goldfinches.

She stated, "Around the corner at the Brook Road pond in West Warren, there was a lone swan. There was a lone swan there for a couple years about six years ago and it made me wonder if it was the same one."

**Pileated woodpecker**  
I received another email on June 6 from a Belcher-town resident.

She stated, "My husband and I witnessed a beautiful pileated woodpecker mating ritual in our backyard this morning.... They jumped around the tree on opposite sides going around several times before then jumping to other trees moving farther back into the woods during the process."

She stated, "After looking them up, I realized that I have heard their calls and rapid pecking sounds in my backyard for the past two years, but never saw them until now. What a joy to watch and video. They are

beautiful birds."

She also stated her home has semi dense woods immediately behind that is a haven for several bird species, robins, yellow finch, bluebirds and blue jays. The property also borders some wetlands that attract a variety of species from time to time, including hawks, owls and ducks.

**Mute swans**  
My brother, who lives in Sutton, has a pond bordering his property. For several years, a pair of mute swans have raised their family on the pond. They are back this year.

**Bluebirds**  
I often see a pair of bluebirds in my yard. After seeing them, I put out dried mealworms for them. I don't feed the birds in summer because of the black bears. Hopefully, bears are not interested in a few mealworms and the birds will eat the mealworms before the bear.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

# Eversource prepares for hurricane season

SPRINGFIELD – With the unpredictable nature of New England weather and the constant possibility for intense storms throughout the year, Eversource focuses year-round on strengthening the electric system and preparing for extreme weather to enhance reliability for customers. While the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season for 2026 — there is always the potential for tropical storms, hurricanes, or other extreme weather with strong winds to impact the region and the energy company continues its never-ending preparedness efforts and critical investments in the grid to help bolster electric reliability for its customers.

"As we enter another hurricane season, our top priority is keeping our customers and communities safe, connected and informed, which is why we work year-round to strengthen our infrastructure and refine our emergency response protocols so we're prepared for whatever

Mother Nature brings our way," said Eversource President of Massachusetts Electric Operations Doug Foley. "Our ongoing investments to harden the electric system — combined with our comprehensive and proactive vegetation management program — have improved reliability for our customers significantly over the last decade, along with our strategic coordination with emergency partners and our communities to ensure a quick, safe response when extreme weather impacts our state. While we can't control how severe this hurricane season will be, we can control how we prepare — and we're taking all necessary steps to ensure we're ready."

With trees causing more than 90 percent of power outages during storms across Eversource's three-state service territory, trimming and removing hazard trees that threaten overhead electric lines and infrastructure are crucial to providing customers with reliable power in all types of weather. Eversource's robust, year-round

vegetation management program is fundamental to emergency preparedness by addressing trees that pose risks to public safety and electric reliability before they become a larger issue. Throughout the year, the energy company also works continuously to make critically needed investments in the electric grid across the state — replacing aging utility poles, electric lines and other materials with stronger, more modern equipment that can better withstand severe weather, including the installation of automated technology like smart switches and bolstering infrastructure at its substations to improve the resiliency of these critical points on the system.

"Storm preparedness and response is a responsibility we take very seriously, and we know that our customers have strong expectations for a safe, efficient restoration every time severe weather is in the forecast," Foley added. "With the 2026 hurricane season officially underway, we also encourage our customers to take time now to

prepare at home and create an emergency plan that can make a real difference when storms strike."

Eversource offers several simple tips and steps customers can take to help prepare for hurricane season at home and know what to do before, during and after a storm. The energy company provides a storm safety checklist and encourages customers to always have an emergency plan in place, stock a storm kit with essential items, plan a meeting place for family members and be ready to check on neighbors. Natural gas customers are encouraged to take extra precautions if their furnace, heating system or any appliances are located in a flood prone area. Customers can also download Eversource's mobile app or to sign up for the company's two-way texting to report and check outages in the event they do lose power.

For more on the energy company's emergency preparedness efforts and restoration process, visit [Eversource.com](http://Eversource.com).



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# SPORTS

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## Rams move into tournament quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY – Staying Alive’ by the Bee Gees was played over the loudspeaker before the start of the bottom of the seventh inning in the Division 5 state tournament softball game.

The sixth-seeded Granby Lady Rams kept their season alive with an exciting 3-2 walk off home victory over the 27th-seeded Whitinsville

Christian Crusaders in a round of 32 contest held last Monday afternoon (June 1).

“I’m very grateful that I’ll be playing at least one more game with this team,” said second baseman Kaitlyn Curran, who’s the only senior listed on the Lady Rams varsity softball roster. “Scoring the game winning run was also the best feeling ever in the world.”

With one-out in the bottom of the seventh, Curran hit a flyball sin-

gle into right field before advancing to second base on a wild pitch. Then junior shortstop Ellie Szlosek swung at a strike three pitch. She reached first base following a passed ball putting runners at the corners. Freshman catcher Rowan Cook followed with a ground ball to the shortstop and Curran crossed the plate with the winning run.

“All the credit goes to these girls,” said Granby head coach Mike Afflitto. “Rowan came through in

that situation, just putting the ball hard somewhere, making the defense make a play. We just need to continue to execute.”

The one run home victory improved Granby’s overall record to 17-4, while Whitinsville Christian finished their season with a 12-6 mark.

Please see **RAMS**, page 7



Kaitlyn Curran makes a throw.



Kara White is safe at second base.



Ellie Szlosek slings a throw to first.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Busy schedule continues for New England Mutiny



Kendall Bodak tries to settle the ball.



Laci Lewis turns play around.



Kayleigh Lukasik rears back for a touch.



Bella Meadows, of Chicopee, gets the stop.



Rachel Marchini winds up for a free kick.



Jenna Kalwa settles the ball.



Caleigh Foley sends a quick pass away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny continues double duty, playing in both the UWS and USL-W leagues. Last week, they were in action for two games, facing both the Maine Mystics in a UWS game, then followed that with a USL-W game against rival AC Connecticut. Neither final score was reported. The Mutiny were in action earlier this week against Hudson Valley and next face the Maine Footy on Saturday, June 13.

**RAMS** from page 6

Because the Lady Rams senior day game had been postponed at the end of the regular season, Curran was honored before the start of the round of 32 contest.

"Kaitlyn is very special to us, and she always leads by example," Afflitto said. "She had a single in the seventh inning and wound up scoring the game winning run. It was a storybook ending."

Last fall, Curran was one of the three seniors on the girls' soccer team, which is coached by Bob Weaver. The Lady Rams defeated Hopkins Academy, 2-0, in the Western Mass. Class D championship game before losing to rival Monson, 2-1, in the Division 5 state semifinals.

Curran was also a member of the girls' basketball team, which celebrated a 64-56 victory over Pioneer Valley Christian Academy in the Western Mass. finals. Dave Padavano is the Lady Rams hoop coach.

The Lady Rams softball team couldn't complete the trifecta as they lost, 4-2, to Monson, in the Western Mass. semifinals.

The winning pitcher in the round of 32 game was junior

righthander Meredith Bartosz, who allowed two runs on five hits and seven strikeouts.

Following the top of the first inning, Whitinsville Christian head coach Noreen Arpin thought Bartosz was using an illegal delivery, and she complained to the home plate umpire about it.

"It was a little bit of gamesmanship. I'm very glad that Meredith didn't allow it to bother her very much," Afflitto said. "I didn't see her doing anything illegal. This is our 21st game of the season and it has never been an issue."

The Crusaders took a 1-0 lead with two outs in the opening frame when 8th grader Quinn Schadler, who was the starting pitcher for the visiting team, ripped an RBI single into right field.

The Lady Rams tied the score in the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, junior first baseman Kiki Gaj hit a ground ball to the third baseman. Cook, who started the rally with an infield hit, scored on the play.

Two innings later, Curran and junior leftfielder Sydney Chateaufeuf drew back-to-back walks. Then

Gaj reached first base on a fielding error by the second baseman, which plated the go-ahead run.

With two outs in the top of the fifth inning, Whitinsville Christian junior shortstop Carrie Keeler, who had lined a single into right field, scored the tying run on a wild pitch.

Chateaufeuf began the bottom of the sixth inning with a single to right field, which was the Lady Rams first base hit of the game. Gaj was also hit-by-a-pitch, but the Lady Rams failed to re-take the lead in that frame.

Bartosz retired the final seven batters that she faced, which did enable the Lady Rams to celebrate a walk-off victory.

The Lady Rams, who advanced into the round of 16 for the first time, defeated 22nd Holbrook, 8-2, in their final home game of the season last Thursday afternoon. The trio of Szlosek, Bartosz, and Cook led the way offensively with two hits apiece. Bartosz also recorded another victory in the circle. She allowed two runs on six hits with seven strikeouts.

# Tri-County Baseball season opens up

By **Tim Peterson**  
Sports Correspondent

**THORNDIKE** – PeoplesBank has captured the Tri-County League championship title the past twelve years.

Teddy Bear Pools and Spas and the St. Joseph's Saints are two of the TCL teams looking to end the PeoplesBank dynasty this summer.

The first meeting of the regular season between the two squads was an old fashioned slugfest.

Teddy Bear Pools pounded out 17 base hits leading to a 12-6 victory over the Saints at St. Joe's Park, last Friday night.

"It's always a lot of fun whenever we play against St. Joe's, especially at this field," said Teddy Bear Pools player/coach Ryan Magni. "We had trouble scoring runs last year, but we did the job offensively, which made the difference in tonight's game."

The road win improved Teddy Bear Pools record to 2-0.

Before moving to Teddy Bear Pools, Magni played eight seasons for St. Joe's. His brother, Brandon, is listed on the Saints roster, but he didn't play in last Friday's game.

The winning pitcher was Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School. The righthander allowed four runs on six hits during the first four innings. He walked one and struck out one.

"In the Tri-County League, a starter only needs to go four innings to be the winning pitcher," said Magni, who pitched the final three innings to earn the save. "Matt pitched very well in tonight's game. I also coached him at Holyoke Community College the past two years."

Magni, who began last Friday's game at second base and had two base hits, took over as the baseball coach at HCC in 2022. He isn't going to return to that position next spring.

Drobiak had a 3-0 lead to protect before throwing his first pitch in the bottom of the first inning.

Teddy Bear's first three runs against righty Jack Feltovic scored on RBI singles by catcher Willie Landman (3-for-5), third baseman Ramon Jimenez (3-for-4), and centerfielder Xavion Maldonado, who also finished the game with three base hits.

Feltovic worked the first three innings. He was replaced on the mound by Trey



**Matt Drobiak delivers a pitch home.**

was named as the Tri-County League MVP last year. He led his team with three base hits against Teddy Bear Pools.

The visiting team put two more runs on the right field scoreboard with two outs in the second inning.

Shortstop Ray Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, doubled home the first run. He scored when Jimenez blasted a triple to right field.

Teddy Bear Pools, who are playing their home games at South Hadley High School, scored another run in the third giving them a 6-1 lead.

St. Joe's, who had nine base hits, answered back with an RBI single from Fitzgibbons and a sacrifice fly by first baseman Bobby Trigillo.

Both teams scored a run in the fourth inning.

Then Teddy Bear Pools pretty much put the game out of reach by scoring five more runs in the fifth inning.

Toth, who's currently a member of the Wheaton College baseball team, contributed with a two-run single. After loading the bases, right fielder Bailey Griggs cleared them with a triple to right.

Trailing, 12-4, St. Joe's could only score single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

St. Joe's will be looking to even the season series when they host Teddy Bear Pools for the second time on June 19.



**Meredith Bartosz sends a pitch home.**



**Noella Parker sends a throw back to the infield.**



**Kiki Gaj catches the out at first.**



**Nate Carillon catches the ball.**

"I played eight seasons for St. Joe's," Magni said. "I'm still friends with a lot of their players."

One of those players is St. Joe's player/coach Brian Hayes.

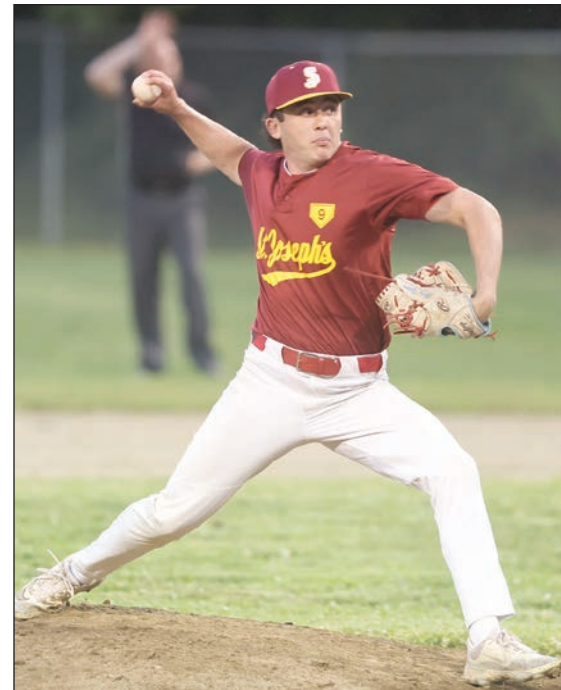
"Ryan and I are good friends," Hayes said. "We talked on the phone for an hour earlier today. I also have a batting cage at my house that he uses."

St. Joseph's entered the home game with a 3-0 record.

Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff during the past couple of years. Yesu graduated from Monson High School.

The home team responded in the bottom half of the opening frame with a double by centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons (2-for-4), which scored shortstop Devin Slattery, who leadoff with a single to left.

Slattery, who graduated from Ware High School,



**Trey Yesu pitches for St. Joe's.**



**Ryan Magni makes an off-balance throw.**

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Richard Beaulieu



Skylar Benware



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Lea Charest



Allison Charron



Brandon Chatel



Chase Clark



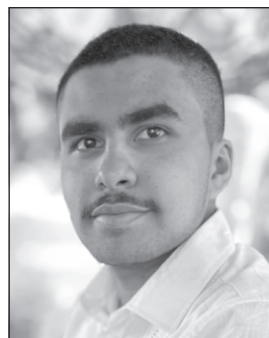
Raymond Colon



Kaitlyn Curran



Edward Dziok



Leonardo Esquivel



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# GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL



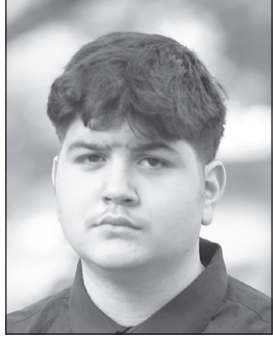
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Braydon LaDuke



Mylin Laliberte



Jared Lapite



Blake Lashway



Ava-Elizabeth Loughman



Rosalba Manduca



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Annalise Patterson



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Addison Scott



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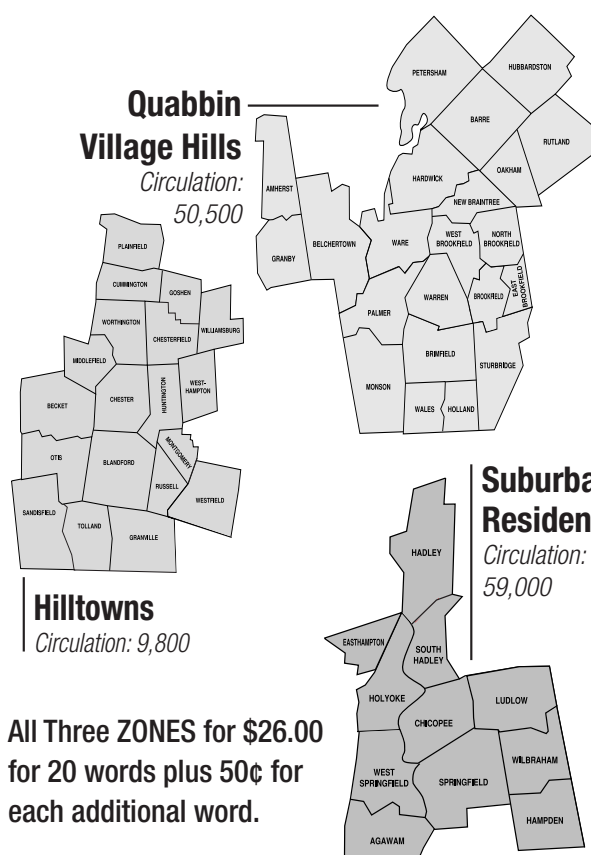
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Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

A resident receives assistance in repairing their wind chime.

**FIX-IT** from page 1

pliances and jigsaw puzzles. She mentioned previous swaps brought in over 500 jigsaw puzzles, which was a concerted effort to keep the puzzles in circulation within the community.

"I wanted to keep things out of the landfills," Smelser said. "Which we have so much trouble with. So, I wanted to ask for volunteers because all of us are smarter than any of us."

Signed volunteers had a background in mending and sewing, which included Select Board member Carol Constant. Smelser mentioned additional volunteer experience included people capable of fixing bikes, mending buttons and gluing glass. A plant specialist was also available to provide advice on proper plant health maintenance, which included advice on watering and pest control.

Since this is the first event of its kind run in South Hadley, Smelser stated she expected a "few hiccups." Those who requested repair needed to fill out a form which served as a base sheet. Information requested included the item repair requested and the frequency with which it worked, if at all. Item owners were then offered 15 minutes by on-site volunteers to guide them through the repair process. The clinic's goal was to empower the owners in fixing

their own equipment, to teach them skills to develop confidence and camaraderie.

Smelser hopes to run another similar event in "six months" with either the same volunteers or a new batch. She stated if someone was willing to offer two hours of their time to help, she was willing to give them a space to help the public.

"Everyone has a skill that

they don't always realize that they have," said Smelser. "I like bringing community together. I think that in today's day and age people have become very isolated. I want to remind people that everyone has something to give. If you're willing to receive on both ends, it just makes a better community and reminds people why they participate in the community."



Volunteers come to the aid of local residents.



Residents gather at the library to have their valuables fixed free of charge.

# Farmers' Market to reopen at Holyoke Medical Center on Wednesdays

**HOLYOKE** – Holyoke Medical Center (HMC) is excited to announce the re-opening of the HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market at the hospital. The HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market will be open every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning June 10, 2026 through September 30, 2026.

Located in the hospital's Parking Lot D, the HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market is conveniently close to the front entrance of the hospital, with valet parking available. Holyoke residents are encouraged to utilize the hospital's free transportation shuttles. The transportation schedule is available at [www.holyokehealth.com/ride](http://www.holyokehealth.com/ride).

"Holyoke Medical Center is excited to partner with the Greater Holyoke Chamber to once again offer a Farmers' Market for the fourth year. Access to healthy food has continued to be an area of concern for many people in our community, as identified in our Community Health Needs Assessments," says HMC Director of Community Benefits, Lisa Wray-Schechterle. "We are proud to continuously provide a convenient location and transportation, while also collaboratively partnering with others to make this mar-

ket a success."

The HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market is a collaboration with the Holyoke Farmers' Market, the Greater Holyoke Chamber, Let's Move Hampden County 5210, and many local businesses. EBT/SNAP and HIP benefits are accepted. Some of the vendors participating this season will include:

- A Good Mix Mobile Bar Service – Specialty Lemonades
- Agudelo Apiary – Fresh Produce, Plants, Honey
- Batch Ice Cream – Premium Ice Cream
- Be With Laura Lee – Lifestyle Items Crafts, Gifts, Soaps, Aloe Plants
- The Bread Basket – Bread, Cinnamon Rolls, Cookies, Pies, Whoopie Pies
- D&R Farm – Fresh Produce, Baked Goods, Jams, Chicken, Turkey, Eggs
- Greylog Farm – Fiber Products, Dog Treats, Eggs, Baked Goods, Soap, Herbs
- Holyoke Medical Center Endocrinology – Education And Healthy Recipe Sample
- Holyoke Medical Center Pediatrics – Education And Activity For Kids
- Holyoke Public Library – Information
- Jdb Creations By Joshua – Handcrafted Fine Silver And Fused/Dichroic Glass

- Jewelry
  - Mystical Gifts From Center School – Plants, Home Decor, Tie Dye Items, Candles, Wind Chimes
  - Nightjar Farm – Fresh Produce
  - Orlowski Gardens – Annuals And Perennials
  - Portals Bakery– Sourdough Bread, Pastries, Locally Milled Flour
  - Tayo Eatery – Lumpia Bao Buns, Noodles, Rice Bowls, Sandwiches, Soups
  - Thai Place– Pad Thai, Drunken Noodles, Bacon Crab Rangoons, Dumplings
  - Tiny Light Bakery – Gluten Free Cookies And Muffins
  - Western Ma Master Gardeners Association – Information
  - Vera's Love & Light Candle Co. – Candles, Wax Flower Bouquets, Ceramic Bowls
  - Yj Catering – Empanadas, Kabobs, Rice & Beans
- A list of participating vendors and their scheduled dates will be updated regularly at [www.holyokehealth.com/market](http://www.holyokehealth.com/market).
- The HMC Farmers' Market is still accepting new vendor applications at <https://forms.gle/mk4HooXAQZ-rV2bp59>. Vendor questions can be directed to [holyokefarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:holyokefarmersmarket@gmail.com).

## Controlling mosquitoes without harming pollinators

Summer is just around the corner, and along with warmer weather and fun outdoor activities, it also means that mosquito season is beginning. There are a variety of methods that people use to try and control mosquitoes. Unfortunately, many of these methods do not target mosquitoes specifically and can end up killing a wide variety of other insects, many of which are beneficial to our local ecosystems.

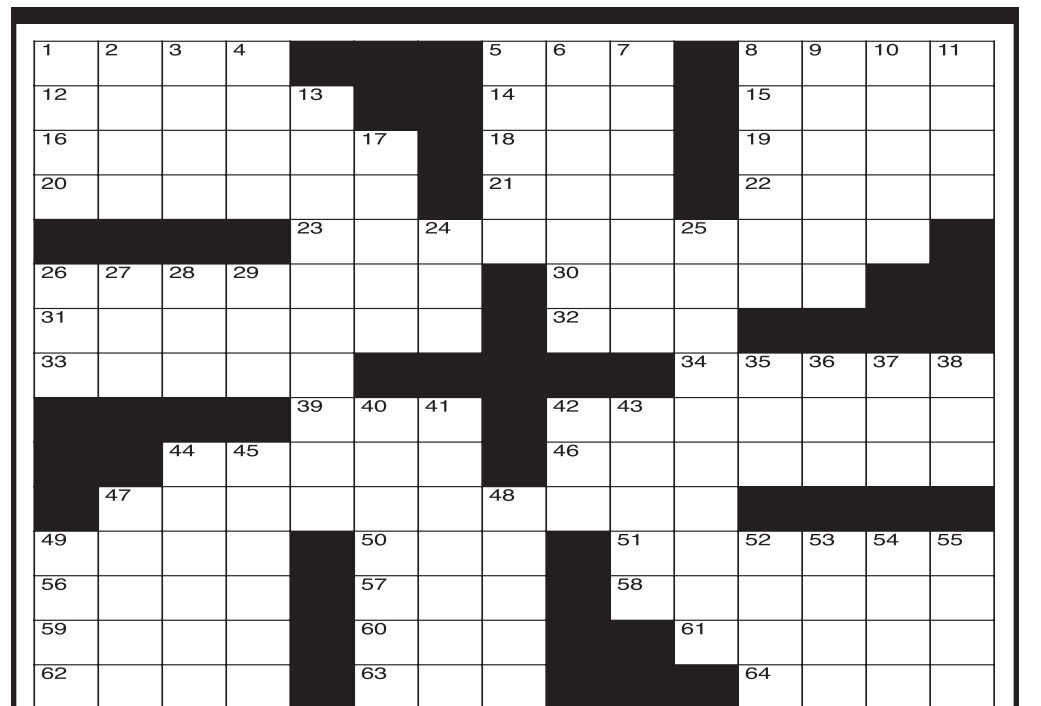
According to the non-profit Homegrown National Park, the most effective way to control mosquito populations without inadvertently harming other beneficial insects is by using a "mosquito dunk". This involves placing a mosquito dunk (small dissolvable tablet) in a bucket of water which the female mosquitoes then lay their eggs in.

These dunks specifically kill mosquito larvae without killing other insects. By giving the female mosquitoes, a targeted place to lay their eggs, you can effectively cut off the mosquitoes at the source, rather than them laying their eggs in other standing water that does not contain the larvae-killing dunks. The mosquito dunks are inexpensive, low maintenance, and can be easily found online or at many hardware/garden stores, making them a great option for significantly reducing mosquito populations in a safe and effective way.

In addition to using mosquito dunks, you can help control mosquito populations by dumping standing water on your property that you are not treating with the mosquito dunks; making it more likely that the mosquitoes

will choose to lay their eggs in the treated water which will then kill their larvae. You can also plant native plants and avoid using pesticides to help support populations of birds, dragonflies, and bats which eat mosquitoes.

Homegrown National Park is hosting a "Mosquito Bucket Challenge" this year, encouraging people to decorate buckets that they will use to control mosquitoes in their yards with mosquito dunks. It is a fun way to participate in supporting pollinators and local ecosystems while also being able to enjoy a mosquito-free outdoor experience. For more information on mosquito dunks and on the Mosquito Bucket Challenge, go to Homegrown National Park's website at [homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge](http://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge).



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Sealed with a kiss
  - 5. Large sandwich
  - 8. Swiss city
  - 12. Japanese persimmons
  - 14. When you hope to get somewhere
  - 15. Wings
  - 16. A name of God
  - 18. Elected official (informal)
  - 19. Abnormal breathing
  - 20. "Seinfeld" character
  - 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
  - 22. Something for sale
  - 23. Gets rid of
  - 26. One who touts
  - 30. Blemished
  - 31. Less than exciting
  - 32. Born of
  - 33. N. German town
  - 34. Notes
  - 39. Move away from land
  - 42. Vulcanite
  - 44. More ignoble
  - 46. Child actor Kirk
  - 47. Written works
  - 49. Sea vessel
  - 50. Residue
  - 51. Engraved
  - 56. Having sufficient skill
  - 57. One and only
  - 58. Erase
  - 59. Broad inlets
  - 60. Nightmarish street
  - 61. Play again
  - 62. Formerly (archaic)
  - 63. Add a color to change the color
  - 64. Move swiftly and lightly
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Scottish island
  - 2. River in the Netherlands
  - 3. Asian people
  - 4. Fuzzy fruit
  - 5. Ninth month (abbr.)
  - 6. An idealistic social reformer
  - 7. What you owe
  - 8. Colorless mineral
  - 9. Overjoyed
  - 10. Rattling breaths
  - 11. Tropical Old World tree
  - 13. A citizen of Senegal
  - 17. Greek mythological beauty
  - 24. Wrath
  - 25. Instrument to measure wind speed
  - 26. Luxury carmaker
  - 27. Bitterly regret
  - 28. Not or
  - 29. Google certification
  - 35. Midway between northeast and east
  - 36. Space station
  - 37. Relating to the ears
  - 38. Congressman
  - 40. Yelled at
  - 41. Rudely assertive
  - 42. Defunct European money
  - 43. Shared one's soul
  - 44. Onion rolls
  - 45. A way to state clearly
  - 47. Relating to a lobe
  - 48. Underlying message
  - 49. Hollywood pig
  - 52. Indicates pitch
  - 53. Filament of a feather
  - 54. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles
  - 55. Diminish

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

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You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

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Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Girl Scouts gather for the 100th year anniversary of the local campsite.



A camp counselor strikes a pose as she demonstrates proper archery technique.

**CAMP** from page 1

The campus was open to the public on May 31, a way to encourage members of the community to come and experience the campus. The additional intent was to increase awareness about the camp's existence, a present issue Lynn pointed out during further discussion about Girl Scouts



The pool is one of the camp's biggest draws.

Submitted photo

camps in general.

"We hear all the time someone will say 'I didn't know you had a camp in South Hadley,'" Lynn said. "A lot of our camps, unless you know exactly where they are, they're in kind of remote areas. You're not likely to drive by it."

The event also championed community interaction, an encouragement for children to engage with the outdoors. Lynn noted a study performed on young Americans, which identified a tie between time spent outdoors and overall reported happiness.

"I'm kind of keyed into the research of Arthur Brooks on how important spending time in nature and outdoors is for younger Americans," said Lynn. "Apparently, young Americans age 18 to 30 are the most unhappy...and part of his research shows that the kids aren't outdoors enough. They're not experiencing time in nature. They're not doing things like the things we offer at Girl Scout camp."

Reconnection with the outdoors was a key reason behind opening the campus on its anniversary. The camp was open to the entire public regardless of gender, age or Girl Scout affiliation. Shuttle buses transported visitors to the campus due to limited parking spaces on site. Staff gave camp tours and simulated a typical day at camp for those in attendance.

Activities included archery, sling shot shooting for the younger children, campfire making, volleyball and a place to create arts and crafts. An opening flag ceremony took place to commemorate the event (if it doesn't, remove this reference but Lynn mentioned that she wanted to have one) and the organization's history. There were even campfires created on site complete with fireside songs and s'mores; a Girl Scouts invention.

"We're trying to make people aware of this wonderful resource and opportunity that's right in their community," said Lynn.



Girl Scouts raise the flag to commemorate 100 years of Camp Perkins.



Attendees smile for the camera as they play with Legos provided on-site.



Visitors take a shot at archery on the camp grounds.



Girl Scouts monitor the fire as visitors toast marshmallows to make s'mores; a Girl Scout invention.