

TOWN Reminder

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Granby mourns loss of beloved friend and mentor

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – The loss of a friend is felt deeply this week by residents of Granby, and that is the loss of beloved and former Police Chief Louis M. Barry.

“I grew up in Granby and have lived here all my life. I can list elected officials going back to before I was born. The list is long,” said Selectboard Chair Mark Bail. “Lou is one of a handful on that list. Some of the best things about our town would simply not exist without Lou and his dedication and service. He made Granby better in ways most people will never realize.”

Over the past few years, Lou began to experience some health problems, but their never slowed him down, as he worked to provide advice and guidance to Bail and any who would need it.

“His suggestions were constructive, not the ramblings of a former police chief or selectman past his prime. He was as sharp as ever and still thinking about what might be best for the Town. Lou Barry made our lives and Granby better,” said Bail.

Barry was devoted to his job, was successful in his work as Police Chief, and was dedicated to his community and seeing it flourish.

A little over a decade ago, the Selectboard wanted to donate some land near Forge Pond. When Barry heard that they needed a grant to cover the expenses, he just sat and wrote it with no questions asked, and no one came to him about it. He saw a need and filled it.

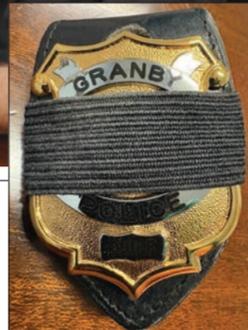
“In person, Lou was down-to-earth. Quick with a joke. As a selectman and police chief, he wasn’t afraid to make decisions. And he was intelligent. He understood



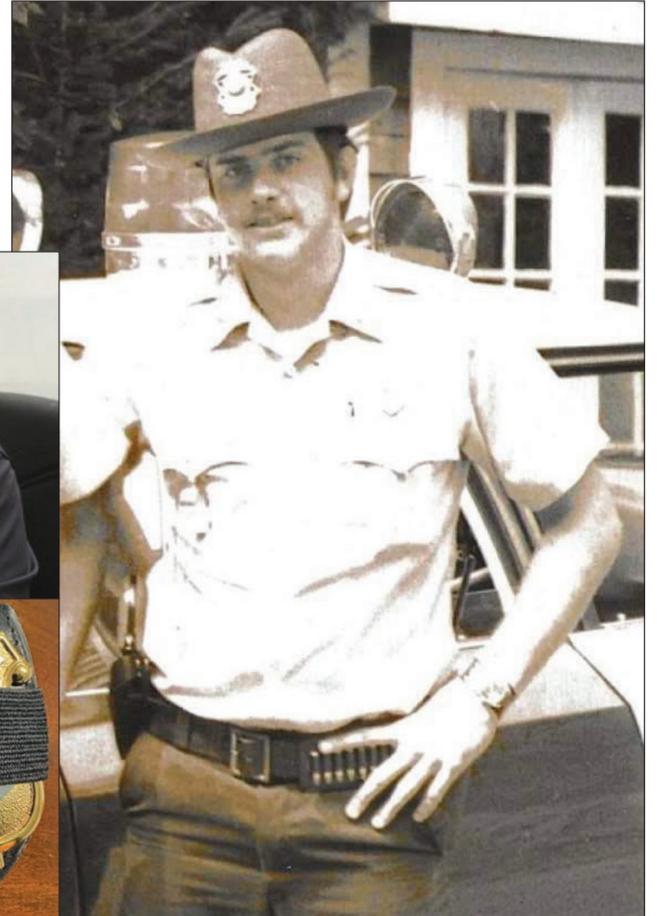
Chief Lou Barry in the office at the police station.

how things worked and knew how to make them work,” said Bail. “If you’ve ever

Please see **MOURNS**, page 7



Barry's badge, still here, to remember him and his work.



Barry as a young officer here in town.

Submitted photos

Senior Center looks forward to a wonderful new year

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The New Year is here, and with it comes opportunities to get on the grind, start working on goals and look to complete them, and make new experiences along the way.

“During 2026, we are looking forward to using our creativity in finding new ways to connect with the community. There are many

“In the New Year, we are hoping to ignite positivity through a kindness initiative. We are hoping everyone can take a moment and share a positive thought each day with someone you interact with. Kindness matters and can change a person’s entire day.”

– Director Julie Pearce

people struggling due to the significant changes that we have all faced over the last year. We want to ensure that we provide resources, sup-

port, and connectivity for as many older adults as possible to help reduce their challenges in whatever way we can,” said Director Julie Pearce.

The Council on Aging has welcomed a new Program Coordinator, Brandon Dumas, with new and fresh ideas to bring to the table, as well as some new programs to be enjoyed.

“One of the things we are most thankful for is the patrons who come and spend their days at the COA. The people are what make the South Hadley Council on Aging a special place, and

Please see **CENTER**, page 10



Submitted photo

The dedicated team on the Senior Center Staff that helps to keep it all running.

Condo project nears Planning Board approval

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - A 14-unit condominium project proposed for a 9-acre East Street property, on Dec. 22, approached final Planning Board approval, after consultants for the developer dropped plans to include front, side, and back yards from its original designation of those areas as “usable” common space. Following any revisions to the required Special Permit, the development plan is scheduled for final approval on Jan. 12.

The board, at a Nov. 24 public hearing session, questioned the applicant’s inclusion of those spaces in calculations to determine that 15 units would be allowed under the town’s flexible development bylaw. That plan drew doubts from board members, who questioned whether those “usable” spaces could, in practice, serve as a space where the public was entitled to freely enter and occupy. The applicant is listed as 136 East Street LLC, and Gerald Coderre, of 383 Newton St., as its managing partner. The consultant, Rob Levesque, of R. Levesque

Associates of Westfield, eliminated front and side yards from calculations of usable open space. The new plan also eliminated small backyard areas that might have served as restricted spaces for pets or play areas for children. The result of those changes cut the allowable number of units to 14 – six duplexes and two single units - the same number of units in the original plan. The board also approved a 24-foot roadway, down from a 32-foot bylaw requirement, a Fire District 2 suggested relocation of a hydrant and waived a re-

quirement for sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The board acknowledged that East Street has no sidewalks but agreed to require a sidewalk on one side of the roadway for safety reasons. The applicant has provided a Home Owner Association (HOA) example agreement for the board’s consideration. Final language for the HOA is required as a condition of the Special Permit prior to issuance of a building permit and/or release of the flexible development performance guarantee.

Please see **CONDO**, page 7

West Street building project sees \$1 million shortfall

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – The town’s long-planned West Street School Building renovation faces a \$1 million funding gap, prompting town officials to place new warrant articles before voters at a Jan. 26 special town meeting. Concerns over cost increases, transparency, and public understanding dominated the board’s meeting.

The West Street School Building project, envisioned as a critical upgrade for Granby’s municipal workspace, is at a crossroads. After years of planning amid rising construction costs, the Select Board and project committee members find themselves seeking additional funds to complete the renovation as promised.

“This meeting is really to get everyone on the same page about where we are with the project, why we need to

ask the town for more money, and how we’re going to do that,” West Street Building Committee Chair Lynne Mercier summarized as officials prepared to finalize their approach for the special town meeting.

Concerns about construction inflation and evolving project scope surfaced throughout the evening. The original \$5.6 million estimate, based on projections from 2022 and 2023, is now “almost \$6.7 million,” leaving the committee about \$1 million short, Mercier explained. She detailed, “That million dollars would include all municipal offices in that building, which includes the (Town Administrator) offices... If we don’t include the TA offices, the ask is \$788,000,” she said.

Project manager and budget analyst Neil Joyce clarified major cost drivers for

Please see **PROJECT**, page 7

Local family raises \$1600 for pantry



Submitted photo

The Breen Family raised a total of \$1600 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors and presented them with a check last week through the annual light show they host on West Summit Street.



(l-r) Miss Congeniality Amanda Royland, and the 2026 Grand Colleen Court Paige Leahy, Jayden Christie, Anna Evans, Bridie Bowler, and Olivia Royland.

Field narrowed as quintet selected for Grand Colleen court

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday evening, the 70th Grand Colleen pageant took place at Holyoke High School, with five young women chosen to comprise the 2026 Grand Colleen Court.

Of those five hopefuls, one will be crowned as the 2026 Grand Colleen next month.

Contestants completed an application highlighting their involvement in school, volunteer work, extracurricular activities, special interests, and future aspirations. Earlier today, the contestants participated in personal interviews with the judges followed by the evening program at Holyoke High School. During the pageant, each contestant was introduced to the community and took the stage in evening wear before judges, family members, friends, and local residents.

Scores from both the interviews and the evening program were combined to select the five Colleenes. In addition, the contestants

themselves vote to recognize a fellow participant with the “Miss Congeniality” award, honoring the individual who best embodies kindness, support, and friendship throughout the experience.

While the judges were tabulating the scores, the 2025 Grand Colleen, Moira Catherine Reardon gave a farewell speech with her court, Erin Marie Gauthier, Abigail Katherine Huebner, Erin Frances O’Donnell, and Maura Catherine Joseph, who was also Miss Congeniality. Additionally, many former Grand Colleenes, Colleen Court and Miss Congeniality members were recognized as part of the celebration of the 70th Grand Colleen Pageant.

With the scores tabulated, the five finalists are:

Paige Brady Leahy, 19 (Holyoke)

Jady Christie, 19 (South Hadley)

Bridie Bowler, 22 (Holyoke)

Anna Mary Evans, 22 (Holyoke)

Olivia Rose Royland, 20 (Holyoke)

The Bonnie Baker Award for Ms. Congeniality was also announced, and who was chosen by the contestants as the young woman who was the most helpful, kind, and personable. The 2026 Ms. Congeniality is Amanda Royland, 17 (Holyoke).

The Grand Colleen will be selected at the 70th Coronation Ball and Awards Night on Saturday, February 14 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. For more details or to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://holyokestpatrickspatrade.com/events/2025-grand-colleen-coronation-ball-ratrn>

The Colleen Pageant is part of Holyoke’s larger St. Patrick’s season, which concludes with the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race on Saturday, March 21, 2026, followed by the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

Nomination papers available for 2026 Annual Town Election

SOUTH HADLEY – Nomination papers for the April 14, 2026, South Hadley Annual Town Election are available from Monday, December 8, 2025, until Friday, February 20, 2026 in the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall, 116 Main St., South Hadley. Nomination papers may be obtained during office hours, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Appointments outside of regular office hours may be available by request. Any changes in hours will be posted to the Clerk’s webpage at www.southhadley.org/clerk.

Interested candidates must be registered voters in the town of South Hadley. To appear on the ballot, candidates must obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk’s Office and have them

signed by local registered voters.

Town-wide offices require 50 signatures on nomination papers from registered voters in South Hadley. Town Meeting Member offices require 10 signatures from registered voters in their respective precinct. It is recommended that prospective candidates obtain more than the minimum number of signatures.

Papers for the following seats will be available:

- Selectboard- Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- School Committee - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- Board of Health - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- Municipal Light Board - One Seat - Three-Year Term
- Board of Assessors - One Seat - Three-Year Term
- Housing Authority - One Seat - Five-Year Term
- Trustee Free Public Li-

brary - Three Seats - Three-Year Term

• Planning Board - Two Seats - Three-Year Term

• Town Meeting Member - Eight Seats per precinct - Three-Year Term

• Town Meeting Member - One Seat, Precinct B - Two-Year Term

• Town Meeting Member - One Seat Precinct B, One Seat Precinct C - One-Year Term

Once the candidate has obtained all the signatures needed, nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 for signatures to be certified. Interested candidates may direct their questions and comments to the Town Clerk’s Office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or by email at elections@southhadley-ma.gov.

PVPA Dance Department hires alumni to teach middle and high school students

SOUTH HADLEY: For the third consecutive year, the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) Dance Department is commissioning alumni to participate in its Annual Alumni Guest Artist Series. This initiative invites former students to work with current dance students. The department provides compensation to the alumni, recognizing this as a vital step in supporting these young artists as they cultivate their abilities as performers, choreographers, and future dance educators.

On Wednesday, January 7, from 10:40 to 11:40 a.m., 2025 alum Danyelle Joujou (South Hadley) will be teaching contemporary jazz. Danyelle is currently a Political Science Major with a Minor in Dance and Critical Race at the University of Vermont.

From 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., 2019 alum Anaia Cayo-

de will teach contemporary dance. Anaia currently teaches dance at Shooting Stars Dance Center and is the Youth Development Coordinator at the Hampshire Regional YMCA. In 2022, she graduated with her BFA in Dance from Dean College.

On Monday, January 12, from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m., 2022 alum Lizzie Perrault (Palmer) will teach contemporary dance. Lizzie is currently a BFA Dance Major at Dean College.

On Tuesday, January 13, from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., 2022 alum Chaze Correa (West Springfield) will teach ballet. Chaze is currently a BFA Dance Major at Point Park Conservatory.

From 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., 2025 alum Legacy Moye (Springfield) will teach modern dance. Legacy is currently a BFA Dance Major at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

On Wednesday, January

14, from 8:40 to 9:40 a.m., 2023 alum Julian Smith (Northampton) will teach vogue, and from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., he will teach musical theater. Julian currently works as a performer on cruise ships as a singer, dancer, and actor.

Please let me know if you’re interested in covering these classes on Wednesday this week, or Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday next week.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 7, 10:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Monday, January 12, 8:20 to 9:20 a.m.

Tuesday, January 13, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. and 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14, 8:40 to 9:40 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

WHERE: Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley 01075

Personal property bills have been mailed

SOUTH HADLEY – FY 2026 Qtr. 3 Real Estate & Personal Property bills were mailed out to residents on December 31, 2025. The due date for Real Estate & Personal Property bills is February 2, 2026.

If you have not received your bills, please email our

office at: collector@southhadleyma.gov or call 413-538-5030 ext. 6189, and we can send you a new bill.

Bills can also be viewed/printed through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from our website.

Payment can be made online through the Town

of South Hadley’s website, southhadleyma.gov (click on the online bill pay box on the home page),

by mail, dropped in our Dropbox located behind the Police Department on Bridge Street or you can pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Police warn of courier scams and fraud

SOUTH HADLEY – Courier scams trick you into giving money or data by faking delivery issues (texts, calls, fake tags) or impersonating officials to have a courier pick up valuables, often using high-pressure tactics

like fake emergencies or tech issues. Scammers send phishing links, demand gift cards/cash, or send a courier to your home to collect funds, claiming they’re safeguarding your assets or fixing problems. Key warnings are urgency,

secrecy requests, and unexpected demands for personal info or payment for a delivery.

Government agencies will not request gift cards of any kind, or a deposit into a bitcoin machine.

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Saturday, Jan. 10th Frank Serafino 6-9pm	Saturday, Jan. 17th Dee Reilly 6-9pm
Sunday, Jan. 11th The Healys 2-5pm	Sunday, Jan. 18th Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 2-5pm

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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK TENDERLOIN.....	\$2.66 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED CORN DOGS.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK.....	66¢ lb
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TAILGATE SPECIALS					
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST.....	\$2.99 lb				
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Legion shares successful year of giving

GRANBY – Through their fundraising efforts throughout 2025, the Granby American Legion Post 266 was able to raise and distribute a total of \$2838 to the community and veteran programs they hosted:

- South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce Community Event- \$75
- Granby Boy Scouts Troop 303- \$100
- Eagle Scout Award- \$100
- Boys State Attendee Per Diem- \$100
- Friends of Granby Veterans- \$100
- American Legion Children’s Wellbeing Fund - \$118
- Wreaths Across America- \$170
- American Legion California Wildfires Relief Fund- \$250
- Legion Auxiliary Christmas Family Sponsorship- \$250
- American Legion Boys State Sponsorship- \$375
- Granby American Legion High School Scholarships- \$1200

The Granby American Legion 266 Riders Chapter fundraises year round so that they can award money to organizations that work with veterans and the community. Thank you all for the great work you do!

This year, the Riders awarded 9 checks at \$200 each. Here are the names:

- For the Love of Good Foundation(assistance for Homeless)
- Friends of the Veterans Home Holyoke
- Granby Veterans Memorial
- Allianza(supports victims of Domestic Abuse)
- Mathew J Vieu Foundation
- America’s Vet Dogs
- Melha /Shriners Run
- 22 Mohawks (for vets dealing with PTSD)
- Honor Flight New England

Thank you all for your continued support of the Granby American Legion Post 266!



The members of the Granby American Legion Post 266 enjoying their Christmas celebration.

Submitted photos



Receiving a check from the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce for \$500 in order to complete their kitchen and community hall renovations.



The work the Legion did to hang wreaths at the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.



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INSURED AND CERTIFIED



Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:

Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you - while you are still living - if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts com-

pare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

TLC for overwintering plants

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea.

What I have noticed almost across the board, especially with my Gerber daisy, fuchsia and geraniums is that there are a lot of older leaves turning yellow or showing discoloration. To me, that indicates that fertilizer is needed.

The fact that this coincides with the lengthening of the daylight hours is no accident. And all three plants have continued to bloom inside, which certainly has taxed their nutrient reserves.

I will start watering with half strength fertilizer twice a month now through mid March. I sure bet that old foliage will start to perk up and new growth won't be too far behind.

Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak - just what aphids are looking for.

Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling

gent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially troublesome. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants. After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of run-off with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regiment, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Saffer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've even soaped up my plants using a mild dish deter-



Winter happenings at the Granby Library

GRANBY - Come and join in on the fun at the Granby Library this winter.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Thursday, January 8

at 5 p.m.

"A book club for all who enjoy reading tales of the paranormal, the extraterrestrial, the magical, and the fantastical!" Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! *Katabasis* by R.F. Kuang. Copies are available now!

Adult Book Group

Thursday, January 15

at 6 p.m.

The book group will be discussing *What Will People Think?* by Sara Hamdan. Grab a copy and join us! This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Tabletop Games Club

Saturday, January 24, 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 club fosters a sense of community by offering a fun and interactive space for people to connect, develop new friendships, and strengthen inter-community relationships through friendly competition and teamwork. This group typically meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Watercolor Basics

Saturday, January 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join Jaime Bohorquez (@jabohorq and @westernmass_urbansketchers), a passionate urban sketcher, for a two-hour watercolor adventure through our everyday landscape. In this class, we'll learn some basic techniques. First, we'll practice painting on wet paper to create soft, blended colors. Then, we'll try painting on

dry paper for sharper lines and details. After that, we'll use both methods together to paint a simple urban scene. The goal is to look closely at everyday things around us and try to capture what makes them interesting. It's a relaxed class focused on learning the fundamentals and appreciating the simple views in our own neighborhood. Sign-up required for this event.

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks with master knitter, Jeanne Crosby.

Upcoming Events:

Friends of the Library Book Sale

March 3 to 31

The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library are changing things up with a Book Sale during the month of March 2026! This sale will take the place of the Spring Book Sale

that is typically held during the month of May. Beginning on January 15th, the Friends will be accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks,

encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until February 26th. Thank you for your support!



OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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Thanking Santa for a wonderful season



As the Christmas season comes to an end, we want to thank George "Santa" Randall for filling our Legion Hall with holiday cheer and making the wishes and dreams of so many children a possibility. Thank you, Santa!

Celebrate the new year at the library

SOUTH HADLEY – Happy & Healthy New Year! Looking for a new resolution to make for 2026? How about to read more? Studies show that reading is great brain exercise. It helps students retain information and preserves brain health in adults. Grab a good book today. Staff at South Hadley Public and Gaylord Memorial libraries are happy to offer suggestions and recommendations.

Currently, the Town of South Hadley is conducting a survey to measure the importance of certain public services among community members. Please take a few minutes to support the services you rely on. The more people who take the survey, the better representation we'll have for our town and the services you rely on. Go to the town website take the survey.

Adult Programs at SHPL
January 2026 is shaping up to be a busy and engaging month at the library. Our **Jigsaw Puzzle Race**, taking place on **Saturday, January 10**, is already full, as is the **Book Folding program with Carla** on **Wednesday, January 14**. We're thrilled by the strong interest in both programs and appreciate the community's enthusiasm.

We still have space for a special book launch event with **local author Linda Bass** on **Tuesday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Community Room. Bass, author of *A Tiny White Light*, brings her background in psychology to a candid and compelling memoir that explores the interior experience of her own psychotic episode, examining its roots in guilt, lost purpose, the tension between mothering and career, and the ambi-

guity of her relationship with her therapist. This thoughtful author's talk promises meaningful discussion and reflection.

Looking to join a book club? The library has a selection of books being talked about by groups at the library and the senior center. Library groups include the **Hello Sunshine Book Club meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss *Landline* by Rainbow Rowell.

We also have our **Between the Covers Romance Book Club meeting on Tuesday, January 13, from 3 to 4 p.m.** to talk about *The Spell-*

shop by Sarah Beth Durst. The **Sustainable Living Book Club returns on Wednesday, January 28 at 6 p.m.** to discuss *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake. Books for these and the senior center book clubs are available at the library.

Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)

The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks, Leading Cultural and Political Commentator and Bestselling Author of *The*

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 9

Looking forward to the New Year at the Senior Center

SOUTH HADLEY – There's a lot to look forward to in the New Year, and fun events you don't want to miss out on.

Meet the Director
Wednesday, January 7, 2 p.m.

Meet with Julie Pearce, Director of the Council on Aging, each month to share your questions and suggestions. Hope to see you there!

Lunch and Learn: Planning for Unexpected Life Events with Cody from Westfield Bank
Thursday, January 8, 11:30 a.m.

The majority of people who need long-term care are older adults. However, the need for long-term care can come at any age due to disabling diseases, car accidents, and other disabling events. Sign up for the program by registering for lunch by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7. Please note: lunch is a suggested donation of \$3.

Small Group Tech Training with Maria: iPhone Basics: A Three-Part Series for Beginners
Thursday, January 8, 15, and 22 at noon

Over three weeks, we'll cover everything from making calls and sending texts to taking photos, staying organized, and keeping your information safe. No experience necessary- we'll start from the very beginning and build your skills step-by-step.

This class is for you if: you're not sure how to connect to Wi-Fi, you've never downloaded an app, you don't do much more than make calls, or your phone confuses you more than helps you.

This class is probably not for you if: you're already comfortable texting, taking photos, downloading apps on your own, browsing the internet, and checking your email.

Please note: This is a progressive series, with each class building on the last. Participants must register for and attend all three sessions.

Class 1: Getting around your iPhone, adjusting settings, and staying in touch through calls, texts, and video chats.

Class 2: Using the camera, calendar, maps, and other everyday apps- plus how to add new ones.

Class 3: Protecting yourself from scams, backing up your phone, and fixing common problems.

Bring your iPhone (charged!), and any questions you have.

MacDuffie School Student Visit
Wednesday, January 14, 2 p.m.

Join the MacDuffie School students for their monthly visit.

Diversity Talks and Treats: MacDuffie students will be serving a variety of delicious sweet breads with hot cocoa. The students will share stories about their diverse backgrounds and their home countries. Registration is required to ensure there are enough treats for everyone.

Veteran's Evening Social
Thursday, January 15, 4:30 p.m.

Join Veteran Services Director Chris Plotniak for an evening social. Veterans of all ages are welcome.

Gentleman's Breakfast
Friday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.

Join us for a delicious breakfast prepared by Chef Dakota. Breakfast will be hosted by Joe Rodio, South Hadley Library Director, and Mitch Resnick, Library Trustee. Cost to attend is \$3 per person.

MacDuffie Chair Volleyball Rematch!
Wednesday, January 28, 2 to 4 p.m.

Come join the fun when the South Hadley COA Chair Volleyball team takes on the reigning champions, the MacDuffie students, in an exciting rematch!

AARP Foundation: Get Free Help Filing Your Taxes

Once again, the IRS-certified AARP Tax-Aide Counselors will be preparing tax returns at our Senior Center starting **Thursday, February 5, free of charge. Appointment scheduling will begin on Monday, January 5.**

Prior to their scheduled appointment, clients must pick up an information packet at the Welcome Desk containing instructions and intake forms. These must be completed and signed before their appointment date. On the day of their appointment, clients must drop off their documents directly to an AARP Tax-Aide between 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. If clients are married and filing jointly, both spouses must come. While their return is being prepared, clients must remain available by phone, as all further communication will take place this way. Once the return is ready, clients will be called to pick up all documents and a copy of their completed tax return. Completed returns must be signed by all taxpayers on the return and collected the same day, typically between 2 to 4 p.m. Those filing for the MASS Circuit Breaker Credit must include ALL Real Estate and Water/Sewer bills. If you cannot locate these, copies can be obtained at the Town Hall and should be submitted with your tax papers. There are no restrictions on town of residence, age, or similar criteria. However, returns involving virtual currencies, rental housing, or master limited partnerships cannot be processed and will require assistance elsewhere.

Granby to Go Mobile serving the community this month

GRANBY – The Granby To Go Food Mobile will be coming again to the Church of Christ parking lot located at 235 State St,

in Granby on January 9, and January 23, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

This food mobile is for all Granby residents and is

a drive thru food mobile. For more information or questions you may contact us granbytogo@granby-schoolsma.net.

Tuesday Night 6pm
Pitch Night
\$5 per person

Wednesday Night 6:30pm
Bar Bingo

Thursday Night 7-10 pm
Karaoke by
New England Disc Jockeys

Friday Night starts at 7:30 pm
Trivia Night \$5 per person

Saturday Night 5-7 pm
Spaghetti Dinner

7 Days A Week
Queen of Hearts Raffle
\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets
Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm

February 21st 7-10pm
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\$32.99 +Tax

#13 Two 16" Grinders with Bag of Chips & Can of Soda
\$25.99 +Tax

#4 One Party Size Cheese Pizza, 20 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda
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#16 Large 1 Topping Pizza, Small Cheese Calzone, 2 Liter Soda & 10 Wings
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Any Pita Pocket with French Fries & a Can of Soda\$11.99

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Free Fly Tying Classes

Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen starting January 8th, 2026.

Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin Street, Ludlow Mass. Thursday nights for 8 weeks from 7PM to 9PM.

The classes are open to the public with children 10 years and up being accompanied by an adult. Classes are geared to the beginner or novice. Course materials and tools will be supplied!

Space is limited and on a first come basis!

Please register online at <http://wmffclub.org> or

Contact John Lawor at 413-579-1994.

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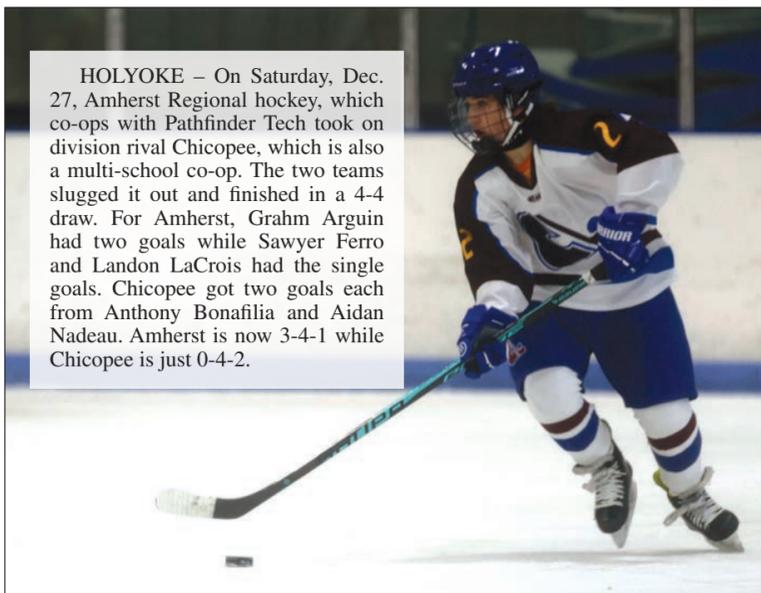
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Hurricanes, Pacers battle to draw

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Dec. 27, Amherst Regional hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech took on division rival Chicopee, which is also a multi-school co-op. The two teams slugged it out and finished in a 4-4 draw. For Amherst, Graham Arguin had two goals while Sawyer Ferro and Landon LaCrois had the single goals. Chicopee got two goals each from Anthony Bonafilia and Aidan Nadeau. Amherst is now 3-4-1 while Chicopee is just 0-4-2.



Landyn Klein heads up the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Griffin Stefanik tries to make a play.



Logan DeJesus keeps the puck close.



Landon Johnson passes the puck up the ice.



Aidan Nadeau heads for a shot on goal.



Owen Buchanan eyes the goal as he heads into the offensive zone.

Tigers fall to new league opponent Minnechaug

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Several of the girls' basketball teams in Western Massachusetts changed leagues before the start of the regular season.

Minnechaug Regional, who captured the Valley Wheel League title the past two seasons, and South Hadley, who were the Suburban Division champions the last two years, are the newcomers in the Valley League, along with Pittsfield.

In their first meeting as league foes, the Minnechaug Lady Falcons built a 24-point lead in the middle of the third



Kate Phillips looks to pass with pressure coming in.



Taylor Bullough looks for an open teammate.

quarter before the South Hadley Lady Tigers came roaring back. The Lady Tigers sliced their deficit to eight points late in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Falcons remained undefeated with a 59-51 home victory, last Tuesday night.

"The leagues are much different now and we're not going to be beating teams by 40 points. We're

happy to be 4-0," said Minnechaug head coach Ryan Minns. "South Hadley is a battle tested team. They were state finalists last year and most of their players are back this year."

The Lady Falcons entered 2026 with a perfect 4-0 overall record and a 3-0 league mark. Their other two league victories came against Northampton and Longmeadow, who are returning members of the Valley League.

Springfield Central, who's a Division 1 team, captured the Valley League title a year ago.

"Every league game is go-

ing to be a battle," Minns added. "We've got Pittsfield next followed by Central."

The last time that the girls' basketball teams from South Hadley and Minnechaug faced each other was on January 6, 2020. The Lady Falcons didn't have very much trouble winning that contest, which was also held on their home court.

The Lady Falcons had four players reach double figures in the first meeting of the 2025-26 regular season against the Lady Tigers.

Senior Kelly Cronin, who has committed to playing basketball at Amherst College

next year, led the way offensively with 15 points. Senior's Ava Manning and Elizabeth Woytowicz both finished with 14 points. Junior Ainsley Holden chipped in with 10 points off the bench.

South Hadley (1-3, 0-3) only win so far this season came against Belchertown (64-30) at the Pioneer Valley Tip-off, which was played at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

A year ago, the Lady Tigers posted a 22-4 overall record, and they lost to Cathedral High School of Boston in the Division 4 state finals, which was held at the Tson-

gas Center located on the UMass-Lowell campus.

South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc was pleased with the way his squad battled back against the Lady Falcons.

"Every league game that we play is going to be just like this one," Dubuc said. "Our second half effort was very good, but we just have to clean some things up."

Junior Taylor Bullough led the visiting team with 14 points.

The junior duo of Cara Dean and Kate Phillips each scored 13 points.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 7

Tigers return from long layoff, fall to Frontier

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School boys basketball team has not played since Dec. 22 against Belchertown. The Tigers returned to the court on Monday, Jan. 5 on the road at Frontier Regional High School.

The Tigers did not have a big offensive performance, falling to the Red Raiders 55-46.

Tim Loughrey had more than half of the Tigers offense, providing 25 points in the matchup. Noah Hambley was also in double-digits, scoring 12 points for South Hadley, which is now 3-3 on the regular season.

The Tigers will be back in action on Friday, Jan. 9 hosting Monument Mountain of Great Barrington at 7 p.m. The homestand continues on Tuesday, Jan. 13 with a matchup against East Longmeadow at 7 p.m. Also coming up for the Tigers will be a special matchup next Thursday, Jan. 15.

For the first time in many years, a South Hadley team will take part in the HoopHall Classic at Springfield College. South Hadley will take on Chicopee Comprehensive, with tipoff at Springfield College's Blake Arena at 4:45 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cara Dean circles the arc.

Monadnock reflects on great 2025 season

Monadnock Speedway competitors and race teams gathered this past Saturday, Dec. 13 at Best Western in Keene, New Hampshire, to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 racing season. The annual awards banquet served as a night of recognition, appreciation, and reflection on a competitive and memorable year at the speedway, while also setting the tone for the upcoming 2026 season.

Champions from each division were on hand to collect their well-earned hardware, highlighting the dedication, hard work, and perseverance required throughout the season. The evening underscored not only championship success, but also the sportsmanship and camaraderie that define Monadnock Speedway.

The All-States Material Group 604 Modified Championship was claimed by Brian Robie, who also earned the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. Robie addressed the crowd following his presentation, sharing his plans for the future. While he intends to compete in select events during the 2026 season, he emphasized his commitment to helping younger drivers in the division grow, learn, and achieve their racing goals.

Dylan Zullo, champion of

the Twin State Truck Service Super Streets, also collected his championship hardware along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. In his remarks, Zullo noted that he plans to continue racing in certain events, while also exploring a new direction for 2026, leaving fans eager to see what changes may be ahead.

The Fabian Fuels Mini Stock Championship went to Jon Fultz, who stepped forward to accept his championship award along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Award. Fultz took time to thank everyone who supported his championship run, including his crew, family, sponsors, and fellow competitors, acknowledging the teamwork behind his successful season.

In the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock Division, Kyle Kenny was honored as the 2025 champion. Kenny enthusiastically addressed the crowd while accepting his awards, revealing that he plans to move into a new division for the 2026 season at Monadnock Speedway, though he did not disclose specific details.

Also recognized was the champion of the Six Shooter Mini Series, Travis Hollins.

Carlos Grenier was in attendance to receive the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Pure Stock Triple Crown Series Champion.

The Doug's Auto Body Young Gun Division was recognized collectively for its hard work and dedication throughout the 2025 race season. Several individual awards were also presented, with Ella Grabowski earning the Sportsmanship Award, Hunter Duquette recognized for Most Wins, Maya Bell receiving the Best Appearing Award, and Sofia Rego honored with the Hard Luck Award.

Special awards were presented across the weekly divisions as well. In the 604 Modified Division, Tyler Leary was awarded Best Appearing, while Tyler Leclerc received the Sportsmanship Award. The Super Streets Division saw J.D. Stockwell earn Best Appearing, with Eric Smith taking home Sportsmanship honors. In the Mini Stock Division, Kevin Clayton received Best Appearing, and Chris Fultz was awarded Sportsmanship. Rounding out the awards, the Pure Stock Division honored Addison Brooks with Best Appearing, while Michaela Krafve received the Sportsmanship Award.

Upcoming Budget Task Force listening sessions, Jan. 15 and 22

SOUTH HADLEY – The Budget Task Force will review initial findings and recommendations from their work over the past 6 months. Share your input before the report

is finalized in early February. Join the task force on Thursday, January 15, at 1 p.m., and Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center or on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659863718?pwd=bkZqYvJBQGXWN-DCyqQO5Z4C16G7xOF.1>) for the second installment of Budget Task Force Listening Sessions.

zoom.us/j/83659863718?pwd=bkZqYvJBQGXWN-DCyqQO5Z4C16G7xOF.1) for the second installment of Budget Task Force Listening Sessions.

MOURNS from page 1

been in the thick of a crisis, or worked a high-pressure job, you know that it's the work--the hundreds of little decisions and uncomfortable situations--that move things forward. People see the accomplishments, but they only reflect a part of making things work and making them better."

Barry taught criminal justice at the Police Academy, as well as at Holyoke Community College for decades, and helped grow and build the Granby Police Department into what it is today. He stated the D.A.R.E. Program in town, served on several town committees, and was dedicated to seeing Granby become better.

"I can list people who served in town government as

far back as the 1950s. I can only think of a handful who made as great an impact as he did," said Bail. "He wasn't interested in the credit; he was interested in making things better."

Barry took time to get to know the people in the town and celebrate the accomplishments they made. One such accomplishment was that of former Granby police officer Wayne Sedlak, who performed a service for the town, and Barry named the small pavilion at Dufresne Park in his honor.

Barry also did work in helping identify a murder victim known as "the Granby Girl," and helped put media coverage on the case, and hosted a reception for the people involved to then help

solve the mystery of who she was and how she passed.

"Lou was well-known in the true crime community. He became a private investigator (not to peep in people's windows) but to help others. He was active in Private Investigators for the Missing, again not for the accolades, but to help," said Bail.

At one point, Barry was interviewed for a Rolling Stone article as an expert, and Bail joined a live session of a true crime podcast as a listener. The hosts asked him about himself, and he mentioned Barry, and when asked how he knew Barry, he replied,

"I knew Lou Barry as a friend and someone who dedicated his life to making Granby and the world a better place."

PROJECT from page 1

the overage, breaking down fixed fees for "owner's project management services [\$385,000], architect and engineering [\$481,000], commissioning services," and a "construction budget... at 4.985 million, as well as the \$31,000 for the tank removal that has previously been completed by the town."

Additionally, the project's contingency fund stands at "just over \$500,000 in contingency on the project right now, which is less than 10% of the anticipated total project cost," according to Joyce, signaling a buffer but not enough to guarantee coverage for unforeseen expenses.

Town officials were pressed repeatedly for specifics on the budget shortfall's origins.

"We got the okay to go out and bid this job out," said Building Committee member and Granby Police Chief Kevin O'Grady. He said the numbers previously given were "speculative."

The historical perspective underscores the volatility of construction pricing. "That \$5.6 million was an accumulation of estimates that the building committee had attained from talking to various vendors," said Joyce. "I have

never been provided with a full breakdown of where that 5.6 million came from, but I would be willing to bet it was not aggregated to this level of detail."

The passage of time and inflation have played a major role.

Selectboard member David Labonte added historical context.

"We can't forget that it's been nearly three years since we started," he said. "Construction costs have not gone down," drawing a direct line between the original budget and current needs.

Officials acknowledged that town residents would want clear explanations.

Finance Committee member Robert Glesmann expressed frustration with the increase.

"People are going to need an explanation as to, okay, you asked for this amount," Sexton said. He asked Joyce to explain the jump.

"We approved this amount. You're asking for an additional amount of money. Now, what is the reason for it?"

Much debate centered on how best to communicate the funding request to voters. The board ultimately moved forward with a two-arti-

cle warrant for the Jan. 26 meeting: one article seeking \$1,008,000, enough to cover all offices, and another as a fallback, seeking \$788,000, which excludes the Town Administrator's office.

However, concern about voter confusion persisted.

"People are going to see two articles, they're going to think it's 1.8 million," Mercer said.

To further clarify the articles, the board discussed recording a short video explanation for public release. "

All new language for the warrant articles will be reviewed by town counsel before posting.

Project leaders are optimistic, but they remain realistic about the stakes.

"We bid a very modest project. In my opinion, we've done the best that we can to facilitate the people who need to be in the space. And for that, we're a million dollars shot on the budget, whether it's escalation, whether it's market conditions," Joyce said.

The Selectboard urged residents to follow developments and participate in the special town meeting, where the future of the West Street School Building hangs in the balance.

Bruins snap T-Birds winning streak

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-13-4-2) suffered another gut-wrenching defeat late in regulation, 3-1, against the Providence Bruins (23-6-1-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Springfield's power play got two early reps in the first four minutes of play, and the man advantage capitalized as Matt Luff unleashed his team-leading 11th of the season at 4:32 of the period, making it a 1-0 game off set-ups from Dillon Dube and Samuel Johansson.

The Bruins had a wonderful shift following Luff's goal that nearly tied the score, highlighted by a Victor Soderstrom point shot that rang the post behind Vadim Zhe-

renko.

Eventually, Providence would get even as they also struck on their second power play of the period, as Dans Locmelis beat Zherenko from the left circle at 13:35 after a Fabian Lysell one-time attempt careened right to the waiting rookie winger.

The Bruins' defense suffocated the T-Birds' attack in the middle period, keeping the visitors to only two shots on net, but Zherenko was tremendous in his own right, denying all 10 Providence shots in the period. Among Zherenko's best pieces of work was a clutch stop on a low-slot tester from Locmelis.

The 1-1 stalemate carried all the way into the game's dying minutes, but for the

second time in three meetings in Providence, the Bruins found a way to break the tie late in regulation when Frederic Brunet uncorked a slapper that eluded Zherenko with just 1:11 remaining.

The T-Birds offense, which managed only 17 shots all night and just seven after the first period, could not get an equalizing response, and Riley Tuft polished off the night with an empty-netter just 13 seconds after Brunet's game-winning goal.

With their win streak snapped, the T-Birds were on the road on Wednesday, looking to start a new one as they visited the Utica Comets for a tussle at Adirondack Bank Center.

TIGERS from page 6

Sophomore Olivia Athas scored all her eight points during the final quarter.

The Lady Tigers took a 2-0 lead with an inside hoop from Phillips less than a minute into the opening quarter.

A couple of minutes later, Bullough banked home a 3-pointer from the top of the key. She also made a pair of free throws, which increased South Hadley's lead to 7-0 with 3:55 remaining in the first quarter.

"You're always trying to take an early lead in every game," Dubuc said. "We just couldn't score after taking the 7-0 lead."

The Lady Falcons scored the final ten points of the first quarter.

The home team took the

lead for the first time at 9-7 when Woytowicz buried a 3-pointer with a minute left in the quarter. She had also made a pair of free throws and a lay-up during the run

The Lady Falcons, who outscored the Lady Tigers, 12-7, in the second quarter, held a 22-14 halftime lead.

Minnechaug began the second half on fire offensively.

With the help of two 3-pointers from Manning and another one by Cronin, the Lady Falcons built a 39-15 lead. Freshman Zahara Wilson (2 points) capped off the 17-1 run by making a pair of free throws.

The Lady Tigers battled back with an 11-3 run. Dean scored the first eight points of

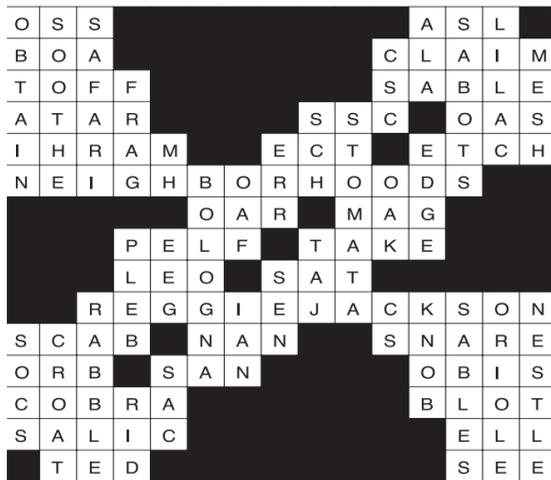
the spurt before a 3-pointer from sophomore Grace Sherman closed the gap to 42-26 with a little more than a minute left in the third quarter.

South Hadley continued to battle back in the fourth quarter, but Minnechaug managed to hold onto the double-digit lead until the final minute.

With 40.6 left in regulation, the Lady Tigers were trailing, 58-49, following a Phillips inside basket.

After Minnechaug made a foul shot, Bullough cut the deficit to eight points (59-51) with a lay-up, which wound up being the final outcome of the game.

The Lady Tigers are scheduled to host the Lady Falcons on January 26.



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Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
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PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Licensed & Insured
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

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Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

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Interior/exterior repair and maintenance, power washing, painting, landscaping, snow removal, small engine repair.

Contact Chris at
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or text **413-530-1958**.

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Residential/Commercial
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with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140.
Matt Marcinkiewicz
muscione@hotmail.com
413-537-0620

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Insured
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KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

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Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099**.

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GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING

Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

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Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

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.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

HELP WANTED

CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION MANUFACTURING FACILITY (Holyoke)

Holyoke Wilds LLC, a licensed cannabis cultivator and product manufacturer in Holyoke, MA, is seeking reliable individuals for general cultivation and product manufacturing positions. Duties include assisting with plant care, trimming, cleaning, product manufacturing, and other general tasks within the facility.

Start Date: Within the next few weeks to months

Pay: Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour.

Requirements: Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.

Interested candidates should email **holyokewildsjobs@gmail.com** with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds LLC is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARA-EDUCATOR.

Submit resume and letter of intent to: **www.schoolspring.com**

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QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667**.



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

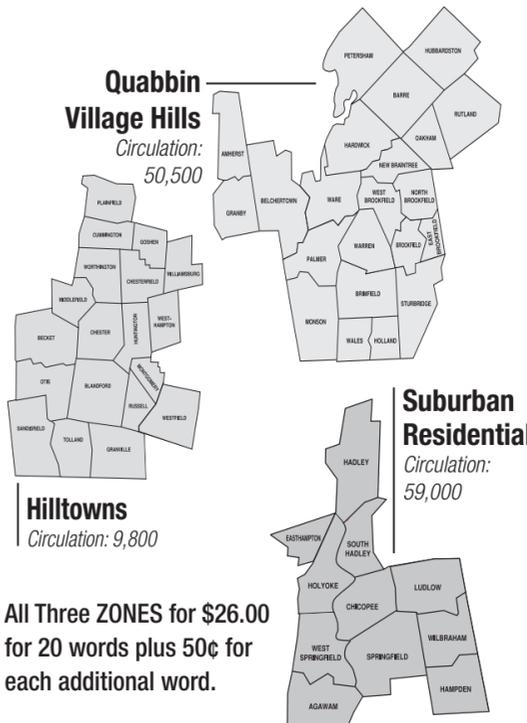
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
27	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
28	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
29	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
30	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$58.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$60.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
39	Base Price \$62.50	Base Price \$63.00	Base Price \$63.50
40	Base Price \$64.50	Base Price \$65.00	Base Price \$65.50

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____



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Obituary

Richard J. Ross

South Hadley - Richard Joseph Ross, 88, passed away on January 5, 2026, at Bay-state Medical Center. Born on February 24, 1937, in Holyoke, MA, he was the son of Walter and Lydia (Marin) Ross.

Richard spent his career with National Blank Book and later Avery Dennison, retiring in 2001. He was an avid golfer who found great joy on the fairways of Wykoff Country Club and the Orchards Golf Club. Ricard and his best friend Norm were the most feared twosome at both courses for over 25 years!! A devoted sports fan, he especially loved cheering for the New York Yankees and the New England Patriots.

Richard leaves behind his wife, Kathleen Theresa (Bullough) Ross; his children, Donna M. (Ross) Courchesne and her husband Gary of Ludlow, and Richard Joseph Ross, Jr. of Hatfield, MA. He is also survived by his stepson, Jim Grandchamp and his wife Michelle of South Hadley, and his stepdaughter, Sharyn Camrye of Ft. Myers, FL. Richard was a grandfather to Christopher Richard Courchesne and Sara Elizabeth Courchesne, both of Ludlow; and step-grandfather to Kristin Fredette and her husband Christopher of Ware, MA, and James Michael Grandchamp of Chicopee. He also leaves behind two great-grandchildren, Ol-

Death Notice

Richard J. Ross
Died January 5
Services private

ivia Grace Reilly-Courchesne and Qwen Christopher Reilly-Courchesne. He will be deeply missed by his close friends, Norm Provost and Norm's son Jim, whose friendship meant so much to him.

A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home.

LIBRARY from page 5

Road to Character. Tuesday, January 13 at 2 p.m.

Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Journalist Julia Hotz, Journalist and Award-Winning Author of The Connection Cure. Tuesday, January 20 at 2 p.m.

Secrets and Second Chances with Liz Moore, New York Times Bestselling and Award-Winning Author of The God of the Woods and Long Bright River. Wednesday, January 28 at 7 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL

It's January, and we're excited about the new batch of medal and honor books that will be announced at the end of the month! In our storytimes and displays, we'll be featuring past Caldecott medal and honor books, plus other award books. Story time is Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., and Pajama story time is Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Plus, Japanese story time with Kanae on Saturday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand, Chess with Andy will meet once a month through April, starting on Wednesday, January 14 at 4 p.m. Sign up - space is limited! Come for Lego & Games on Mondays and Wednesdays (except 1/14) from 3 to 5 p.m. (no sign-up required).

Attention, caregivers of babies! Baby Lapsit Storytime is at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 9, 16, and 23, and special musical guest Miss Julie will join us on January 30.

Wildlife on Wheels from

the Forest Park Zoo is filling up fast - sign up or get on the waitlist to meet some animals on Saturday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m.

All our regular programs continue as usual: Pride Club (January 13 and 27), Read to a Dog (January 13), CFCE Playgroup, and Rhyme Time.

Questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact Jenny with any questions.

Teen Programs at SHPL
Tweens and teens (ages 11 through 19) have a lot of great choices this month.

This month's Crafternoon takes place on Thursday, January 15, from 4 to 5 p.m. We will be making origami creations. No sign-up is needed. Night Craft will be happening on Tuesday, January 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will be crafting Mini Glow Lights. None of these programs require signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be happening on Tuesday, January 13, for Switch. All gaming sessions start at 3:30 p.m. and run until 5 p.m. No sign-up is needed.

Snackternoon will be on Thursday, January 22, from 4 to 5 p.m. Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly Teen Takeaways continue, and this month features Pen Doodling. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month.

We also have our lat-

est Booktrovert pick: Shackled by Candy J Cooper. There are no in-person meet-ups; just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for checkout.

We continue our new Teen Book Club: the Read Whatever Book Club. Talk about whatever you're reading with other teens! Light refreshments provided. This program takes place on Monday, January 26, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and no sign-up is needed unless you want an email reminder. Any questions, please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs
Castle Nitor returns to Gaylord on Thursday, January 22, at 5 p.m. for Block Printing. Join the staff of Castle Nitor for a fun lesson on block printing. Use replica blocks of period prints and make your own blocks from potatoes. Take home a new treasure that you made on your own! Register here.

For kids, we also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.). Our special guest on Friday, January 9, will be Miss Mary from Berkshire Hills Music Academy to read braille books and sing.

Drop-In Crafts Thursday, January 22, from 3 to 6 p.m., and LEGO Club meets Thursdays, January 15 and 29, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Families can also join us on Saturday, January 3, at 10:15 a.m. for a Weekend Craft, and Saturday, January 17, at 10:15 a.m. for Trains-n-Tracks.

Residents: Take the Budget Task Force Survey

SOUTH HADLEY - You are invited to participate in a research study for the Town of South Hadley. This project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Melinda Tarsi-Goldfien, Department of Political Science, Bridgewater State University, in collaboration with the South Hadley Budget Task Force. The purpose of this study is to collect feedback from residents on the town's finances.

The study is voluntary and confidential. The survey responses are collected and compiled by Bridgewater State University under the direction of Dr. Tarsi-Goldfien. The survey results will be reported to the Budget Task Force and residents upon completion. Take the survey at https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UleV5od-moqmw4K.

Legal Notices

Town of South Hadley Notice of Public Hearing

The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) filed Marion Excavating Co. Inc to determine whether the boundaries of resource areas are accurately delineated at New Ludlow Rd, Map 9, Parcel 5. The property is located behind 785 New Ludlow Rd (Map 9, Parcel 10).

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 21 at 6pm virtually. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website.

A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30 - 4:00 Mon - Thurs. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
01/09/2026

Town of Granby CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on Tuesday February 10, 2026 *1 Library Lane- Carnegie Building-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. 7:30 pm "ANRAD" filed by Marion Excavating Co., Inc., applicant, Tan Realty Corp., Property Owner to determine the delineation of the wetland resource areas with regards to approxi-

mately 33.2+/- acres located on New Ludlow Road and known as Map 5-Block E-1 in the Town of Granby

2. Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using Access Code: 282-289-421 or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "ANR-DA" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Conservation Office located 1 Library Lane, Granby MA, Tuesday-Thursday, 8 am-12 pm. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
01/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500

Docket No. HS49414
Estate of:
Edward Francis Mannix
Also known as:
Edward F. Mannix
Date of Death: 07/25/1980

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Edward F. Mannix of Stratham, MA request-

ing that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 17, 2025

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
01/09/2026



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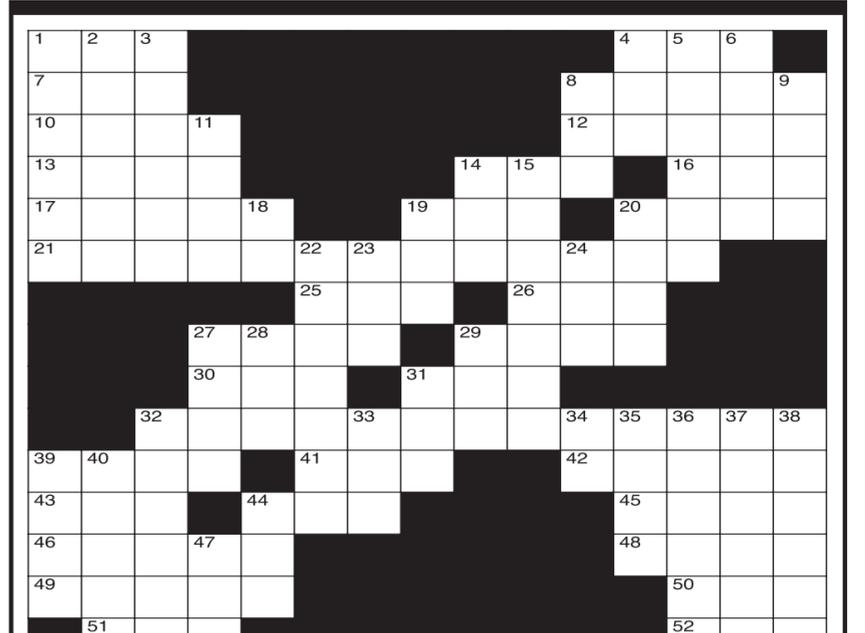
this special section will run in the Feb. 13 issue of Chicopee Register, The Holyoke Sun & Town Reminder.

Ad deadline: January 28, 2026

Quarter page ad (4.75x8) \$275
Half page ad (9.75x8) \$460
Full page ad (9.75x15.75) \$650

\$50 SPOT COLOR/\$100 FULL COLOR

Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today
413-297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

- Former CIA
- Language
- Constrictor snake
- Demand
- Rich man
- Short-tailed marten
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Superconducting super collider
- International group of countries within the Americas
- Sacred state for Muslims
- Shock therapy
- Engrave
- Localities
- Paddle
- Periodical
- Dishonestly gained money
- Gain possession of
- Actor DiCaprio
- High schoolers' test
- Mr. October
- Sign of healing
- One's grandmother
- Entrap
- One who simultaneously buys and sells
- Francisco
- Web-based data provider of marine life
- Type of snake
- Dark mark or stain
- Member of the Salii
- Former measure of length
- CNN's founder
- Witness

CLUES DOWN

- Acquire
- Console
- Hunting expedition
- Pie ___ mode
- Simple shoes for peasants
- Eurasian shrub
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Work together in harmony
- Grenade
- File extension
- Minute pores in a plant
- Medal of Honor
- Make a mistake
- Advance slowly, as if by inches
- Sandwich meat
- An awkward stupid person
- Strong tree
- Commoner
- Electro-encephalograph
- ___ Mahal
- Congressman
- Disorderly crowd
- 007's creator Fleming
- Atomic #55
- Part of a door
- Short-tail martens
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Gang in "The Outsiders"
- Of Croatia
- Body cavity
- Get free of

Library awarded technology grant

SOUTH HADLEY – The library has been awarded a technology grant through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute’s (MBI) Connected

and Online Program. We will receive devices to replace almost all of the public computers at SHPL and add Chromebooks that people can borrow

and use in-house. This grant will allow us to improve activities related to workforce development, education, and healthcare access.

SHPD provides list of arrests and summons

SOUTH HADLEY – The following summaries highlight recent arrests and summons conducted by our officers. These arrests also include a very brief summary and do not amount to every detail contained within the arrest report. Please note that the following are just a selection of recent events and do not represent the full scope of the work officers do every day.

All persons charged with crimes are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Some incidents will have limited information such as those involving juveniles, domestic violence-related incidents/arrests, and individuals placed into protective custody, per Massachusetts General Laws.

Speeding on rotary leads to arrest of Hartford man.

On December 18, 2025, at approximately 9:26 p.m., Detective Adamczyk was monitoring traffic on the Route 202 Rotary when he observed a vehicle speeding in the 25-mph area of the Muller Bridge leading into the rotary. Det Adamczyk would subsequently stop the vehicle on Purple Heart Drive northbound. While running the vehicle status through the RMV, Det. Adamczyk observed that the Connecticut registration tags on the vehicle were assigned to another vehicle. When Det. Adamczyk asked the driver, a male party from Hartford, for his license; he was provided with a New York State Learner’s Permit. An in-state query of the driver showed that his license status in Massachusetts was suspended.

The driver explained that he took the registration plate from his mother’s vehicle so that he could get around, but had no paperwork to show that he owned the vehicle. The driver was taken into custody for the following: Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation, Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and Attaching Plates to a Motor Vehicle.

Juvenile assaults sister with a knife.

On December 20, 2025, at approximately 3:17 p.m., Officers responded to a residence for a juvenile male who assaulted his sister with a knife. When Officer Swaby arrived on scene, he learned that the male had left the residence prior to police arrival. While officers checked for the juvenile, Ofc Swaby learned that the siblings were fighting and the male grabbed a knife off the kitchen counter and raised it in a way one would stab, in a downward motion, and began to walk towards her. The sister then ran to another room and locked the door before calling the police. The juvenile male was taken into custody for the following: Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Domestic Assault.

Vehicle nearly collides with police cruiser on rotary; driver arrested for drunk driving.

On December 21, 2025, at approximately 1:45 a.m., Officer Chonmany was patrolling the Route 202 area, and driving around the rotary when he observed a Jeep Wrangler drive past the yield sign at the end of the Muller bridge which proceeded to cut off his cruiser. Ofc Chonmany attempted to stop the vehicle which turned down a less travelled side street with two houses on it. Ofc Chonmany needed to use his air horn and siren to get the vehicle to stop.

The operator, a West Hatfield man, appeared confused to officers, and smelled of alcoholic beverages. The male did not complete field sobriety testing satisfactorily and needed to use his vehicle to help him stand up. The driver was taken into custody and charged with the following: Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Liquor, Operating a Motor Vehicle with an Open Container of Alcohol, Failure to Yield to Oncoming Traffic, Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Revoked Registration, and Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

Party summoned to court for driving nearly double the speed limit.

On December 26, 2025, at approximately 4:07 p.m., Sergeant O’Connor was monitoring traffic on Lower Granby Road where it meets Purple Heart Drive. At this time Sgt O’Connor observed a pick-up truck travelling at a high rate of speed on PHD northbound. With the use of Lidar technology, Sgt O’Connor was able to confirm that the truck was travelling at 95 mph in a 50-mph zone.

Sgt O’Connor stopped the vehicle operated by a male from Washington State, with ties to South Hadley. Because of the time of day, the risk to other motorists, and the walking and biking public, the male will be summoned to court for the following: Speeding and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Victim of domestic assault seeks help

On December 30, 2025, at approximately 5 a.m., a female ran into the police station with her two young children to report that she was just the victim of a domestic assault and battery. She also stated her boyfriend, who is armed with a gun, pushed his way into her residence prior to the assault, and she believed that he was still there. When officers arrived on scene, they found that the boyfriend was gone and that he had stolen the victim’s car. Officers continued the investigation into this matter, and a warrant was issued against the Springfield man for the following charges: Assault and Battery on a Household Member, Breaking and Entering in the Nighttime for Felony (Felony), Threat to Commit a Crime, and Larce-

ny of a Motor Vehicle (Felony).

Later that day, the victim returned to the police station to report a concern that someone has been or may be in her apartment. When Officer Whelihan, Helems, and Hart went to the apartment they located a masked male party attempting to hide in a closet. The male was taken into custody, and it was learned that he was armed with a loaded 9mm pistol, knives, and other ammunition. The male party from West Springfield, who stated that he was there to get items for the boyfriend. The male is facing the following charges: Breaking and Entering in the Daytime for Felony (Felony), Possession of a Firearm while in the Commission of a Felony, Possession of a Firearm without a License, and Possession of Ammunition without a License.

Woman charged with negligent driving

On January 1, 2026, at approximately 1:02 a.m., Officers Santiago and Podmore responded to the area of E. Carew St for the report of a car sliding into a parked car. On scene, the officers met with the Holyoke woman who reported the accident she was involved in. As officers examined the scene and spoke with the woman, they made observations that indicated that she was operating her vehicle under the influence of alcohol. When asked about these observations, the female’s story changed as she spoke with officers, and at one point, she forgot that she had called in to report the accident. Based on the officer’s investigation, the female was taken into custody for the following charges: Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Liquor 2nd Offense and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Later that day, the owner of the vehicle that was struck reported to the department that the female who hit his vehicle was his ex-girlfriend. She had shown up to the Holyoke bar he was at to tell him that she did it on purpose. Because of a lapse in time from when he said the accident happened, to when the female was taken into custody, Officer Farber requested video footage from a local business that showed that the woman drive into the victim’s car and motorcycles, then leave and come back a short time later at which point she was arrested. Based on the findings of Ofc Farber’s investigation, the female party will be summoned to court for the following charges: 3 counts of Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle (Felony), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Obstruction of Justice (Felony).

Officers respond to restraining order violation

On January 1, 2026, at approximately 5 a.m., Officers Santiago and Hart responded to a residence for the report of a Restraining order violation. The victim explained to officers that she and her ex-boyfriend had a verbal confrontation and that he was not following the court-ordered amount of distance that he is supposed to be away from her. The South Hadley male was taken into custody for the following charge: Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Sex offender fails to register

On January 2, 2026, a local medical treatment facility in town reported that one of their patients who was about to be discharged and had an active warrant for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. At approximately 3:30 p.m., Officers Kapinos and Chonmany were able to locate the male party on Granby Rd and take him into custody for: Warrant issued by Chicopee District Court for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.



Submitted photo

The wonderful people who work hard to make delicious lunch for all the seniors to enjoy.

CENTER from page 1

we appreciate their support and being present,” said Pearce.

The Council on Aging works to provide fun and engaging events and programs to be enjoyed by everyone, providing for a range of interests and more, and creates a space where their input is welcome and valued.

Pearce hosts Meet the Director meetings once a month in order to hold space for questions, comments, and ideas for the COA.

“I am always open to feedback and love hearing from our patrons through in-person chats, attendance at the Meet the Director meetings, and through our feedback form. Feedback forms come directly to me, and all those who provide feedback are contacted by me personally for follow-up,” said Pearce.

Through ups and downs,

and seeing people move on to other career paths, like beloved Chef Dakota Lyman after January 16, the COA has pushed through, and looked towards the new blessings, opportunities, and people to come through their doors. “During these uncertain times, I feel privileged to be in a position to advocate for older adults while also being able to connect with our participants on a one-on-one basis,” said Pearce. “Our community is filled with amazing volunteers, members, and instructors, and I am thankful to be part of the COA and the community it represents.”

From Science Fiction and Fantasy clubs for all the nerds and lovers of fiction, to healing groups, to events where the COA hosts students from the MacDuffie school, the South Hadley Council on Aging is ready and prepared to provide wonderful opportunities for all. “I want the best for our mem-

bers and try to reflect that in the programs we offer and the support we have in place,” said Pearce.

The South Hadley COA is looking forward to bringing in many new and exciting programs, events, and activities, and is looking to the community to help with that. “While there are so many aspects of this job that bring joy, seeing a new member come into the Council on Aging and be filled with excitement over the options available to them from a resource they previously didn’t know existed is one of my favorites,” said Pearce.

“In the New Year, we are hoping to ignite positivity through a kindness initiative. We are hoping everyone can take a moment and share a positive thought each day with someone you interact with. Kindness matters and can change a person’s entire day.”

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