

TOWN Reminder

FREE
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Library hosts program for kids to explore **STEAM**

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Kids love to explore, and being able to stretch their minds, experience new things, and learn something new through fun and play, they go to the library.

The South Hadley Public Library's children's department is full of wonderful events that help to encourage this growth and sense of wonder, all thanks to the mind of Children's Coordinator Jenny Arch.

After the Comics and Crafts finished up after going for several months, Arch wanted to fill the time slot with something new and exciting for the kids to explore.

For the first time, the library will be hosting a special STEAM Time program every Tuesday from 3:45 to 4:45 as long as there is interest for kids to explore STEAM through different activities and games.

"I'm thrilled to see library "regulars" at STEAM time, and



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Jenny showing the kids how to create their own coded message, and how to break the codes, with a Caesar Cypher.

excited to meet newcomers too," said Arch.

Lined up at the door and waiting at tables, on the couches, and in the bookshelves, the kids were bursting at the seams, ready to jump in and get in on the learning adventures put together by Arch.

STEAM is an acronym for

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, and encourages children to explore these topics in new and exciting ways.

"STEAM has become a familiar acronym across the education and library world, and it's such a big umbrella that there's a lot of room to try out different

things," said Arch.

For the first afternoon, kids played games and puzzles including a Caesar Cypher decoding activity, a board game called Robot Turtles, and a Spot It game.

Please see **STEAM**, page 6

Selectboard interviews candidates for interim fire chief

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – The Selectboard opened a meeting to interview several candidates for the position of interim fire chief.

Chair Crystal Dufresne led the Jan. 2 meeting, and she was accompanied by Clerk David A. Labonte, member Glen N. Sexton, and Town Administrator Christopher Martin, Assistant Town Administrator Cathy Leonard, and Selectboard Clerk Dayle Clark.

Jeffrey Haughey

The first candidate, Jeffrey Haughey, came to the board, and introduced himself, sharing he has been a Belcher-town resident his whole life,

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 11

Countdown to Noon Year in South Hadley

By Sofia Allegrezza
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – On New Years Eve, the South Hadley Public Library hosted their "Countdown to Noon Year" event.

Children of all ages were welcomed to this event to enjoy a variety of activities. Instead of staying up until midnight to celebrate the incoming new year, the

children were able to have fun with their friends, and not stay up past their bedtime.

The children in the community of South Hadley gathered with family and friends in their "party" room to count down until noon.

While they were waiting for the big countdown, the children took part in a few crafty activities. Children had the option to use their own creativity to freely draw or color. Also available was a New Years Bingo sheet, where the kids crossed off different things that they did or accomplished during 2024. Lastly, each child was able to make their own unique ribbon wand, which they proudly waved around all evening.

Music was being sung and played by Miss Julie, which was especially enjoyed by the children who played along.

Later in the evening, music was played on the radio which made room for a lot of dancing and laughter. Instruments were also available then for the children to play, and make their own music with.

The most popular event at the Noon Year Party seemed to be in



Photo by Sofia Allegrezza

Lexi Rosiensi takes time to smile for the camera.

Please see **NOON YEAR**, page 11



Submitted photo

Thai Place in South Hadley ready to use the grant to enhance their dining experiences and more.

Chamber awards grants to local community businesses and nonprofits

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The small businesses and nonprofits of our towns are truly what keep them running, with smiling faces and unique items that catch the features of our community spaces in a big way.

The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce had its annual grant season and received \$100,000 from the state of Massachusetts.

In total, there were twenty-two grant award recipients, and State Representative Dan

Carey had a big hand in helping to get the total \$100,000 from the state for these grant awards.

"Our goal is to help the businesses here and help them. They are doing some amazing things here locally that people don't know about," said Chamber president, Regina Zebrowski.

The deadline being July 15, 2024, applicants eagerly awaited to see if their grant applications were approved, and after sorting through dozens of applications, the Chamber voted for the ones to award in this round of grant awards.

The applications were for the Acts of 2022 Coronavirus State

Fiscal Recovery Fund Earmark, which went towards the businesses and organizations to help them after the virus, spending both the General Fund and Recovery Funds from those times.

"Under our grant program, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Workforce/Economic Development Initiative, the SHG Chamber will award eligible South Hadley and Granby businesses up to \$5,000 each," said Zebrowski in reference to the grants in a statement.

The grants could be used towards website design or redesign, marketing- digital or hard Please see **CHAMBER**, page 12

Children's advocacy center opens in Belchertown, helps children in need

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The care of children is something adults are meant to be held accountable for; to keep them from harm, guide them, nurture them, love them, and above all, show them what safety feels like.

Unfortunately, in this dark world we live in, there remains an unfortunate reality that not all children are safe, and many experience horrible things at the hands of loved ones.

Statistically, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in Massachusetts before the age of eighteen experience some form of sexual or physical abuse, and 87% of these children are victimized by someone they know, trust, and love.

However, there are people in this world who care deeply, and representing these children and acting as a voice and support is the Children's Advocacy Center.

Executive Director Kara McElhone and Operations Manager Emma Folkins are two members of the center that work hard to ensure that everyone who enters the center is given love, care, and whatever they need.

"These kinds of things happen in communities everywhere, and we can be there to provide help for them," said McElhone.

CAC's main office is in



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Executive Director Kara McElhone (left) and Operations Manager Emma Folkins (right) at the center.

Northampton, and it provides services all across Hampshire County, and now has a new office located in Belchertown.

CAC is available and ready to help any child who has experienced abuse or assault, where they can find a team of two licensed therapists, two advocates, a pediatric sexual assault nurse, and others to help make this possible.

The advocates at the Center are responsible for helping kids feel safe and comfortable and work with the child and caregiver to find the resources they need.

"Their goal is to help this family disclose the abuse, and make sure their voices are heard in the process," said McElhone. At the Northampton location, the first step after a report is made is the child sits with a trained interviewer to share their story of what happened.

In order to avoid more emotional duress, the child tells the story once, with law enforcement, DCF, and other people needed listening in another room to the conversation.

Next, depending on the child's story, the CAC advocates help direct the child and caregiver to resources like medical care if needed, as well as resources for moving, and the teams determine together with DCF and law enforcement the steps for criminal prosecution.

"Our primary goal is to help the child grow up to be happy and healthy," said McElhone.

Please see **CENTER**, page 5



The therapy room with bright colors, toys to play with, and comfy couches to sit on.



WILD TURKEY VISITS

Submitted photo Martha Terry

Flocks of wild turkeys come to visit the yard of Martha Terry frequently on Brainerd Street. Her one year old grandson is enchanted by the wild turkeys in the backyard.

HCC announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2024 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2024 term.

Amherst

Iris Allen, Joshua David Bishop, Joshua Quinn Busekrus, Sara Button, Myles Hart Chinappa, Carlos Steven Jovel Cruz, West Paul Davis, Zachary Nichols Dixon, Akiva Frenkel, Jack Maxwell Morgan Green, Benjamin Haupt, Yuxin Lei, Ashante Rose Love, Norma Alexandra Mejia Ayala, Shaali Suresh Patel, Julia Leigh Rodrigue, Brian-na M. Thompson-Blake, Aelan Toro-Rodriguez. Grace Vo

Granby

Lauren Williams, Aiden Robert Beach, Alexis Marie Lapite, Tyler Laramee, Paige Lynn Maziarz, Nicholas Tyler Menard, Tristan Gordon Moe, Thomas Nathan, Natalya Rosenberg, Jessica Annette Roy, Diana Swani-

gan, Amelia Jean Tocchio

Hadley

Jessica Lynn Campbell, Trevor Matthew Ciaglo, Erin Frances Cleary, James Peter Fitzgibbons, Kaylena Gonzalez, Katelyn May Kelley, Jacob Scott Kenney, Bimal Patel, Leo George Russell

South Hadley

Lara A. Asaresse, Angela Rose Bessone, Monica Boivin, Lily Aileen Campbell, Ella R. Campbell, Bryan Clark, Patrick John Conway, Kimberly Michelle D'Amato, Helen Deater-Deckard, Alyssa Mary Dusseault, Lucas James Dyer, Alexandra Mieg Gates, Silas Gabriel Gelinias, Newton Hall, Aubrey Renee Jones, Shannon Leigh Lyman, Reese Melissa Mackenzie, Allyson O'Dell, Jacob Ryan Palmer, Amber Jade Patruno, Mickayla Patruno, Destiny Cheyenne Patterson, Ara Alexis Powers, Rebecca Reyes, Annalisa Rizzo, Amber Michelle Rodrigue, Marc Rogers, Josephine Roman, Jack Michael Shaughnessy, Liam Anthony Sibley-Welch, Rachel Tanya VazquezPerrin, Stephanie Marie Willemain, Maxwell Nicholas Young

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TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS

Routes 202/33 Corridor Zoning Amendments

COMMUNITY FORUM #4

04 JANUARY 16TH, 2025
Thursday
6:00 - 8:00 pm
South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street

Be part of the conversation as we introduce the draft Design Guidelines and Zoning Recommendations for the Corridor.
Your input is KEY to shaping the plans for the Community!

Join us to share your opinions on the future proposed zoning of Routes 202 and 33 in South Hadley!

Can't make it to the Forums?
Scan for our interactive project site and stay engaged throughout the process!
<https://bit.ly/4814PRo>

Rt. 202/33 Rezoning Advisory Committee to hold public meeting

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The advisory committee met together remotely to review and discuss information regarding zoning the corridor, in order to bring a proposal to the upcoming public meeting.

The committee met on Jan. 6 with Anne Capra, the Director of Planning and Conservation leading the meeting.

In attendance included members Nate Therian, Martha Terry, Dan Lewis, Michael Beauchemin, and Ken LeBlanc, as well as Emily Innes and Suprhya Kelkar.

There will be a public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the South Hadley Public Library, and will focus on updates to the Rt. 202/33 corridor zoning projects.

“It is our intention at that meeting for the community to ask some questions,” said Capra.

Emily Innes and Suprhya Kelkar shared a presentation of broken up zones, in order to help the advisory committee overview the lines of what needs to be zoned.

The map has been color-coded in order to make it easier to review for the committee, and it is divided into areas like densities, open spaces, permit types, and more.

“The purpose of today’s conversation, is to look at the uses, and then come back to the boundaries and evaluate if they are in the right place,” said Innes.

Innes shared with the committee her desire to have conversations on how to organize the land uses according to densities around the boundary lines.

The committee discussed the different lots and their uses, as well as what is allowed per site plan reviews, law, special permits, and what can be done to move things around.

The committee also discussed the allowance of single-family dwellings, multiple family units, and residential and commercial use building spaces

to be reviewed.

While looking at a chart on the shared screen, committee members reviewed different residence and business types, and discussed amongst one another changes, edits, and additions to the areas that were considered “residential mixed use”.

“I think for the corridor... I think it does need to be changed,” Beauchemin said, referring zoning for specific lots near the Granby line.

Innes clarified that she wanted to clarify with the advising committee whether or not multi-family dwellings should be included within these zoning areas.

“The idea is to create neighborhoods that are cohesive,” said Capra.

The committee shared their concerns for different kinds of housing, including what kinds of businesses should be allowed to have residential units above them, and which ones shouldn’t, like gas stations for example.

The committee shared different points of view with one another, and developed a final list of items in order to bring this information to the public.

Innes shared that the committee will be sharing the boundaries with those who attend the public meeting, as well as providing information on the geography, uses, and guidelines of different zoning plots.

Re-Accreditation Assessment of the SHPD

Assessment to take place Jan. 14-16

SOUTH HADLEY—South Hadley Police Department is scheduled for a Re-Accreditation assessment by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission over a three (3) day period January 14, 15, and 16, 2025, after the South Hadley Police Department was initially awarded Accreditation in 2022. The South Hadley Police Department is one of only seven (7) accredited municipal police departments in Western Massachusetts.

The following team of assessors are assigned to conduct the assessment on behalf of the Commission and will be arriving on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025:

Lieutenant Larry Bateman of the Sturbridge Police Dept, Sergeant Josiah Morrissette of the Uxbridge Police Dept. and Sergeant Jarad La Valle of the Belchertown Police Dept. Captain Victor Neal (Retired Westford Police Dept.) will be facilitating the assessment on behalf of the Commission.

During this on-site assessment, the assessors will be examining our policies, facility,

equipment and adherence to policies and best practices as set forth by the Commission. We must be able to demonstrate to the assessors that we are in compliance with the Commission’s mandatory standards as well as a percentage of the optional standards for our size agency.

As part of the assessment process, please be advised that you are invited to offer comments to the Commission about the Department as they pertain to accreditation standards. You may speak with the assessors directly during the visit or you may send written comments

to the Commission prior to the assessment at the following address: Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, 110 Haverhill Road Suite 3, 97 Amesbury, MA 01913. If you would like to review the standards for state accreditation or if you have any questions about the upcoming Re-Accreditation assessment, please contact, Sgt. Barry T. O’Connor our Accreditation Manager at oconnorb@southhadleypolice.org or 413-538-8231.

The assessment will conclude on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 with a briefing with the assessors.

SHPD chief office hours

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Chief of police office hours for the month of January.

Thursday, Jan. 23 - 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the South Hadley Center

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - 12 noon - 2 p.m. at Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

Granby Clerk Reminders

GRANBY—Annual Census Information: The 2025 Annual Census will be mailed out at the beginning of January, to avoid any voting problems please mail back your census.

Compliance with this state requirement provides proof of residence, it protects voting rights, veteran’s bonuses, housing for the elderly and related benefits.

The Annual Town Census does not register you as a voter or change your party enrollment. You must fill out a voter registration form or a change of enrollment card. This can be done by going on-line at www.sec.state.ma.us and go under “Elections”, or for more information on voter registration call the Town Clerk’s office.

Also included with the Census is a flyer pertaining to voting, office hours, dog licensing, and a schedule for the landfill

pickup.

Please continue to check our website at www.granby-ma.gov for any further information on any of our town affairs.

Dog Licenses: The Annual Census contains a Pre-Registration form, and this is the First Notice for the 2025 dog licenses. Dog licenses are valid from April – April of each year however, if you wish to pre-register your dogs for 2025, follow the instructions on the form and return it with the census, or you may wait until March or April and stop by the office to license your dog. Please note that after May 1, 2025, a \$25.00 late charge may be applied along with the annual dog fee.

Thanking you all in advance for your cooperation with this mailing.

For any questions or concerns please call the Town Clerk’s office- 467-7178.

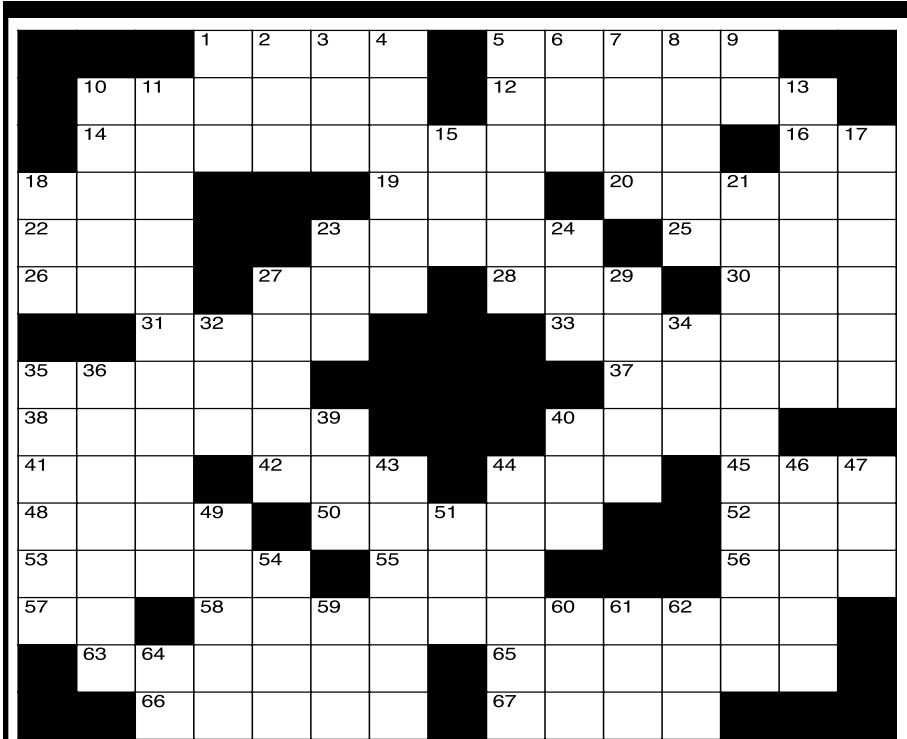
Christmas Tree Disposal

SOUTH HADLEY—Christmas trees WILL NOT be collected at the curbside. It is the responsibility of the resident to dispose of their Christmas tree responsibly, and can bring it to the yard waste area of the Recycle Center, located at 10 Industrial Drive, Tuesday-Saturday: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon - 1p.m.), during the month of January, at no charge and with no appointment.

Lasell University fall 2024 dean’s list

NEWTON— The following local students were named to Lasell University’s fall 2024 dean’s list: Teagan Anz of South Hadley, Antonio Centracchio of Granby, and Robin Mullin of South Hadley.

To be named to the dean’s list, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Hand (Spanish)
 - 5. Siskel and __, critics
 - 10. Seaman
 - 12. Chemical weapon
 - 14. One who eliminates
 - 16. They precede C
 - 18. Baseball stat
 - 19. Americans’ “uncle”
 - 20. Cassia tree
 - 22. Surround
 - 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
 - 25. A sudden very loud sound
 - 26. Affirmative
 - 27. Disadvantage
 - 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
 - 30. OJ trial judge
 - 31. New York art district
 - 33. Become more bleak
 - 35. Upstate NY city
 - 37. Clarified butters
 - 38. One who witnesses
 - 40. Condemn
 - 41. __ juris
 - 42. Natural
 - 44. Prohibit
 - 45. Swiss river
 - 48. Greek war god
 - 50. 5 iron
 - 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
 - 53. Scandinavian surname
 - 55. Follows sigma
 - 56. Doctor of Education
 - 57. Spanish be
 - 58. One that feeds on bugs
 - 63. Tooth issue
 - 65. Get into
 - 66. Lumps of clay
 - 67. Overly studious student
 - 3. Japanese classical theater
 - 4. Prayer
 - 5. Inspire with love
 - 6. Ballplayers’ accessory
 - 7. Retailer payment system
 - 8. More raw
 - 9. Atomic #81
 - 10. Fencing sword
 - 11. Hostilities
 - 13. Sea dweller
 - 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
 - 17. Businessmen
 - 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
 - 21. Loud devices
 - 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
 - 24. One point west of due south
 - 27. Trout
 - 29. Type of grass
 - 32. South American plant
 - 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 35. Not secure
 - 36. Traveler
 - 39. Sweet potato
 - 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
 - 43. Some are choppy
 - 44. Asian country
 - 46. Genus of mosquitoes
 - 47. Cool!
 - 49. Shriill, wailing sound
 - 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - 54. Within
 - 59. Unhappy
 - 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
 - 61. Videocassette recorder
 - 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - 64. It cools a home
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Variety of Chinese
 - 2. Boxing’s GOAT

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Opinion



I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Dear Rusty:

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed: Veteran Seeking Answers

Dear Veteran Seeking Answers:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our www.amacfoundation.org website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

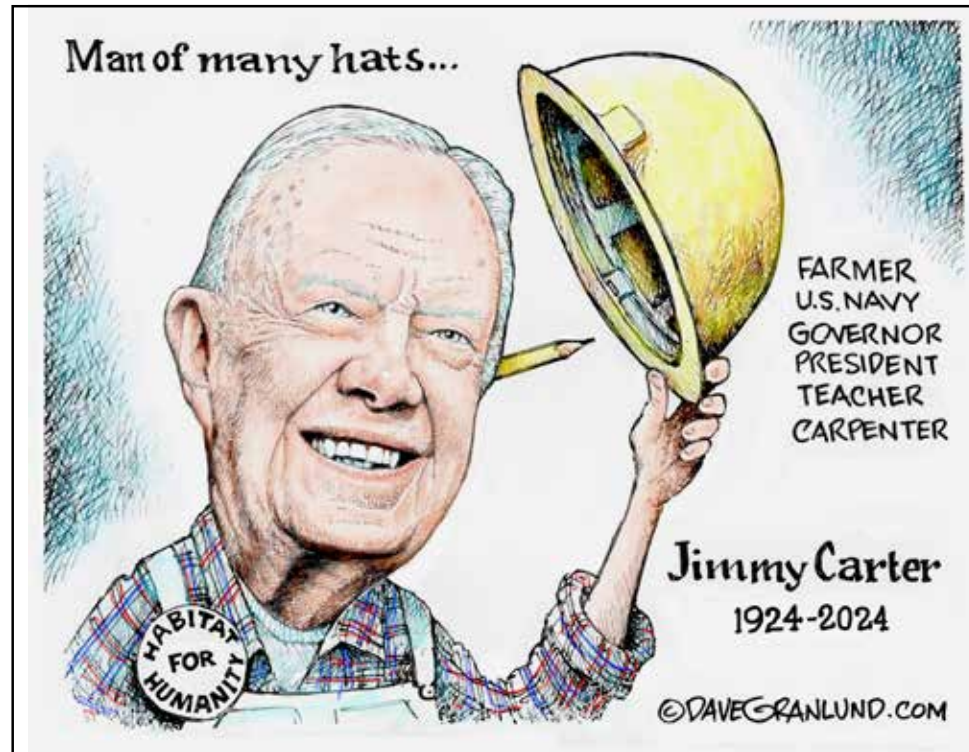
Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/

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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Residents urged to attend Community Forum

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing to alert the citizens of South Hadley to a very important upcoming Community Forum on Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the South Hadley Main Public Library.

This upcoming Community Forum is the fourth in a series of informational and interactive sessions on the rezoning of Routes 202/33. The rezoning of this thoroughfare has been an ongoing process with a consulting firm, a appointed five member advisory board of citizens, and the Director of Planning and Conservation, Anne Capra.

On Jan. 16, at Community Forum #4, the final recommendations will be made by the public in attendance as to the rezoning of these two routes. All residents of the town, especially, homeowners, renters, business owners, and abutters along Routes 202/33 are urged to attend this workshop to make

their opinions and preferences known. The future of the kinds and nature of residences, businesses, and services to be located along these busy thoroughfares is at stake. Please plan to attend.

What kinds of housing would you like to see allowed along this corridor: More dense apartment buildings, clustered smaller units or cottages, or the conversion of already existing single family homes into duplex, triplexes, or more?

Would you like to see more automobile repair related services, more gasoline filling stations, and more convenience stores or "softer" kinds of commercial uses? It is evident that your input is vital. So, please mark your calendar and come to this all important Community Forum.

Martha Terry
South Hadley resident



Prepping for this year's big garden

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond

that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5

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.

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.

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Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

CENTER from page 2

McElhone has been director of the CAC for five years now and works hard to ensure that children’s voices are heard in all capacities.

The CAC also provides free therapy in the form of trauma counselling through TF-CBT, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

“The therapy we are providing is aimed at the trauma experiences, and helping kids move past that trauma,” McElhone explained.

The CAC also provides prevention and training for schools and community centers. Although not related to Title IX, these trainings are beneficial in helping to see and help victims of abuse. They also provide training for online safety for kids, parents, and educators.

“It’s a real honor to be a part of the process that helps kids get the help they need,” said McElhone. “Working alongside the kids is a great privilege, and being able to see them be brave and share what happened to them is a huge thing.”

The CAC is a nonprofit organization that relies on the grants it receives from the state and federal governments, as well as the United Way grant and donations from the community.

You can donate money or gift cards to the CAC that will allow them to help the families in a timely way without having to store items, which they are unable to do.

April, which is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month as well as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is when the CAC hosts a This Little Light of Mine luminaries event at Look Park in Northampton, as well as a flag raising in Belchertown, dates to be announced.

“We try really hard to make sure we can provide what the kids need, but most importantly, to help them know that they will get better,” said McElhone.

You can find the Child Advocacy Center’s website for more information on resources and events at www.cachampshire.org. You can contact them through email at info@cachampshire.org, or phone call at 413-570-5989.



Chicopee Police Dept. receives donation of flag drop off box

The Chicopee Police Department would like to thank Jacob Payne, a Life Scout with Troop 303B out of South Hadley for constructing and donating a flag drop off box. Jacob decided to build the flag box as his Eagle Scout Project and he is honored that he was able to place it outside our station. Flags that are placed in the box will be collected and properly disposed of at a flag retirement ceremony.

Photos and caption courtesy of Chicopee Police Department



GARDEN from page 4

again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he’d say, “if I’m lucky I’ll get another 10 gardens.” While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it’s a good point to make.

Once I’ve got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I’ll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine’s Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have

approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny’s Selected Seed (www.johnnyseeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it’s also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medi-

um that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or

pathogens won’t infect this years’ efforts.

You really don’t need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly!

Next week we’ll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

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.

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Consider running for local office

Nomination Procedures:
Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall (116 Main St, South Hadley, MA) beginning the first week of December for the offices listed below. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Candidates must be 18 years old or older and a registered voter in South Hadley.

Town-wide candidates need to obtain 50 certified signatures.

Town meeting candidates need to obtain 10 signatures from their precinct.

Candidates are encouraged to obtain additional signatures.

All signatures must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office for certification. If the candidate does not obtain the correct amount of signatures, they cannot appear on the ballot.

Important Deadlines:
Last day to obtain nomination Papers: Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at 5 p.m.

Last day to submit nomination papers to the Clerk's office: Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, at 5 p.m.

All questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to the Town Clerk's office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or by email at elections@southhadley.ma.gov.



The group of kids listening intently to Jenny showing them the new activities they'll learn.

STEAM from page 1

"I brainstormed an initial set of ideas, and I can always consult the state listserv for youth librarians ("massyac") for more ideas," said Arch. "I'm planning to have at least two activities prepared for each week, so kids who show up will be able to make a choice based on their interests and abilities."

The program is open to children in kindergarten through fifth grade, a large range, but the program will feature all sorts of activities, projects, and puzzles that can be done independently or in a small group.

"Because we'll be doing something different each week, it depends on the kid; I hope there will be something engaging for everyone who attends," said Arch. "And it gives kids a chance to work together and help each other."

The afternoon will be filled with fun for any kid looking for a challenge and some fun, and Arch will also have on display a selection of books to check out from the library that will help to support hands-on-learning about the activities and topics within STEAM.

"STEAM time is a chance to try lots of new things. Robot Turtles and (de)coding with Caesar



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Playing some games to stretch their minds and enjoying a warm spot on a cold day.

iphers went well, and I'm looking forward to some building challenges with blocks and other materials, creating penny boats, learning Snap Circuits, painting with primary colors, and more," said Arch.

If your kids want to have a chance to explore, get ready for fun adventures to be had at the library every Tuesday afternoon after school, where friends can be made, and new things can be learned.

South Hadley warming shelters

SOUTH HADLEY— The following are the locations for the South Hadley warming shelters.

- **South Hadley Fire District #1**
144 Newton St., South Hadley
- **South Hadley Fire District #2**
20 Woodbridge St., South Hadley
- **South Hadley Public Library**
2 Canal St., South Hadley
Monday through Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **South Hadley Senior Center**
Monday, Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Tigers pick up big road win at Chicopee Comp



Ava Asselin stops and gets ready to shoot.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—If the South Hadley Lady Tigers continue to play the same way they did against Chicopee Comp, they'll be a very difficult basketball team to beat once again this season.

The Lady Tigers, who put together an impressive 18-1 run between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter, began the new year with a 59-41 non-league victory over the Lady Colts before a large crowd inside Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"This is a very big win because Comp is a higher division team and they have a winning record, which should help us in the power rankings," said longtime South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. "We were ready to play in tonight's game. Our depth also wore them down a little bit. We always enjoy playing on a bigger size court like this one."

A year ago, South Hadley beat Pittsfield in the Western Mass. Class B. championship game before losing to top-seeded Cathedral High School of Boston in the Division 4 state finals at UMass-Lowell.

The Lady Tigers, who only lost one player to graduation, finished with a 22-4 overall record.

After losing at home to Northampton by 13 points in the second game of this season, the Lady Tigers (4-1) won their third game in a row against the Lady Colts (4-2), who's a Division 2 team.

Comp entered the home game riding a four-game winning streak since beginning the regular season with a 50-46 loss at Longmeadow.

"South Hadley is a very good basketball team, and we tried our best against them," said first-year Chicopee Comp head coach Alyssa Stefanelli. "We'll put this loss behind us and get ready for our next game now."

Comp and South Hadley battled each other at South Hadley High School a year ago. The Lady Colts squeaked out a 59-55 win in that contest.

"Last year was the first time that Chicopee Comp had beaten us in several years," Dubuc said. "We came here looking for a little bit of revenge. We played very well in tonight's game."

Seven of the 15 players listed on the South Hadley varsity basketball roster scored at least two points in the road



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cara Dean heads for the hoop.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8

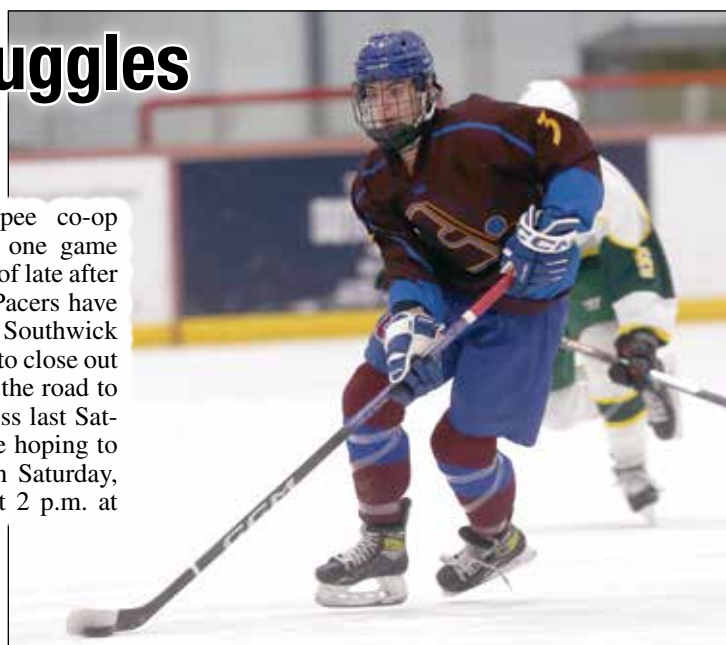


Tyler Denison goes for the offensive zone.

Offense struggles in losses

HOLYOKE – The Chicopee co-op hockey team, which won just one game last season, has been struggling of late after starting the season 1-0-1. The Pacers have lost their last three, falling to Southwick 5-3, then losing 4-1 to Agawam to close out 2024. The Pacers then went on the road to Oakmont, and suffered a 4-0 loss last Saturday afternoon. The Pacers are hoping to get back in the win column on Saturday, Jan. 11 against Easthampton at 2 p.m. at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.

Mason Peters gets ready to shoot.



Chris Walczak rushes for the goal.



Nate Robitaille passes out of the side of the ice.



Jake Fournier heads up the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Sports



Kaitlyn Curran makes her way down the court.

Rams even record

GRANBY – Prior to the New Year, Granby girls basketball traveled to Ware and despite a slow start, were able to leave with a 42-26 win over the Indians. Brenna Moreno led all scorers with 17 points. Autumn Sicard had 10 points for the Rams. Ware was led by Reese McKeever with 12 points. Both teams start 2025 with even 3-3 records.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brenna Moreno jumps to make a catch on a pass.



Kalli White tries to shoot in traffic.



Autumn Sicard goes for a layup.

TIGERS from page 7

victory. The three double digit scorers were sophomore Kate Phillips (13 points), senior Ava Asselin (12 points), and senior Caitlin Dean (11 points).

The other four scorers for the visiting team were sophomore Cara Dean (7 points), freshman Olivia Athas (6 points), senior CC Gurek (6 points), and sophomore Taylor Bullough (4 points).

The Lady Tigers head coach gave a lot of credit to Gurek, who's a starting point guard.

"Our offense starts with CC," Dubuc said. "She does a very good job of controlling everything for us."

The Lady Colts were led offensively by senior Taryn Cariveau with a game-high 22 points.

"Taryn is always a reliable scorer for us," Stefanelli said. "She handles the pressure very well."

Cariveau scored 23 points in last year's meeting against South Hadley. Comp's leading scorer in that game was senior Eliza Burger with 24 points. She finished with nine points in last Friday's home game. No other Lady Colts player scored more than four points.

In the middle of the first quarter, Cariveau hit a jumper in the lane giving her team an 8-5 advantage.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Olivia Athas takes a free throw.

Then Asselin buried a 3-pointer from the right side tying the score before a Phillips inside hoop gave the Lady Tigers the lead for the first time at 10-8



Kate Phillips shoots ahead of the defense.

with two minutes remaining in the first quarter.

South Hadley entered the second quarter holding a 12-9 lead.



Caitlin Dean makes her way down the court.

A little more than three minutes later, the Lady Tigers had a 21-9 lead following 3-pointers by Caitlin Dean, Phillips, and Cara Dean, who also hit a jump-

er from the top of the key capping off the 18-1 run.

"Our big run in the first half was huge," Dubuc said. "We hit a bunch of 3-pointers and played very well defensively during that stretch."

Overall, the Lady Tigers made a total of ten shots from beyond the 3-point arc in the game.

The Lady Colts responded with a 6-1 spurt. They closed the gap to 24-15 with 1:35 remaining in the first half following a Burger field goal.

The Lady Tigers, who held a 29-15 halftime lead, largest lead of the third quarter was 39-20 with 4:10 left after Asselin made back-to-back inside hoops.

Following a Burger lay-up, Cariveau scored the Lady Colts next nine points which sliced the deficit to 41-31 late in the third quarter. The home team couldn't get any closer than that in the fourth quarter.

"We were able to cut our deficit to ten points," Stefanelli said. "Then they hit another 3-pointer and managed to keep the double digit lead."

With 4:25 left in regulation, Caitlin Dean knocked down a 3-pointer from the left corner pushing the lead to 55-35.

While Chicopee Comp lost their first home game of the regular season, it was a nice way for South Hadley to start 2025.

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Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night.

They went fourth and multiplied.

In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defen-

sively) in the second period," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable.

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line. Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not playing them at all in the third and late in the

second.

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight."

Matt Miller scored the Reading goal at 13:26 of the second period. It came on the power play, less than two minutes after a huge momentum swing. Griffin Loughran had a breakaway for Worcester that Keith Petruzzelli stopped at 12:52, then Loughran was penalized for slashing.

The Railers had a 26-6 edge in shots on goal going into the penalty and were outshot by 26-5 the rest of the way.

Worcester's last goal was an empty netter by Anthony Callin, a flip from deep in the defensive zone at 18:12 — cue the overture.

Potential All-Star Connor Welsh had two assists to extend his points streak to six games. He is 1-8-9 during the streak. Callin is 8-4-12 in his last 12 games.

The victory allowed Worcester to retain sole possession of fourth place in the North Division. If Reading had won, the teams would be tied with 28 points, so the win was a four-point swing.

Thunderbirds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrist-shot through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggett threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertsson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggy-backed that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.

HoopHall 2025 candidates announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2025, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdsclaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

"The nominees on the official ballot for the Class of 2025 represent a broad cross-section of our game," said John L. Doleva, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame President and CEO. "From Olympic Gold Medals to NBA and WNBA titles to collegiate championships, these nominees epitomize the career of a Hall of Famer."

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Brian Windhorst, Chiney Ogwumike, and Tim MacMahon. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for the Class of

2025 will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, in San Francisco as part of NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2025 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast at the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio on Saturday, April 5.

The announcement time and broadcast network for both the Finalist and the Class Announcement will be announced in the near future.

The Hall also unveiled an update to its eligibility requirements, reducing the waiting period for Player candidates from three full seasons out of the game to two seasons. The change was unanimously approved by the Hall of Fame's Board of Governors.

"Previously, our Guidelines for Nomination and Election required an individual to be retired from the game for three full seasons, which effectively equated to a four-year wait due to our internal process," said Jerry Colangelo, Chairman of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "To better recognize the distin-

guished careers of potential first-ballot nominees in a more timely manner, the Board has appropriately shortened the waiting period. We are excited about this change and believe that honoring individuals while their contributions are still fresh in people's minds is both meaningful and impactful."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoophall.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 3.

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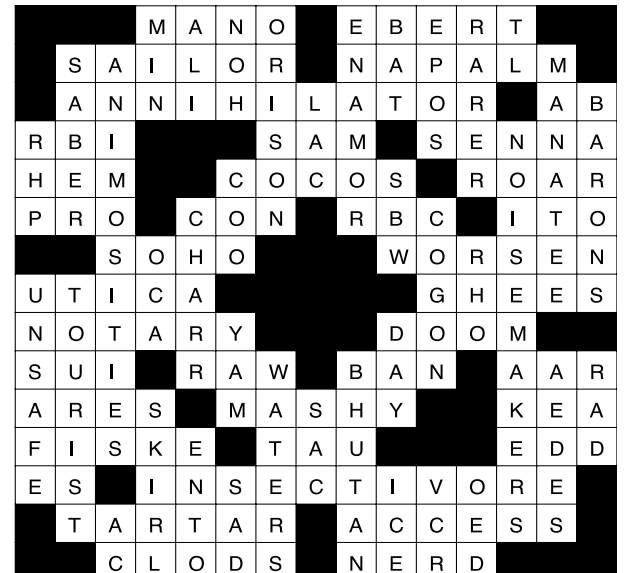
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Attendees got to make crafts during their visit



Children played and enjoyed the music.



Attendees contributed to the 2025 goals sheet that hung on the wall.

Happy Noon Year



Mia Rosiensi had fun during the Noon Year celebration.



Amelia Runyon spends time coloring.

Photos by Sofia Allegrezza

NOON YEAR from page 1

the center of the room. Games were being played with giant inflatable balls including catch, and some parachute games.

Also, on the wall there was a huge piece of paper where the event goers could write their goals, wishes, hopes, and dreams for the upcoming year.

Popular dreams for 2025 included spending more time

with family and friends, and stepping out of their comfort zone to try new things.

The most exciting part of the day of course was when all of the children along with their parents gathered to count down until noon.

Excitement filled the room, as each child and parent got ready to celebrate the new upcoming year.

CANDIDATES from page 1

serving on Belchertown Fire for twenty years, as well as working for the Department of Fire Services.

He worked at the Department of Fire Services teaching new recruits. He also shared through his experience with new and seasoned firefighters how to provide training that will benefit all of them.

“Granby reminds me of Belchertown in a way,” Haughey said. “I’ve been on since 2004... and so it just seems that Granby’s kind of a good fit if I were to move to here.”

He shared that he is “very involved”, and operates in Belchertown as a shift captain, and has experience in doing lots of administrative work, as well as running calls.

“I feel like being involved has brought my group really close together. I’m not afraid to get dirty with them, and we train a lot... I lead from the front,” Haughey said.

Working in Belchertown, he has had a unique opportunity to work closely with the town, and saw the only challenge being learning the administrative part of the chief’s job.

“I think this is a great opportunity,” said Haughey to the question from the board of if he’d be willing to apply for the full time position after the interim position.

He also shared a problem-solving situation, where he was able to talk through with someone on the crew, sharing where he was coming from as “the boss” vs on the team, and saw that it “helped our relationship a little bit”.

For new policies, he shared that he would see if they would fit the department and its needs and seek advice from people who have been in it longer.

He also shared that when dealing with financial needs, would look first into writing

grants, which area “great way to offset costs”, and shares that he is familiar with grant writing himself, as he is in charge of the SAFE program in Belchertown and writes grants for that.

“I don’t want to change Granby into Belchertown,” he clarified. “Granby has a functioning fire department right now, and they don’t need me to come in and change everything if things are working.”

He shared he would take a leave of absence from the Fire Academy to devote that time to serving as interim fire chief, and shared he’d be willing to work out the schedules between working his shifts at the Belchertown department.

Nathaniel Masse

The Selectboard welcomed the next interviewee, Nathaniel Masse, who has served on the Granby Fire Department for eleven years and has been lieutenant for three. He has also worked as a police officer for five years and is on his fourth year as an EMT at the department.

He also does HVAC and a family company as well, saying he has been a “Granbanian” his whole life, joking that his many jobs “keeps me out of trouble”.

“I very much think that leading by example and being honest and upfront with those under you is extremely important,” Masse said.

“I don’t believe its right to expect something of your subordinates that you yourself wouldn’t be willing to do, and teaching by example is extremely important, and it shows them that they’re being led by someone who themselves is competent and is willing to get down and dirty with them.”

He shared, from his perspective working the calls, he shared that the most challenging part would be that he recognizes his youth, and short time within the department, would be a challenge as he navigates learning

new things about the administrative work of the department.

He shared that in his time as a police officer he had experience in writing grants, and has had supervisory experience on-scene, being in charge of the scene and giving commands to crew members.

“I would have to sit down with the deputy and assistant... to get to know administratively how it works,” said Masse on his first two weeks as interim chief, knowing he has experience on the field.

He shared that he viewed one of the most challenging parts would be getting the department ready and completely running for a full-time chief to come in and stay at until they are ready to retire.

Masse also shared that he would be willing to put in the work for a full-time position as chief, and because he works part-time in all of these jobs he has, he can make anything work by moving hours around to suit the needs of interim chief.

Russ Anderson

The next interviewee was a former fire chief of Granby from 2006 to 20216, who left to go back to his first community, to take on the opportunity to take on the ambulance service until retiring from that two years ago.

Now, he has been working for grant writers and is in charge of the Mass Fire Chiefs in Worcester every year and is keeping bust with Western Mass Chiefs training.

He shared that his hours are open, and shared he realizes his position means he will be bringing something different but brings 17 years as working as a chief to the table.

“Granby is still in my heart, I still have them on the scanner, I listen to how they operate,” said Anderson. “I would have all the confidence in the world of them handling any fire that comes to them or emergency. Red Fire

Farm is a good example.”

He shared his experiences in making budgets, and how to separate them, and keep them competitive and current with other towns.

Anderson wrote about \$350,000 for Granby in grants while in service of the town of Granby and shared the process of how much work goes into getting the grants during the time it opens up.

“I would get a handle on what’s hanging out there,” Anderson said, describing what he’d do in the first two weeks. He shared he’d want to spend time getting caught up on the department and how its running, as well as auditing the budget and getting the hang of the schedules.

“We’ve done a lot here, and we’ve had some challenging times,” Anderson added. He also shared that even if not chosen, he’d be willing to help the committee set up assessment center.

Brian Kraus

The next interviewee, Brian Kraus, moved to Granby in 2015, and moved with his wife and three children when East Meadow first opened to take advantage of the new school.

He also shared that he is currently on the fire department in Holyoke, and shared how happy he is in Granby now, sharing how he has seen how Granby operates and has wanted to join and be involved in the fire department.

He started in Holyoke in 2007, and has been a lieutenant since 2017, and has found that all of the hard work he has put in in Holyoke has helped to make him a better Lieutenant and better leader.

“I would be excited to start to work again in the town that I live in,” Kraus said. “I could bring my excitement, my love for firefighting, my love for teaching, learning, team-building to Granby.”

“Every department has challenges, and you’ve gotta look at the big picture and make decisions for the citizens of Granby, to make the best choices for them.”

He shared also that he is a part of the critical incident stress management team, and it was created to be up and running at the Fire Academy in March.

“The challenges will be me being an outsider, and coming in and being accepted,” Kraus said. He also shared the idea of getting to know each person and coming in to see who has something to offer when you don’t have all the answers.

He also shared that he was Sparky the Dog at the Holyoke station and has experience in writing grants for the SAFE program that provide coloring books for kids and more.

Before working for the fire department, he was a legislative aid for the state representative out of Holyoke and spent time finding grants and budgeting.

He shared the value of understanding the firefighters and learning where they’re coming from, especially from his time teaching in the academy.

He also shared his values for team-building, and how they do crew meals “for that comradery just for that informal chat, and it’s a healthy way to check in on somebody and make sure you’re staying in tune with everybody,” said Kraus.

He also shared that he applied for both the interim and full time chief positions, hoping to be given the chance to do a good job by the town of Granby, and shared a similar schedule to the first candidate, Haughey.

He also said he’d look over previous budgets to see what is and isn’t working, and to see where and what is costing the department the most in order to request or adjust funding where needed.



Serenity Yoga and Wellness, ready to use this grant to enhance their peaceful atmosphere.



EC Bean Photography, a local small business, ready to take her artistry beyond the beauty she currently offers.



Berkshire Hills Music Academy looking to enhance their resources and provide more ways to make music.



Green Collar Energies in South Hadley, looking to expand and further their energy-efficient missions.

CHAMBER from page 1

copy, social media, IT infrastructure enhancements, professional and staff development, resource skill development, business coaching, and strategic planning.

The number of grants ultimately awarded were dependent on the number of projects submitted, and the award amounts, and with twenty-two applicants, there was the perfect amount.

"It's an amazing opportunity to be able to see the growth in our local community, and to show our gratitude for what they do," said Zebrowski.

"Congratulations, much continued success, and growth to all of the businesses and nonprofits," said Zebrowski. "These grants are another example of the Chamber's continued commitment to the community and the businesses which serve it."

The grant award recipients include MassGraphX, Tree of Life Early Learning Center, The Earlee Mug, MetaComet Systems, Deere Creek Farm, Dave's Natural Garden, and Andrea M. Coleman, LICSW.

White Hollow Home, Harris Mountain Sugar Shack, Green Collar, Meticulous Matters, EC Bean Photography, American Specialty Designs, Granby Community Access & Media Inv., and CRAFT Salon.

More include Olde Hadleigh Hearth and Patio, Berkshire Hills Music Academy, Private Financial Design, Serenity Yoga and Wellness, Baltazar Dental, Thai Place South Hadley, Thirsty Mind Coffee Bar, and South Hadley's Tower Theaters.

"The Chamber is so glad to be a part of this, and being able to support the businesses in our local area means a lot. We are dedicated to supporting our businesses and nonprofits," said Zebrowski.

The Chamber is a truly dedicated part of our town and works hard to ensure that the businesses and nonprofit organizations of our town are recognized for their hard work.

The Chamber will also be holding its annual meeting with a dinner on January 16. Registration is required, and you can purchase tickets on the website, and look forward to South Hadley Town Administrator Lisa Wong as keynote speaker and learn more about what the Chamber has in store.



Olde Hadleigh Hearth & Patio of South Hadley looking to use the grant to bring more stoves, fireplaces, and more to the town.



Granby's Community Access & Media, a nonprofit organization televising meetings, games, and more.



American Specialty Designs in Granby receiving a grant to go towards their future missions.



Baltazar Dental of South Hadley, ready to use the Grant for their newly remodeled office.



Meticulous Matters, Inc., ready to enhance their services in bookkeeping and accounting.



CRAFT Salon in South Hadley, a luxury hair salon looking to level up their experiences and offerings.



Thirsty Mind Coffee Bar, one of South Hadley's favorites, ready to find new ways to enhance their delicious coffee.



South Hadley's Tower Theaters, a local theater looking to enhance the moviegoing experience.



Private Financial Design receiving their grant to elevate their services in helping people achieve their financial goals.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"My experience with Maureen was nothing short of amazing. Her communication throughout the whole process was perfect. I could always count on her if I needed a question answered, a quick response, or if I needed to vent. I was a client that was hoping to sell my condo and purchase a house. I have 2 young daughters so the process had to be done just right in order for it to be successful. It wasn't an easy process, but as my realtor she made sure I sold my condo, she made sure I got my house, and on top of it all, she made it a priority to actually care about how I felt during the whole process. She was not only my realtor but she became my friend! She is such an empathetic, caring, thoughtful, involved individual. She really showed me how much of a passion this is for her. I am now in my beautiful home. My daughters get to run around, scream, and play all they want; and my fiancé is so happy. I do not know how I would've gotten through the process without Maureen. It is not often where you get to experience someone who is extremely passionate about what they do. If anyone needs a realtor I HIGHLY will recommend Maureen. Thank you so much for our home."

- Kayleen W.



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