

TOWN Reminder

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Towns band together to support their food pantries

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – Having access to food has become increasingly challenging for many families in our communities as food insecurity climbs higher.

Food pantries are constantly in demand, with more people needing to access them. Last year, the four towns of South Hadley, Granby, Belchertown, and Ludlow banded together through their Democratic Town Committees to host food drives that helped to fill local pantries.

This weekend, on February 7, the towns of South Hadley and Granby will be hosting food drives to stock up the Granby to Go and the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantries.

“The Granby Democratic Town Committee represents the Democratic party in Granby, but another major aspect of our mission is being an active, engaged, positive presence in the community,” said Town Committee Chair

Tobias Wilson. “Granby To Go is a critical support for our students and their families, and we’re honored to host this food drive to contribute to that effort.”

“Our committee believes it’s important to do what we can to help our neighbors, and organizing Food Drives

Please see **PANTRIES**, page 10



Fresh produce, veggie trays, and fresh herbs are a luxury, and a food everyone should be able to have access to and enjoy.



The food mobiles at the Granby UCC with Granby to Go and Neighbors Helping Neighbors united are a great success.

Submitted photo

Sen. Jake Oliveira given Legislator of the Year Award

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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REGION – The Massachusetts Municipal Association hosted its annual conference, this year called Connect 351, in Boston, in order to award two State Senators and two State Representatives with the Municipal Advocate Award, recognizing them for their service to the communities they represent and serve.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association, or MMA, works to connect and support municipal leaders by creating a nonpartisan space for shared learning, ideas, and a voice to bring to Beacon Hill in order to make the 351 towns and cities of Massachusetts more connected and unified.

“The more state support that municipalities can get, the better. Making sure that we have reliable state support for our 351 towns and cities is a lot more equitable. I believe that we are in a Commonwealth, and we should work together to benefit our towns,” said Senator Jake Oliveira.

Oliveira worked hard to file legislation for towns to have the option to make hybrid meetings permanent, offering a way for meetings to become more accessible



Recipients of awards at Connect 351: Representative Jim Arciero, Representative Danielle Gregoire, Senator Brendan Crighton, and Senator Jake Oliveira.

Submitted photo

to the public, amongst many other benefits.

“It’s worked so well, even at the state house, and it makes it easier for people to participate in their govern-

ment. It definitely improves services, and it was a great help in the long run to allow for more flexibility and an easier time to share information,” said Oliveira.

Oliveira partnered with the MMA to obtain funding for essential services at the local level, including Chap-

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Wildlife on Wheels program comes to South Hadley

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – Last weekend, the South Hadley Public Library hosted some special guests from the Forest Park Zoo in Springfield.

The Wildlife on Wheels program is designed to bring

animal educators with some special animal ambassadors to schools, daycares, hospitals, retirement centers, camps, birthday parties, libraries, and other locations in order to share with groups some real animals, while teaching about them.

Please see **WILDLIFE**, page 10



Giving a little corn snake a pet.

Submitted photo by Jenny Arch

Planning Department looks into adding EV charging stations

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - At a webinar on Jan. 27, Director of Planning and Conservation Anne Capra, as well as representatives from Leidos, walked South Hadley residents through the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging stations in town.

The charging stations

would potentially be installed at five locations along Main St. in the Falls section. They would take up about two square feet on the sidewalk, and the town could decide to install none or all of them. That decision will be made in the future.

Caitlin McCormick, of the innovation company Leidos, explained that this presentation was the last in a series

of work the company has done, in cooperation with the town, to study whether or not charging stations are feasible.

In June, the company surveyed South Hadley residents about their thoughts and concerns about the stations. The 63 responses were generally negative and expressed concerns about using tax dollars to fund these stations when the schools’ budget is in

trouble and that they’d rather see their tax dollars go to improving that and the trash collection situation in town. They also noted that there is limited parking in these areas, and it would be challenging to have people parked in spots for extended periods of time. Responders also noted that they didn’t want to pay for the electricity for people who were charging their cars.

McCormick noted these responses show a need for some community education in terms of what the charging stations would entail, specifically that the drivers would be paying for any electricity they use. She also noted that what spaces are used could be adjusted based on usage data. McCormick also encouraged the town to use grants or other funding sources before using

money from the town budget. Sue Pace, also of Leidos, explained that the company seeks out spots that are densely populated, have the necessary electrical infrastructure and cellular connectivity, and would provide electric vehicle charging for those who may not have the ability to do so on their own property, such

Please see **STATIONS**, page 9



Submitted photo

Members of the South Hadley Public Library's Between the Covers book group recently marked their second year of good company and lively discussions.

Romance book group celebrates 2nd anniversary

SOUTH HADLEY – Two years ago, Library Assistant Becky Lockwood recognized that romance readers coming to the South Hadley Public Library really enjoyed finding like-minded readers to share their recent and favorite books with. Those discussions

at the circulation desk led to the formation of the Between the Covers book group which recently marked its second anniversary.

According to Lockwood, "Romance novels provide hope, strength and happy endings. The stories in the books

relay that no matter how difficult things are, in the end, everything will turn out right." The group is open to all and free to attend, whether a regular romance reader or someone new to the genre. Books are selected to represent the many types of romance fiction: his-

torical, fantasy, contemporary, and more. The monthly get-together on the second Tuesday afternoon promises a low-pressure atmosphere of good conversation and fun. Books for each meeting can be found and checked out in the library's circulation area.

Warm up with a good book at the library

SOUTH HADLEY – Early February is the winter's coldest time in New England, but the library remains a warm and welcoming place for all. Library programs are always free, planned for all age groups, with many being intergenerational. The library is one of the town's warming centers and people are welcome to stay the entire day with no questions asked. Our selection of materials is curated to meet the needs of South Hadley residents. We're here for you.

Adult Programs at SHPL
February is shaping up to be a busy (and full!) month at the library. Our **Visual Mending Class** on February 4 is full, where participants will learn the basics of visible mending and simple stitches to renew and repair textiles.

Coffee Cupping with Rob Fitzgibbons on February 7 is also full, offering a guided tasting of three coffees and an exploration of flavor notes.

Chocolate Tasting: From Bean to Bar to Palate on February 11 is likewise full, taking participants through cacao production and a global tasting experience that teaches how to truly assess chocolate with all five senses. Look for repeat offerings of these programs in spring/summer.

While these programs are at capacity, we're also putting out a **call for volunteers for our upcoming Fix It Clinic in May**. If you have a fix-it skill and can spare two hours helping repair items like jewelry, clocks, small lamps, or

even plants, you'll be helping keep useful items out of landfills while rebuilding community. Interested volunteers can contact Desi Smelcer, Adult Services Librarian, at 413-538-5045 or dsmelcer@cwmar.org.

Looking for a book club? Our library discussion groups offer terrific reading paired with good company.

Our **Between the Covers Romance Book Club** will talk about **Legends & Lattes** by Travis Baldree on **Tuesday, February 10, at 3 p.m.**

The **Sustainable Living Book Club** will discuss **Migrations** by Charlotte McConaghy on **Wednesday, February 25, at 6 p.m.** Copies of these books, plus the next selections, along with titles from the Senior Center book groups, are available at the library.

Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)

Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic with Dr. Lindsey Stewart, *Award-Winning Author and Professor of Philosophy*, Thursday, February 12, at 2 p.m.

Smithson's Gamble: The Incredible History Behind the World's Largest Museum with Smithsonian Curator Emeritus Tom Crouch, A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration, Tuesday, February 24, at 2 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL
February is a short but

busy month in Children's, with a special vacation week program by **Playful Engineers** on **Wednesday, February 18 at 3 p.m.**, another session of **Chess with Andy** on **Wednesday, February 11 at 4 p.m.**, a Valentine craft, and a Seussical storytime with the MESMS cast! Sign up in advance for Playful Engineers and chess; space is limited.

However, all are welcome for a vacation week **Book Bingo** on **Tuesday, February 17, at 2 p.m.**, and an **all-day hangout** with board games, Lego, and crafts on **Thursday, February 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

We're pleased to welcome National Honor Society volunteer student tutors for **Homework Help** on **February 12 and 26, and March 5 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

Kanae Nagasaki returns for **Japanese Storytime** on **Saturday, February 7, at 10:30 a.m.**

All our usual programs continue this month: **Pajama Storytime**, **Rhyme Time**, **Lego and Games**, **Pride Club** (February 10 and 24), **Read to a Dog** (February 10), **Story Time**, **Playgroup**, and **Graphic Novel Book Club** (February 12).

Baby Lapsit Storytime meets just once this month on Friday, February 6, but those with infants and toddlers should join **babywearing expert Jenn Hydefrost** on **Friday, February 13, at 10 a.m.** (in place of our regu-

lar **Baby Lapsit Storytime**) to learn about all different kinds of wraps and carriers!

Last but not least, we're collecting pajamas for the **Cradles to Crayons/Boston Bruins Pajama Drive**. Donations are appreciated, starting February 2!

Questions? Email children's librarian Jenny (jarch@cwmar.org).

Teen Programs at SHPL
This month for Teens (ages 11 through 19) we have a lot of great offerings!

This month's **Crafternoon** takes place on **Thursday, February 12, from 4 to 5 p.m.** We will be making Paper Bag Stars. No sign up is needed. **Night Craft** will be happening on **Tuesday, February 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** We will be doing Squeegie Painting. None of these programs requires signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be on **Tuesday, February 10, 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, February 26, from 4 to 5 p.m.** Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly **Teen Takeaways** continue to be available. This month features Paper Hearts. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 5

School community seeks to pause closing of Blessed Sacrament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – In response to announcement made by Rev. Fr. Duy Le that Blessed Sacrament School was closing, calls are being made to pause the closing.

The Blessed Sacrament Parent Teacher Guild, along with families, parishioners of the church, and other supporters are asking leadership of the Diocese of Springfield to pause the closure process and engage in more dialogue and allow the existing development plan to continue so that Blessed Sacrament School can have the opportunity to demonstrate sustainability and remain open for the families it currently serves.

In a press statement submitted, it stated that while the continuing hardships of the church were well known to the families of students attending the school, there was a development plan formalized and underway. Families are asking leadership to allow that plan to come to fruition to see if the school can stay home.

The plan was developed by former Principal Susan Heaven, but she died in September, leaving the school under the leadership of an interim principal.

Families are also claiming Le held a schoolwide meeting in September 2025 and parents were told the school would be open for the 2026-2027 as part of the plan, which included a two-year window to demonstrate improvement.

The guild also stated numerous fundraisers were scheduled this spring along with raffles. A golf tournament was also scheduled for

later this year, and more than \$100,000 had been raised for the school since September.

Two weeks ago, Le announced that the school would close in June, at the conclusion of this school year.

According a letter sent from Le to families, the school has seen a sharp decline in enrollment since 2010. The school had an enrollment of 304 students in 2010. That number is not about a third of that in 2025 at 112.

"Over the past 15 years, enrollment has steadily declined, from more than 300 students to 112 students today," Le said. "Following the sale of our former school building several years ago, the school's maximum operating capacity is now 275 students. Even at this reduced capacity, we are operating at less than half of what is required to remain sustainable."

He explained the school operates at a deficit of more than \$275,000 each year.

"Despite years of parish subsidies, fundraising efforts, and cost controls, the gap has continued to grow," Le said. "To sustain the school with our current enrollment, tuition would have need to rise to well over \$9,000 per student. I do not believe this is reasonable for families, nor would it realistically address the enrollment challenge."

Le said multiple options were considered in an effort to keep the school open, including grade reconfiguration, staffing structures, and financial assumptions. No matter which scenario explored, there were significant financial challenges and would cost families more to send their students to the school.



Submitted photo

Blessed Sacrament School will close at the conclusion of the school year. The closure is due to steep declines in enrollment.

Making South Hadley greener with trees

SOUTH HADLEY – Make South Hadley even greener, and watch your child grow alongside a tree! Get a free tree for #EarthDay2026, thanks to the South Hadley Public Library's partnership with Neighborhood Forest. Sign up before March 15 at www.neighborhoodforest.org.

Trees will arrive ahead of Earth Day, April 22, and you will be contacted regarding pickup details.

SUPER GAME SAVINGS!

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

Saturday Night 5-7 pm
Spaghetti Dinner

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

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Submitted photo

State Representative Homar Gomez and Senator Jake Oliveira.

KYT hosts annual Evening With Our Legislators

SOUTH HADLEY – Know Your Town of South Hadley held its annual Evening With Our Legislators, State Senator Jacob Oliveira and State Representative Homar Gomez, on January 30th, at the home of Know Your Town members Michael and Joan Rosner.

audience. The spacious living room of the Rosner’s was filled with KYT members and friends and also with community residents, all who braved the frigid temperatures and deep snow to attend the program.

Senator Oliveira and Representative Gomez each gave presentations and then engaged in discussion, questions, and answers from the

A social hour followed the more formal part of the event. The Rosner’s dining room table was replete with plates of delicious snacks brought by attendees.

February kids programs at the Granby library

GRANBY – Come to the Granby Library this month for some fun and new activities and events to try out for kids.

Nature Time with Ranger Tasha
Date: Tuesday, February 10
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Details: Park Ranger Tasha Daniels will be at the library to teach us about winter birds. Enjoy a story, learn hands-on and make a craft about the world around us!

Wildlife on Wheels Live Animals from the Zoo at Forest Park
Date: Thursday, February 19, sign-up required
Time: 2 p.m.

Details: Come meet live Animal Ambassadors during Wildlife on Wheels, an educational program presented by the Forest Park Zoo and Education Center.
Dungeons & Dragons - a one-shot campaign for 8-12 year olds

Date: Saturday, February 28, sign-up required (space is extremely limited)

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Details: Professional Dungeon Master Aaron Damon-Rush will be here to lead kids through an adventure that will foster creativity, enhance social-emotional skills, and encourage teamwork in a safe, imaginative environment.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Quill will be here on Friday afternoons from 3:30-4:30.

Sign-ups preferred but Quill will say hi to anyone at the library that wants to!

Story Time: Join Andi the librarian for silly fun at story time on Thursdays at 11a.m.!

CFCE Play Group: Join Marti for a fun time of playing, crafting, and more! Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 a.m. to noon.

**** No Play Group 2/18, 2/20**

SHCOA receives generous donation from Chamber



This donation will be used to sponsor our Volunteer Appreciation Event for our amazing volunteers, which will take place in April.

Granby Lions Club ‘Groundhog Fuel Assistance Fund’ 2026

Through March 16

GRANBY – Once again this winter heating season, the Granby Lions Club has established an Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund for Granby residents. This fund, titled the “Groundhog Fund”, will enable residents of Granby to obtain needed assistance for fuel to help them through the next six weeks of winter.

The Lions Club Groundhog Fund will begin helping residents on February 2 and will continue until March 16.

Residents who would like to apply for needed assistance are asked to complete an application, and these applications are available in the Senior Center/Council of Aging Office at 10 West State St. in Granby from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The Granby Lions Club appreciates the continuing support that the community of Granby gives to our projects and activities.

Important dates and announcements for the town

SOUTH HADLEY – Keep note of some important dates coming up for the town and budgets, budget votes, and town meetings and elections.

• February 10, 6 p.m.- Selectboard vote on Special Town Meeting

• February 25, 6 p.m.- Tentative Special Town Meeting

• March 3, Selectboard Meeting- Budget Public Hearing

• March 11, School Committee Meeting- Budget Public Hearing

• March 17, Selectboard Meeting- Budget Vote

• March 25, School Committee Meeting- Budget Vote

• March 28, Annual Town Election and tentative Override Vote

You can find a tax impact calculator online now at <https://southhadley.org/1504/Budget-Task-Force>.

Read the Town Reminder online at www.townreminder.turley.com

South Hadley student named to Dean’s List

REGION – Miller Manly of South Hadley was named to the Champlain College Dean’s List for the Fall 2025 semester. Students on the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Manly is currently majoring in Computer Networking and Cybersecurity. Making the Dean’s List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Am I entitled to more Social Security as a Veteran?

Dear Rusty:

I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment?

Thank you. Signed: Vietnam Era Army Vet

Dear Army Vet:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service," which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who served in the military during specific periods of time, but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may or may not result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:

Serving between 1964 and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military pay record. FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years. However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social

Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service. FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772-1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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

Onion culture, continued

This morning, after reading last week's column, my mom commented, "Boy, I didn't realize onions are so challenging to grow."

Oh no, I truly hope that the column did not convey that message. I've been growing onions for years, and find them no more challenging than any other vegetable that you start indoors.

I hope I didn't discourage anyone. In fact, I hope just the opposite happened, whereby everyone purchased some seed to give growing onions a whirl.

Read on to learn more from where we left off last week.

Growing on

How does one achieve lots of top growth so that by seasons' end a big bulb will result? Provide sufficient moisture and nitrogen, and lots of it, but only early in the gardening season.

Amend a 100 square foot area with a bushel of aged manure or finished compost prior to planting, then top dress when plants are six-eight inches high and again for the last time three weeks later. Fish emulsion is a great foliar fertilizer for this purpose.

Because onions have limited top growth and are relatively shallow rooted, it makes it hard for them to compete with more aggressive plants for moisture and nutrients. For that reason, be sure to address enemy #1: weeds!

I have found that a hand held circle hoe is great for getting into the narrow space between plants as well as within the rows. Perform this task once or twice a week and you will be weed-free all summer.

You can also apply grass clippings or chopped up leaves as mulch. It will reduce weeds and conserve moisture, and, as it breaks down add valuable organic matter to the soil.

As the summer solstice draws near, the need for nitrogen drops as the bulb switches from top growth to bulbing up. From this point on, no additional fertilizer is necessary and watering can be cut back

some.

Harvesting

In early fall your onion tops will begin to yellow and bend at the necks. As mentioned earlier, reduced daylight has signaled the plant to go into dormancy.



When half have bent, bend the rest and allow them to remain in the garden just a few more days. If no rain is in the forecast, pull them up and lay them on edge in place, turning on occasion. This will begin the curing process.

Should rain threaten, they can easily be protected with a tarp or moved under cover.

After three days to a week of sunshine it is time to move them to an airy, dry location such as a shed to cure for an additional two-three weeks. Should this time frame include lots of rain or humidity, sometimes a household fan can help the drying process along.

Dry onions will definitely be the best for long term storage.

Storage

You have a good idea that your onions are ready for storage when the necks have withered away and the outer skin is dry and starts to slip. Nineteenth century gardeners would have braided and hung them in the root cellar, where cool and dry conditions would, fingers crossed, keep them fit for use as needed into the spring months.

Onion braids have modern day appeal- they look pretty and it is easy to simply tug the perfect size onion from the braid as you need it. The key to success is to attach twine or string to at least one of the braiding strands - this will give your braid strength, not to mention a way of hanging it up.

We can also store onions in mesh bags or old hosiery in a household location that remains close to freezing and relatively dry. My unheated

muldroom works great.

Here simply cut the tops to one inch prior to bagging up. When you are going through them to cut, or braid, be sure to separate out those with double bulbs, as well as those whose necks remain thick; neither will be good keepers and should be used first.

This is also a great time to think about good traits and the prospect of saving some of your best onions for seed production.

Save the seeds

Saving the seeds of your open-pollinated, non-hybrid onions is the next frontier for allium aficionados. In the north, we employ what is called the "bulb to seed" method.

Our bulbs are harvested normally and stored over the winter, and when the ground is ready for planting, three or four of your best onions are replanted three inches apart. Soon a flower stalk will form. It can get quite tall (three-five feet!) so place a stake for support early on and tie it off as you need to.

After the flower head has formed be on watch for the black seeds to ripen and loosen up- you want to catch them before they shatter. This can be accomplished by clipping a few sections of the head at a time.

Dry in an airy spot for a few days before storing in paper envelopes in a cool, dry location for use the following spring. Be advised that to avoid cross pollination, only one variety of onion can be in flower at a time; it is fine, however, to have first year onions in the garden.

Onion seeds are viable for one-two years.

Now that you know the ins and outs of onion culture, embrace the challenge and try growing onions from seed this year.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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.



Read the Town Reminder online at www.townreminder.turley.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A voice for those who cannot: The South Hadley budget

To the Editor,

I echo the letter written by Jim Bosman in support of older adult services via the COA.

I ask the Budget Task Force, the Select Board, and Town Administrators to recognize the growing number of older adults who are unable to share their voices and opinions in a survey or other medium, in support of vital community services.

There is no dispute that our town is aging, and that

most of us will require various community supports if we are going to remain in our homes, or relocate to senior housing within town.

The senior center not only serves those who attend in-person functions, but more importantly, performs outreach to those who become isolated and disconnected. Those who are more at risk for neglect and abuse. (Just 1 in 14 cases are reported, and many feel that this is an underestimate)

It is crucial that we advocate for the most vulnerable in town, whether it be school-age children or older adults with increasing needs.

Hundreds of older adults in South Hadley suffer from cognitive and physical illnesses. These residents often remain invisible to those of us who go about our day working, socializing, and running errands.

An 81-year-old with Parkinson's disease who is now wheelchair bound; a formerly

active 75yo who now finds herself unable to drive due to increasing cognitive deficits, and a 72yo gentleman who is experiencing severe depression after the death of his wife.

The senior center is the main access point for assisting these individuals and all adults 60 years of age and older. Centers across the state are renaming themselves "community centers" to reflect the inclusion of intergenerational activities and robust program-

ming for those of all ages.

Centers are increasing their hours to include week-ends and evenings to provide more options for those who would benefit. This is not the time to limit access to the newest building in town! Please consider those who rely on you to demonstrate empathy for those who are hidden.

Karen Buscemi, PMH-NP
South Hadley

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Granby Fire Department has two ambulances for first time

GRANBY – On January 22, 2026, the Granby Fire Department placed our new A-2 into service, meaning the department will have two ambulances housed at the station for the first time in our history.

“We would like to thank the town residents and town officials for their continued support of the department. Adding a second ambulance will greatly benefit our residents as well as our mutual aid partners,” said Fire Chief Evan Briant. “With two am-

bulances in service, we can now send one out for routine maintenance while still keeping a Granby ambulance in town, eliminating the need to borrow from neighboring communities.”

The second ambulance will be staffed when available by department members while remaining within budgetary guidelines. The Granby Fire Department is extremely excited to add this second ambulance, providing our community with another critical, lifesaving resource.



Submitted photos

Welcoming the new A-2 Ambulance (left) into service for Granby.



Venturing inside to see the new ambulance.



Stocked with a stretcher and extra sheets to transport people as safely as possible.



The stretcher with their new equipment and sparkling interiors, ready to save lives.

Two Town Food Drive Feb. 7

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – South Hadley and Granby Democratic Town Committees come together to create a special food drive in order to stock up food pantries in the area.

South Hadley is supporting Neighbors Helping Neighbors, South Hadley. Drop off at the South Hadley High School, 9 a.m. to noon. Contact: Ann Stockton email:

southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com

Granby Food Drive will focus on Granby to Go, 12:30 -3:30 at the Congregational Church 235 State Street: Tobias Wilson Email: chair@granbydemocrats.com.

These are the following items are most in demand:

- Any feminine hygiene products, Shampoo/condition comb, toothpaste, deodorant,

and Bar soap

- Cereal hot or cold, Soups, especially during the winter

- Pet food, canned and dry for cats and dogs

- Canned meats such as spam, beef stew, corned beef, and hash

- Please check expiration dates.

Food and monetary donations will be accepted.

National Cribbage Day to be celebrated Feb. 10

REGION – Cribbage is one of the oldest regularly played card games. Created by Sir John Suckling in the early 17th century, the game evolved from the old English game “nobby”. Although the exact date cribbage was invented is unknown, National Cribbage Day is celebrated yearly on Suckling’s birthday, February 10.

Millions of Americans of all ages enjoy cribbage at home with family, at bars, senior centers and social clubs. The most common version

is played with two players using a cribbage board with pegs and 121 holes. The American Cribbage Congress (ACC) is the governing body of cribbage in the United States, hosting tournaments and maintaining a national ranking system. The ACC includes more than 5,000 players of all ages and over 500 grassroots cribbage clubs. In addition the ACC has an internet cribbage program giving members an opportunity to play in online tournaments. Locally, the “Pegging

Fools” (Club #72) Cribbage Club meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information about local cribbage activities or National Cribbage Day events, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

The ACC continues to promote and grow the game of cribbage nationwide and on the internet. More information is available at www.cribbage.org.

LIBRARY from page 2

month.

We also have our latest Booktrovers pick: *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart. There are no in-person meet-ups; just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for checkout.

The Read Whatever Book Club meets Monday, February 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and talk about whatever you’re reading with other teens! Hot cocoa and popcorn provided.

Finally, for school vacation week, we have Open Gaming on Wednesday, February 18, from 3 to 5 p.m., and no sign-up is needed. Paint, Sip, Fun will be on Thursday, February 19, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Please sign up.

For any questions, please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

On Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m., you can join ecological horticulturist Erik N. Vegeto for Winter Ecology: Life Beneath the Snow. Learn about the ways that winter can be a time of quiet work in your garden and deepen your connection to the land throughout the year.

On Thursday, February 26, we’ll enjoy two astronomy programs for all ages. At 5

p.m., we’ll talk about Discovering Extrasolar Planets by Mount Holyoke’s Tom Burbine, followed by an Observatory Night hosted by our neighbors at Mount Holyoke’s Williston Observatory from 6 to 8 p.m.

For kids, we also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.). Our special guest on Friday, February 6, will be Miss Mary from Berkshire Hills Music Academy to read braille books and sing.

We have Drop-In Crafts on Thursday, February 5 and 19 from 3 to 6 p.m., and LEGO Club meets on Thursdays, February 12

and 26, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Families can also join us on Saturday, February 14, at 10:15 a.m. for a Valentine Craft, and Saturday, February 28, at 10:15 a.m. for Puzzles and Games.

Baystate Health hosts a webinar series on Heart Health in February

REGION – In honor of American Heart Month, Baystate Health will host a series of webinars on cardiovascular health. All of the events are free and open to the public. A link to the webinar will be provided upon registration.

Join us for any or all of the following:

Heart-to-Heart: How a Cardiologist and a Surgeon Unite to Save Failing Hearts

Sunday, February 1, noon to 1 p.m.

Join Dr. Nathan David Airhart MD, Cardiac Surgeon and Dr. Sophia Airhart MD, Advanced Heart Failure Cardiologist to learn how their collaborative approach delivers life-saving outcomes for high-risk heart failure patients.

Beyond the Blockage: Transforming Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) Treatment

Sunday, February 8, noon to 1 p.m.

Join Dr. Mohammed Irfan Ali, MD, Vascular Surgeon, as he discusses advances in Peripheral Artery Disease treatments that use less invasive approaches to restore blood flow and improve limb preservation.



transplant cardiologist, offering a rare perspective on modern cardiac medicine. The presentation will also explore advances in LVAD therapy, heart transplantation, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM).

To register, visit: Baystate-Health.org/HeartSeries

About Baystate Health

Baystate Health is a not-for-profit, integrated health-care system with hospitals, physician practices, health plan and more serving over 800,000 people throughout western New England. Baystate Health is the safety net provider in Western Massachusetts. With roots dating to the founding of Springfield Hospital in 1883, Baystate Health has been providing high-quality, compassionate and accessible care in the Pioneer Valley for more than 140 years and continues to be a pillar of its community – rooted here, serving here, and helping generations thrive here. With a focus on advancing health for all, Baystate is not only a keystone of the region, it is a national leader in healthcare. Learn more at BaystateHealth.org.

Why Sleep Matters: The Relationship Between Sleep Quality and Heart Health

Sunday, February 15, noon to 1 p.m.

Join Dr. Kenneth Wojnowski, DO, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine to explore the vital connection between sleep quality and heart health and gain practical strategies to strengthen your cardiovascular system through better sleep.

From Heart Transplant Recipient to Transplant Cardiologist: A Personal Journey Through Modern Cardiac Medicine

Thursday, February 26, 6 to 7 p.m.

Join Dr. Colby Salerno, DO, for a discussion about his extraordinary journey from heart transplant recipient to

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SPORTS

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South Hadley girls fall at home to Frontier

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The first four victories of the 2025-26 regular season recorded by the South Hadley girls' varsity basketball team came against non-league opponents.

The Lady Tigers, who scored 60 or more points in those four games, also surpassed the 60 point mark in last Tuesday night's non-league contest versus Frontier Regional. Unfortunately, the performance wasn't good enough this time as the Red Hawks squeaked out a 67-62 victory at South Hadley's Thomas B. Landers Court.

"We always play very hard in every game, but we just can't afford to fall behind in the first half like we did in tonight's game," said South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. "We battled back, but you can't always chase and expect good results."

Despite having a 4-8 overall record, South Hadley, who's the only Division 4 team in the Valley League, were the fourth ranked team in the MIAA Division 4 pow-

er rankings on January 27.

Frontier (12-2), who are members of the Suburban League, were the first Division 4 team that the Lady Tigers have faced this season. The Red Hawks two losses so far this winter were against Northampton, 60-36, in the season opener at home, and Pittsfield, 55-53, in overtime in another home contest that took place four days before the South Hadley game.

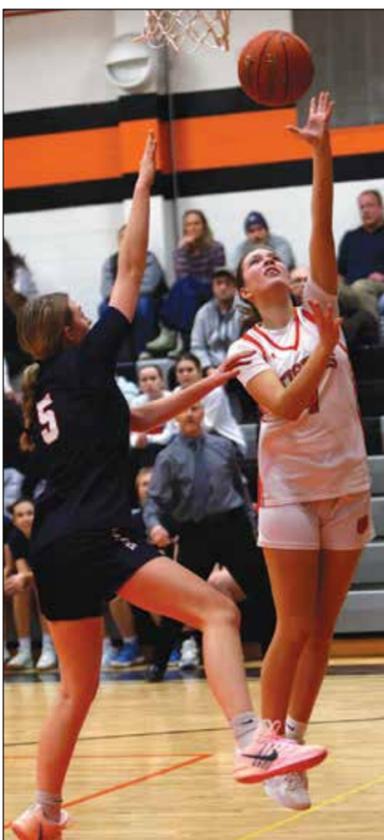
"They're a very good team. We could see them in Western Mass. tournament and the state tournament," Dubuc said. "We'll be ready if we do play them again."

It was Frontier's first win in the series in more than 15 years.

The last meeting on the hardwood between the two squads took place on February 22, 2023, at Frontier Regional. The Lady Tigers won the non-playoff game by the final score of 60-42.

South Hadley's other Division 4 game during the regular season will also be played at home against Wahconah Regional on February 9.

Please see **GIRLS**, page 7



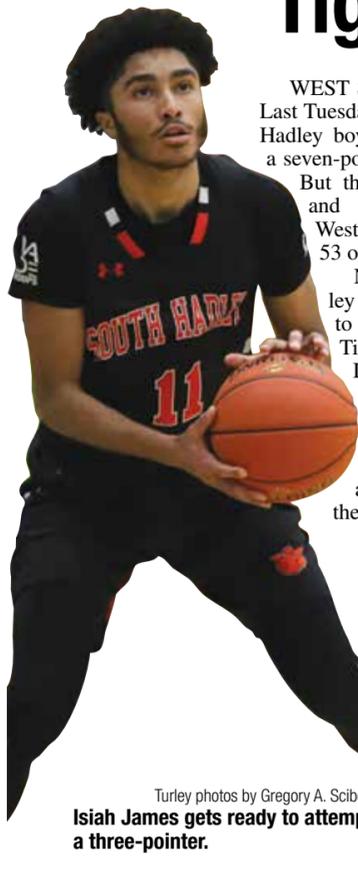
Taylor Bullough gets the easy layup.



Olivia Athas gets the short jump shot.



Kate Phillips goes for a three-pointer.



Isiah James gets ready to attempt a three-pointer.

Tigers lose lead, fall to West Side

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Last Tuesday evening, South Hadley boys basketball had a seven-point halftime lead.

But they couldn't hold and were edged by West Springfield 55-53 on the road.

Noah Hambley had 17 points to lead the Tigers. Tim Loughrey and Isiah James had 14 points each. The Tigers are now 7-8 and are looking to get above .500 before the playoffs.



Tim Loughrey overcomes a defender to get a shot off.



Noah Rivera goes for the layup.



Colin Lumb passes out of the paint.



Chase Pecia goes for a bank shot.



Noah Hambley heads down the court.

T-Birds get better of Wolf Pack

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-20-4-2) muscled their way past their I-91 rivals, the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-21-4-1), capturing a 4-1 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

For a second straight night, Steve Ott's team got off to a quick start as Marc-Andre Gaudet jumped up through the slot area, received a drop feed from Matthew Peca, and picked the glove side on Dylan Garand to give Springfield the 1-0 jump at 6:55 of the first.

After a 2-for-3 night on the power play on Friday, the T-Birds man advantage did not get off to a strong beginning on Saturday, as back-to-back penalties brought an early end to a Springfield ad-vantage and, instead, handed Hartford a 5-on-3. Brendan Brisson cashed in from there, one-timing a Justin Dowling pass through the wickets of Georgi Romanov at 13:20, equalizing the score, 1-1.

The T-Birds settled into the game as the second period began and, once again, a blueliner had the tone-setting goal for Springfield as Hunter Skinner glided down the left circle and snapped a bar-down wrister over Garand's glove at 3:38 of the second, restoring the T-Birds lead, 2-1.

Just over four minutes later, Otto Stenberg made a savvy play, sneaking behind the net to steal a drop pass from Garand and setting up Dillon Dube for a wide-open net at the edge of the crease, extending Springfield's advantage to 3-1 at 8:13 of the period.

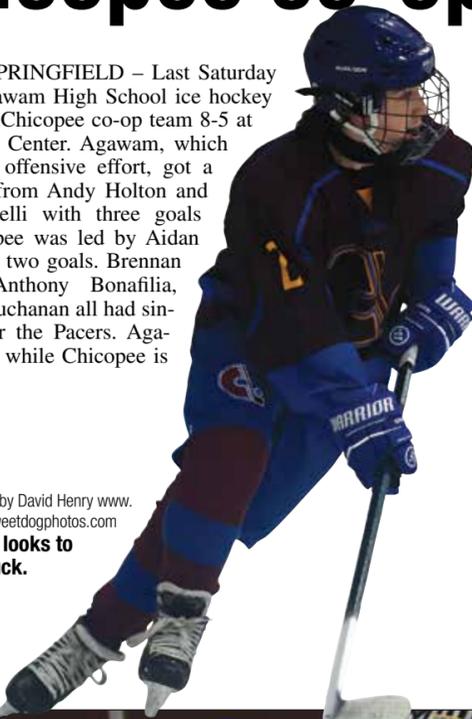
Like Friday night, the Springfield defense and goaltending locked things down in the final period, as the penalty kill successfully thwarted a pair of Hartford advantages, and Chris Wagner added his fourth goal in as many games played into an empty net with 3:00 remaining to seal the T-Birds' second straight win.

Chicopee co-op hockey loses to Agawam

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Last Saturday evening, Agawam High School ice hockey defeated the Chicopee co-op team 8-5 at Olympia Ice Center. Agawam, which had a great offensive effort, got a great game from Andy Holton and Braden Parrelli with three goals each. Chicopee was led by Aidan Nadeau with two goals. Brennan Corcoran, Anthony Bonafilia, and Owen Buchanan all had single goals for the Pacers. Agawam is 2-11 while Chicopee is 1-10-2.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Landyn Klein looks to center the puck.



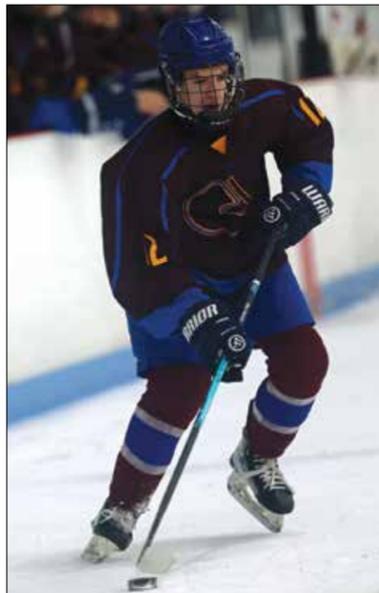
Aidan Nadeau hustles up the ice.



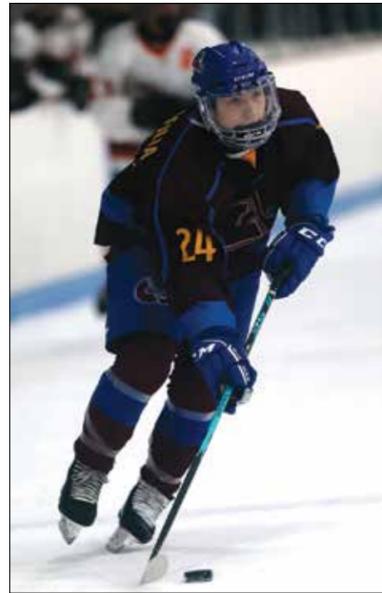
Logan DeJesus gets past center ice.



Mason Peters is pressured by an Agawam defender.



Landon Johnson makes a backhand play.



Anthony Bonafilia heads for the goal.

GIRLS from page 6

The Lady Tigers held the lead three times during last Tuesday's game versus the Red Hawks.

Junior Kate Phillips made one of two foul shots giving the home team a 1-0 advantage less than a minute into the opening quarter.

The trio of junior Cara Dean (team-leading 23 points), sophomore Olivia Athas (16 points), and Phillips (10 points) combined to score 49 of the Lady Tigers 62 points.

Frontier built a double digit lead with the help of an 11-0 run, which began with an inside hoop from junior Harper Modestow (5 points) Then junior Skyler Steele (18 points) made a pair of 3-pointers and senior Whitney Campbell also made another shot from beyond the arc.

Overall, the Red Hawks made a total of eight 3-pointers in the game.

The Lady Tigers sliced their deficit in half with an 8-3 spurt over the final four minutes of the opening quarter.

With 50 seconds left in the quarter, Athas made a steal and was fouled while making an inside basket. She made the bonus free throw making the score 14-9 entering the second quarter.

Following another inside basket from junior Taylor Bullough (5 points), Athas buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key, which tied the



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Grace Sherman goes for the mid-range jumper.

score at 14-14 with 7:10 remaining in the first half. She then converted a lay-up giving the lead back to the home team.

The visitors from Deerfield retook the lead with another 3-pointer from junior Addie Harrington, who made four 3-pointers leading to a game-high 28 points.

With 5:10 left in the first half, a Bullough lay-up gave the Lady Tigers a 18-17 lead.

Just like they did in the first quarter, Frontier pulled away by scoring twelve unanswered points. They

held a 26-18 lead following a Modestow jumper.

The Lady Tigers, who were trailing 32-27 at half-time, fell behind by 13 points (42-29) two minutes into the third quarter.

Then Dean scored eight points in a row, and an Athas put-back hoop closed the gap to 44-41 late in the third quarter.

Dean, who has scored more than 700 career points, scored 18 second half points.

The Red Hawks held a 49-45 advantage entering the final eight minutes of the con-



Cara Dean attempts a layup.

test. With 4:50 remaining in regulation, a Dean lay-up following a Phillips steal cut the Red Hawks lead to 57-54 before Harrington responded with an old fashion three point play.

South Hadley also got within three points (65-62) with 13.9 seconds left following a 3-pointer from sophomore Grace Sherman (8 points) before Harrington sealed the deal with a pair of free throws.

Come and join the Granby COA for a Magic Show

GRANBY – The Granby Council on Aging will be hosting The Magic of Rich Gilbert for a special lunch and Magic Show. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. for \$3, and the Magic Show will begin at noon on Wednesday, February 11.



Chief Gundersen's Office Hours

SOUTH HADLEY – Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen will be hosting several office hours around town between now and the end of March.

- February 16, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the South Hadley Council on Aging
- February 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the South Hadley Public Library
- March 6, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the South Hadley Council on Aging
- March 25, noon to 1:30 p.m., at Newton Manor



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Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER**. Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095**. More information at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/

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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.

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 Bylaw to consider a request to Amend Order of Conditions #288-499 filed by South Hadley Electric Light Department to install fiber-optic service drops to the residents of The Meadows. The work previously permitted under this Order was an upgrade to underground the distribution line along the private road. The proposed activities are within the 50-foot Conservation Zone and 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and inland Bank. (Map 52, Parcels 15, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, and 253).

The hearing will be held on **February 18, 2026 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 AM to 4:00 PM Mon - Fri. 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
02/06/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, and Article X of the Town of South Hadley Zoning Bylaw, the South Hadley Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. to hear the petition of Andrew Bazukin, 40 King Street, Westfield MA 01085, for a Variance from the requirements of Section 255-21 (Attachment 2) of the Town's Zoning Bylaw regarding the required setback requirements of primary structures within the Residential A-1 zoning district.

The subject property is located at 0 Granby Road, identified as Assessor's Map 16 Parcel 90, and located within the Residential A-1 zoning district. The parcel is currently undeveloped and located at the corner of Granby Road and Lakeview Avenue.

The public hearing will be held at the South Hadley Public Library, Trustees Conference Room, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA 01075.

The application is on file with the Town Clerk's Office. The application and submitted materials may also be viewed on the Town's website at the Zoning Board of Appeals page under the tab "**Granby Road (Map 16, Parcel 90)**", or at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1523/Granby-Road-Map-16-Parcel-90>. Anyone interested in, or wishing to be heard on, the application should appear at the time and place designated.

The Zoning Board of Appeals
Martha Terry, Chair
01/30, 02/06/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RE: Application for a new license: General Off-Premise Beer & Wine 459 Granby Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Section 15A of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended, Delaney's Mar-

ket, LLC has applied for a new license: **General Off-Premise Wine & Malt**, to be exercised at 459 Granby Rd., South Hadley, MA.

The Selectboard as Licensing Authority will hold a public hearing on said application on **Feb. 17, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.** at 45 Dayton St. The hearing will be held in a hybrid fashion with the opportunity for both in-person attendance and remote. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person or virtual attendance accordingly. For purposes of in-person attendance, the Selectboard will host the meeting in the multi-purpose room with remote participation details noted below.

Remote Meeting Connection noted below:

Dial-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 818 1126 7697

Passcode: 090131

Please use this URL to login: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81811267697?pwd=a19F8bUs4p7lUyLBZ410xkuj8W3C2N.1>

Meeting attendees should mute phones (*6 for landlines) unless asking questions or commenting. All attendees should wait to speak until other participants are finished.

Town of South Hadley
Selectboard, Licensing Authority

Jeff Cyr, Chair
Nicole Casolari, Vice Chair
Carol Constant, Clerk
Andrea Miles, Member
Renee Sweeney, Member
02/06/2026



Submitted photo

The room was packed with people at the awards ceremony hosted by the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

AWARD from page 1

ter 70 funds, school transportation, and much more. He also helped work to change the Chapter 90 funding formula in order to help Western MA communities have better roadways that are more cost-effective.

"It was a good conference, and it was very meaningful

for me to receive the award," said Oliveira. "It was great to go to the MMA conference, because you got to see town managers, city councilors, and more, some of whom I worked with while I was part of the school committee."

To further honor Oliveira's dedication and service to the communities, the Selectboard from the town of Long-

meadow also presented him with an award.

"As someone who came from municipal government, it was very meaningful to receive this award. We really work and fight hard to get these resources for our towns and cities, and working with that is something that I take a lot of pride in."



Submitted photo

The feasibility of adding electric vehicle charging stations to Main Street was discussed at a webinar on Jan. 27.

STATIONS from page 1

as those who live in apartments.

The sites are mostly part of an area that is already part of a future Main Street reconstruction project and the installations could be folded into that project, minimizing

road closures and disruptions to the area. Pace estimated that the cost of installation would be between \$58,000 and \$75,000 and take two to four days, depending on the sites chosen. There would also be the cost of the charging ports, which come two to a site, and would cost

roughly \$7,000 to \$9,390 per port.

Organizers explained the town might be eligible for MassEVIP charging incentives which could cover up to \$50,000 per year for each site.

WNE University Granby and South Hadley Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University is proud to announce the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 800 students named to the Fall 2025 semester Dean's List including:

- Eric Puffer of Granby, MA
 - Robert Walsh of South Hadley, MA
 - Patrick French of Granby, MA
 - Alexander Galusha of Granby, MA
 - Samuel Braese of Granby, MA
 - Peyton Justin of South Hadley, MA
 - Andrew Feldman of Granby, MA
 - Karina Stefoglo of South Hadley, MA
 - Adriana Poreda of South Hadley, MA
 - Brandie Dumais of Granby, MA
 - Christian Aponte of South Hadley, MA
 - Ethan Roy of South Hadley, MA
 - Sophia Gagnon of Granby, MA
 - Sebastian Miller of Granby, MA
- About Western New England University
Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-

ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

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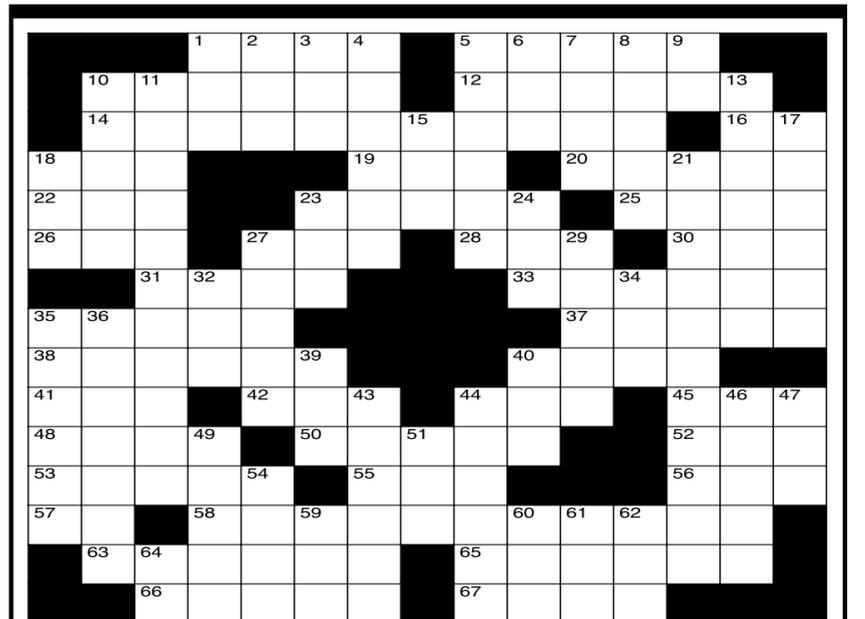
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CLUES ACROSS

- Native American group of N. California
- Geological times (Brit. sp.)
- Tool to remove
- Rods
- One who renews
- They precede C
- Chatter incessantly
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Insect parts
- One from Utah
- The world of the dead
- Singer Redding
- NBA legend Nelson
- Indicates wrongly
- Unhappy
- Anger
- Dark brown
- Some are in kitchens
- Made a mistake
- Damp
- Type of fuel
- Actor Damon
- What thespians do
- One's mother
- Disallow
- Swiss river
- A banana has one
- Philippines lake and volcano are two
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Agave
- Journalist Tarbell
- One-time tech giant
- Indicates upon
- Intestinal bacteria
- Loose sheaths around the spinal cord
- It goes with nook
- A fashion
- Very eager to hear or see

CLUES DOWN

- Witch
- Utilize
- Writing utensil
- Where rockers go to work
- Subsides
- Consume
- Greek mythological figures
- California mountain town
- Tin
- Muse of lyric and love poetry
- Animates anew
- Humorous criticisms
- Cool!
- Worst
- Wet dirt
- Designed to be useful
- Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- High schoolers' test
- Computer device
- Indian territory ___ and Diu
- A place to sleep
- AI tool
- Pass or go by
- Indicates a purchase
- A digital tape recording of sound
- More (Spanish)
- Disfigured
- White (Spanish)
- Church building
- Georgia rockers
- Type of surgery
- Much ___ about nothing
- Make by braiding
- Local area network
- Unit of work or energy
- Member of indigenous people of Thailand
- Liquefied natural gas
- Distance to top

PANTRIES from page 1

on a regular schedule helps our food pantry to better plan and allocate resources," said a member of the South Hadley Dems, Lucia Foley.

While many people have come together to help support the pantries over the holidays, the need for them is still there, and the community needs to come together and help their neighbors in need.

One of the ways to do this is to ensure that all donations and giving are done so with the dignity of those who will receive the food and other items they need.

Many people will donate canned beans, but not rice, tortillas, or taco seasoning packets to go with them. Others will donate plenty of peanut butter, but no bread or jelly.

The Democratic Town Committees have dedicated their missions to serving the people within their communities.

"Our main message is that Granby to Go deserves support. We want people to know the committee is active in town, and to learn about what we stand for, but most importantly, we want to create an opportunity for the entire

community to contribute to Granby To Go," said Wilson. "Rising costs for energy, food, medical care, and other essentials have combined with changes in aid programs to make this an especially difficult winter," said Foley. "We are pleased to be part of a growing group of local organizations that have signed on to provide ongoing assistance to our local Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry so they can better serve our local residents."

Through the generous support of the community and the steadfast support and hard work of the committees, it has allowed these pantries have been filled.

Directors of Granby to Go and Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Judy Delong and Mary Lou Guarnera, encourage the community when they donate to not just clear out their pantries and give the excess, but to ask what they would want to receive if they were in the position of needing access to a food pantry.

There is no shame in needing help, and Guarnera and Delong work hard to make it understood that all are welcome, and all are.

From working with the Graby UCC to host biweekly mobiles where people can come to the Parish House to select food and fresh produce,

meat, eggs, cheese, and more, to seeing the Center Church's Food for Friends also step up to help with a weekend food delivery service.

"These food drives are wonderful opportunities for our committee to do something tangible, have a local impact, and collaborate with other organizations doing great work in town, like UCC. It's invigorating and inspiring to feel the community coming together and know that collectively, we're able to support the needs of families in town," said Wilson.

You can find two donation drives hosted by the South Hadley and the Granby Democratic Committees this Saturday, Feb. 7, at two locations: The Granby Church of Christ Congregational at 235 State Street from 12:20 to 3:30 p.m., and the South Hadley High School parking lot at 153 Newton Street from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Both of these food drives are drive-up and drop-off.

"The cooperation with our 4 local DTCs, South Hadley, Granby, Belchertown, and Ludlow, has been beneficial for us to focus on local issues we all share, such as food insecurity and housing in our communities," said Ann Stockton, Chair of the South Hadley Dems.



Submitted photos Members of the South Hadley Dems and State Representative Homar Gomez at their large, Four Town Food Drive last fall.



Members of the Granby Dems with large totes of food to donate at the Four Town Food Drive last fall.



Judy Delong and Mary Lou Guarnera are working hard for their communities.

WILDLIFE from page 1

The program teaches participants about the animal ambassadors they bring, including their natural habitats and home at the Zoo, as well as what they eat, and other cool facts about them.

"Live animal programs are always some of the most popular programs at the library. Kids love animals, and the Wildlife on Wheels program is a unique opportunity to learn a lot about a few animals, see them up close, and even pet them," said Children's Librarian Jenny Arch.

The South Hadley Public Library hosted the Zoo to come in to visit to allow the children to meet a blue-tongued skink, a rooster, a desert tortoise, a corn snake that travelled there in a pillowcase, and an adorable little groundhog.

"Many families checked out books about animals from our large nonfiction collection after the event, so the learning continues.



Meeting a fluffy rooster with educator Savannah.

Submitted photos by Jenny Arch



Kids getting to say hello to an adorable blue-tongued skink.

Our Forest Park Zoo pass is also popular, part of our free or discounted museum pass program," said Arch.

The Wildlife on Wheels program is a wonderful event that everyone enjoyed, even the little animals that came out to visit.



Perfectly in time for Groundhog Day, a real groundhog came to visit.



This tortoise is so cute.

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