

# TOWN Reminder

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## Christie crowned as 2026 Grand Colleen

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

**HOLYOKE** — Last Saturday night, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee named Jadyne Christie as the 2026 Grand Colleen.

What started as a sold-out evening dedicated to celebrating the long-standing and timeless traditions of Irish-American heritage within the Paper City quickly shaped into a historic moment, and one that all waited for, the official coronation of the 2026 Holyoke Grand Colleen.

As the evening carried on, and countless awards related to the testament of the St. Patrick's Parade were celebrated, anticipation only continued to grow. And after the five finalists each had a chance to grace the stage, with each offering courage and providing a sense of confidence, it was clear one stood out among the pack, and it was with reverence and distinction that the title for 2026 Grand Colleen was bestowed upon Jadyne Lois

Christie, 19, of South Hadley.

The tone of the evening shifted to one of remembrance and pride once Christie's name was called, she was rushed to the stage where a moment of pride unfolded, where she held her composure, as a sense of achievement was quickly manifesting before her as a lifelong childhood dream soon became reality, as the ceremonial crystal crown and hand stitched cape was bestowed upon her, passing from the hands of her predecessor, 2025 Grand Colleen Moira C. Reardon to Christie, who then took her throne, as her court assembled alongside her, ushering in a standing ovation from the sold-out room, all while 2026 Parade President Jim Wildman and Grand Marshal Michael J. Moriarty came to the stage to congratulate Christie, solidifying the new Grand Colleen.

The rest of the 2026 Colleen court consists of Paige Brady Leahy, 19, of Holyoke; Bridie Bowler, 22, of

Please see **COLLEEN**, page 10



Jadyne Christie, of South Hadley, is elated after learning she is the 2026 Grand Colleen. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Kids get to share the love with Valentines

By **Emily-Rose Pappas**  
Staff Writer  
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**SOUTH HADLEY** – The Gaylord Memorial Library hosted a special Valentine's Day craft where kids got to spend some time making hearts out of cut paper and glue.

"I like making valentines for all of my friends," said Fay, sharing her favorite thing about the holiday. "We learned about penguins, too, and it was a lot of fun."

Please see **VALENTINES**, page 9



Fay and Roisin, sisters, are having fun making their valentines.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

## A new face in South Hadley working to make a difference

By **Emily-Rose Pappas**  
Staff Writer  
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**SOUTH HADLEY** – The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce welcomed a new member into the Chamber last week, Karl Mak, owner of Signature Realty, a real estate brokerage.

Mak opened Signature Realty for the first time in Enfield, CT in 2015 and recently opened up a new office in South Hadley on Lyman Street.

"We have always served the people in Massachusetts in Hampshire County, and this allows us to be closer to the customers," said Mak.

The idea came to Mak to start his own real estate brokerage while deployed in the Middle East, and after returning from his service, he pursued that dream and goal to become an agent. He started from the ground up, teaching himself and finding ways to learn more whenever he could.

"I learned how to be suc-

cessful and bring other people on to be successful," said Mak. "I bought an office and invested my own money in a team, and over the years, I moved into becoming a broker and owning a company so that I can teach my vision of what it means to be an agent and pass that down to the clients."

Mak's main goal is to make sure that all agents who are a part of Signature Realty are professional and experi-

Please see **FACE**, page 7



Submitted photo  
State Representative Homar Gomez, Selectboard Jeff Cyr, Armando Roman, Sam Bernash, Karl Mak, Senator Jake Oliveira, Kasha Bernash cutting the ribbon.

## Small but mighty: How the Skala School PTA turns fundraisers into big opportunities

By **Tina Lesniak**  
Correspondent

**SOUTH HADLEY** - The Henry J. Skala School PTA may be small in numbers, but its impact on the South Hadley school community is anything but. Through fundraising, volunteer power, and a clear commitment to equity, the PTA plays a central role in enriching the school experience for Skala students and supporting the educators who serve them.

"Our mission of the Skala School PTA is to enhance the educational experience for all children," said PTA President Megan Bartlett. Throughout the school year, the organization raises funds to sponsor programs, enrichment activities, classroom supplies, and field trips, opportunities that Bartlett emphasized might not otherwise be accessible to all families.

One standout initiative is an after-school art program created by art teacher Anna Naiman and sponsored by the PTA. The program gives students the chance to experience the arts "without any



Submitted photo  
The Sweetheart Dance was a wonderful evening for the students at Skala School.

expense to families," Bartlett said. The PTA has also partnered with the Hitchcock Center on the Take It Outside program, supported in part by a Michael E. Smith grant, allowing all grade levels to participate in hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

Beyond academics, the PTA works hard to create affordable, family-friendly

events that double as fundraisers for student experiences. This year's calendar included an outdoor movie night, Fall Festival, Festival of Trees, and the popular Sweetheart Dance. "All proceeds for each event directly go back to the students at the Skala School to provide these types of programs," Bartlett said.

The Sweetheart Dance, the PTA's most recent event, was a highlight. Organized by Samantha Sabbs, a parent and first-grade teacher, the event was "a huge success and well-loved by many families," Bartlett said. More than just a dance, it reflected the PTA's broader goal of fostering connection. "Our events are meaningful to the Skala School because they build relationships and community," she added.

This work is powered largely by volunteers. The PTA's current officers—Bartlett, Sabbs, and Jennifer Doyle—lead what Bartlett described as "a small but mighty PTA," particularly after many longtime volun-

Please see **SKALA**, page 9

## Preparing for an override: STM to address budget

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

**SOUTH HADLEY** – The Selectboard moved to approve a vote at Special Town Meeting next week, Wednesday, Feb. 25, with two articles on the warrant: either to vote in favor of an override, or against.

"Right now, the Budget Task Force recommended \$11 million to cover all we need, but there are \$6 and \$9 million options the Selectboard will be voting on,"

Town Administrator Lisa Wong said. "It is a common practice for the Town Meeting to weigh in, as the Selectboard will be able to see where their support would lie at different budget levels."

Overview from the Budget Task Force  
The costs of health insurance, special education, transportation, and utilities have been rising, but the amount the town has been earning in revenues has been decreasing, resulting in a steep deficit.

The Selectboard was

charged in the summer of 2025 to find a way to navigate and find solutions to the deficit and to make budget decisions with the Capital Planning Committee to review past spending trends, budgets, and income to figure out how to then look at the future.

While the town had to make many cuts last fiscal year, the town is looking at more potential cuts, resulting in the loss of many programs, staff, and resources available to the town.

Please see **BUDGET**, page 5

# Commercial development proposed for Granby Road

By **Walter Hamilton**  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The owner of a 577 Granby Road property - now occupied by Taylor Rental and Get Movin' Fitness & Nutrition - has asked for Planning Board site plan approval to build two new prefabricated metal buildings behind the existing commercial building to house rental professional offices or other small businesses.

The plan by landowner Jim Falcone, of TJF's Properties, seeks approval to build two 3,500 square-foot, single story buildings that will each contain two units. A new 20-foot-wide access driveway along the eastern property line will provide access from Route 202. The site is bounded on one side by the Second Baptist Church.

The board began its review on Feb. 9. The site is located on a parcel zoned for business.

The site was split in 2005 from a residential/commercial property at 575 Granby Road. A nursing home facility abuts both parcels.

The proposed development area is surrounded by a variety of parcels with several residential and commercial designations on both sides of Route 202. It lies within the mixed-use area as established by a recent special Town Meeting vote.

The proposed buildings would each contain two personnel doors and two garage entrances, matching the fea-

tures of the existing buildings that also contain garage doors, large interior spaces and a metal roof.

Screening may include planted trees and shrubs, hedgerows, berms, existing vegetation and fences.

No new loading docks, storage areas, dumpsters or utility buildings visible from Granby Road are proposed, according to the stormwater permit application submitted by Berkshire Design Group of Northampton.

"We believe the proposed project is consistent with adjacent uses and complies with the requirements and standards of the zoning ordinance," the design firm stated in its application.

In other business, the board cleared the way for the construction of 14 apartments in seven duplex buildings at 506 Granby Road behind Liquor Town.

The board approved the project's Business A-1 district design guidelines that require a marked pedestrian walkway from the store's parking lot to the apartment complex via Conti Drive, a private road. A pedestrian bridge with guardrails over a wetland is required.

The board also approved a Stormwater Management Plan and a waiver of rules for Site Plan Approval under subdivision regulations governing street construction because the onsite roadway is essentially a parking lot.

Also, in an effort that spanned eight years, the

board gave final approval to revisions of subdivision regulations - an effort that began in 2018, when former Planning Director Richard Harris, with the cooperation of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and nearby towns, began the long task to develop model subdivision regulations.

Regulations are a separate set of rules that are based on zoning bylaws. Unlike bylaws that must be approved by Town Meeting, changes to regulations require only a vote of the Planning Board.

A draft of the regulations was approved in 2022 and were further refined from 2022 to 2024. Revisions to the bylaws governing flexible development common driveways were rejected by a Special Town Meeting in November 2024.

In 2025 the Planning Board revised the town's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaws to comply with new state regulations that require Massachusetts towns and cities to permit such housing units in all single-family zoning districts.

The board chair, now held by Diane Mulvaney, must advertise the new regulations before they can take effect. After that, the town must revise its official regulations and publish them on its website - a process that might affect applications for future developments.

Applicants are advised to seek up-to-date guidance before submitting plans.

# David King announces candidacy for South Hadley Selectboard

SOUTH HADLEY – David J. King of 6 Oakley Estates, South Hadley, MA, has announced his candidacy for one of the two seats on the Town Selectboard. The election will take place during the Town election on April 14th, 2026. "My experience as a business leader with a retail career over 35 years, dealing with customer service, budgets, human resources, and business efficiencies, gives me insight on how best to use Town resources to its greatest potential."

King was very active with the South Hadley Music Parents Association from 2012 to 2017. He currently serves as a Town Meeting member and is the Chair of the By-law Review Committee. In retirement, he volunteers with the Trustees on their trails team and is a member of

the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Other interests are traveling, biking, history, and gardening.

Born in South Portland, ME, he graduated from South Portland High School. He then attended the University of Southern Maine and the University of Galway, Ireland, earning a BS in Business Administration.

After graduating, he joined the management program at JCPenney. During a 30-year career at JCPenney, working in multiple stores throughout New England, he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility. The last 15 years of his JCPenney career were as a Store Manager of three multi-million dollar stores, in Lancaster, OH, Waterbury, CT, and finally Holyoke, MA. King finished his working career

as a Store Manager and Buyer for Rocky's ACE Hardware, and as the Store Manager at Gardener's Supply in Hadley.

King moved to South Hadley in 2009 and has been married to Susan for 33 years. They have two grown children, both of whom graduated from South Hadley High School: a daughter who graduated from New York University with a BFA in Theater and SOAS, University of London with an MA in History, and a son who graduated from the University of Maine with a BA in Sociology and Political Science and is currently attending Medical School in Chicago.

For further information and to speak with Dave, please call 860-803-1330 or email davidking166@gmail.com

# Enjoying the Magic at the COA

GRANBY – The Granby Council on Aging hosted a Magic Show, featuring The Magic of Rich Gilbert, and seniors had the opportunity to come out for lunch, and enjoy a fun and entertaining show.



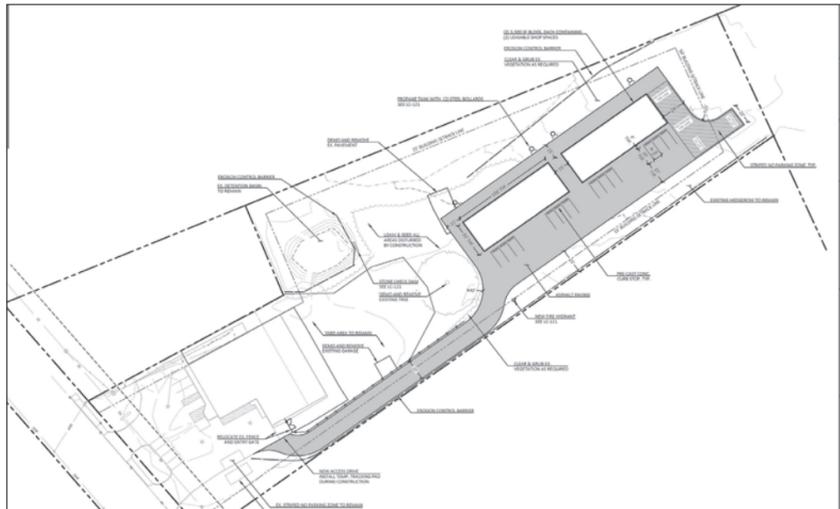
Submitted photos  
Magician Rich Gilbert getting ready for the show.



Every magician needs an assistant!



Submitted photos  
The proposed buildings at 577 Granby Road are two one-story, prefabricated metal buildings with a shed roof. They each contain two personnel doors and two garage entrances.



The site plan for the project contains a shaded area that designates an access driveway to the two proposed new buildings at the rear of the existing buildings that face Granby Road.

# Lenten Lunches return to South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – For 54 years, the All Saints' Church Lenten Lunch Committee has been welcoming diners from the area communities to meatless lunches during the Lenten season. In recent years, All Saints' has been alternating Friday luncheon sites during Lent with St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley Falls.

This year, the dates at All Saints' Church are Fridays: February 20, March 6, and March 20. At St. Patrick's Church, lunches will be available on alternate Fridays: February 27, March 13, and March 27. Remember these dates and locations, and bring a friend for lunch, or take home your

favorite choice for supper.

At All Saints' Church, Lenten Lunch chairperson Laura Marsh says, "Lunches should be ordered in advance by calling the Parish Administrator's Office at 413-532-8917, Monday through Thursday between 1 and 5 p.m."

Prices for each of the three luncheon offerings will be available upon request. Orders can be paid for by cash or check when lunches are conveniently picked up on Fridays in the church parking area located off Route 116 behind the church on Dunlop Place. Drive up, pick up, and enjoy our famous lunches made in our church kitchen

on Fridays.

Committee members are Mary Ann Bail, Joe-Ann Bourguignon, Cammie Daigne, Miretta Campbell, Sue Frazier, Michele Pietras, and Cindy Steinbock. Publicity: Marilyn Gass and Don Marsh.

This year, the All Saints menu offers three choices: a lobster roll, chips, a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie; a tuna salad roll, chips, a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie; and a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie.

Proceeds benefit area mission projects.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	<b>\$1.96</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE	<b>\$12.88</b> lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN CHOPS ROAST ...	<b>\$2.77</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH EGGLANDS BEST GRADE A LARGE FRESH EGGS 1 1/2 DOZ	<b>\$2.49</b> ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS PORK LOIN STUFFED CHOPS or ROAST W/ BREAD STUFFING.....	<b>\$3.35</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	<b>75¢</b> lb
<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b>		<b>Lenten Specials</b>	
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF .....	<b>\$6.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TUNA STEAKS .....	<b>\$6.99</b> lb
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	<b>\$4.44</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED FULLY COOKED BREADED FISH WEDGES OR STICKS.....	<b>\$2.99</b> lb
<b>SOUP'S ON!</b>		USDA INSP. FROZEN IQF 15/20 COUNT JUMBO RAW SHRIMP HEAD ON TAIL ON 1.5 LB BAG.....	<b>\$6.99</b> ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PIG FEET .....	<b>\$2.69</b> lb		
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET .....	<b>\$3.49</b> lb		

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# South Hadley Chorale to present annual concert

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 3 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley. The program includes Vivaldi's Gloria, a selection of inspiring and beautiful spirituals, and a work by the late Mount Holyoke College Professor of Music, Allen Bonde. Anita Anderson Cooper conducts the 70-voice chorus and orchestra. The Hampshire Young People's Chorus, under the direction of K.C. Conlon, is also featured.



Music Director Anita Anderson Cooper leads a rehearsal of the South Hadley Chorale.

This is Ms. Anderson Cooper's second year as Music Director of the South Hadley Chorale. A well-known area

musician, she also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College

Handbell Choir. The South Hadley Chorale is made up of singers ranging in ages from their

20s through 90s, from 17 area communities.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also be purchased prior to the concert day for \$20, \$15, and \$5 from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

This program is supported in part by grants from PeoplesBank and the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit [www.southhadleychorale.org](http://www.southhadleychorale.org) or call 413-533-3833.

# Thankful for all school resource officers

SOUTH HADLEY – Happy National School Resource Officer Day! A special day to show appreciation for school-based law enforcement officers.

We'd like to recognize School Resource Officer Helems and School Resource Officer Faginski. Being an SRO is a tremendous responsibility. Both Officers work hard in our schools every day

to form a bridge between the school community, youth, and law enforcement. SROs serve many roles, which include: mentor, informal counseling, education, law enforcement, and support for those youths in need.

We also appreciate the South Hadley School District for recognizing the importance and value these programs add to our community.



Submitted photo

School Resource Officers Helems and Faginski serve the South Hadley school district proudly.

# Lenten Lunches available at St Patrick's Church

SOUTH HADLEY – The Ladies Guild is again offering Grab and Go lunches with pick up at the Social Center at 15 School St. This is one of the Ladies Guild's main fundraisers, with 100% of the net proceeds going toward scholarships and to many charitable

organizations.

Their famous 100% lobster salad rolls are again available for \$24. White albacore tuna croissants are \$13. Both come with a choice of clam chowder or homemade minestrone soup, a bag of chips, and a cookie.

The lunch dates are as fol-

lows:

February 27 (order and payment are due by February 22)

March 13 (order and payment are due by March 8)

March 27 (order and payment are due by March 22)

Order forms are available

inside the church or on the rectory porch at 30 Main Street, or you can make your own form and mail it with a check payable to St Patrick's Ladies Guild to St Patrick's Church, 30 Main Street, South Hadley, 01075. Please include your phone number.

# South Hadley Democrats to elect state convention delegates

SOUTH HADLEY — Democrats in South Hadley will convene in person on Saturday, March 7, 2026, to elect 11 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our town at the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The caucus, which is hosted by the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, will take place in the Community Room of the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street in South Hadley. The library is handicapped accessible.

Caucus sign-in opens at 9:30 a.m., and the caucus will start at 10 a.m. Those voting must be in attendance at the caucus. There will be no absentee or proxy voting at any local caucus for any reason.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in South Hadley who are 16 years old by February 19, 2026, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

Opportunities are available for youth (age 16 to 35),

people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates to apply to the State Democratic Committee to be add-on delegates.

The 2026 Democratic State Convention will be held in person on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester. This year, delegates will gather to voice support for the Democratic nominee for the US Senate and for Democrats across the

Commonwealth and the nation. Convention and delegate information is available at: <https://massdems.org/massdems-convention/>.

For more information or to get involved with the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, visit [southhadleydems.com](http://southhadleydems.com) or email the Committee at [southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com). Massachusetts voters may register to vote or check registration online at: [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com).

# 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 25, 6 p.m.- Tentative Special Town Meeting
- March 3, Selectboard Meeting- Budget Public Hearing
- March 11, School Com-

mittee 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>.



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## INSURED AND CERTIFIED



# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

## I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

### Dear Rusty:

I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income.

### Signed: Feeling Cheated

### Dear Feeling Cheated:

For Your Information, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred to the preceding

year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you - rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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

## What are shallots, anyway?

Shortly after the two part column on growing onions, I received a question about shallots.

My friend was looking through a seed catalog and wanted to know the ins and outs of growing them. This topic was a fun one for me because it required some research.

Can you believe that the Garden Lady has never grown shallots before? There is an explanation why, with part of the reason being that I am not what you'd consider a fancy cook, and shallots have their place in fine dining.

The other reason is that admittedly I never understood the point of shallots – aren't they just small onions? Why would you buy something special for a recipe if you had a good old fashioned onion in the pantry?

As all the cooks in the audience gasp, let me qualify that statement with the fact that now I know better.

Shallots are slightly different plants from onions scientifically. Whereas the onion goes by the name *Allium cepa*, shallots are what you would call a cousin, with the Latin name *Allium cepa* gr. *Aggregatum*.

Although the flavor hints of garlic (who is another more distant cousin), shallots are sweeter and more mild than onions, and are a staple in French and Asian cuisine where they can be used raw or cooked. Think delicate sauces or vinaigrettes.

I laugh when I picture all of the onion family members sitting around at a party. You'd have the gregarious onion, the boisterous garlic

and then the cultured shallot, wearing a beret and speaking with a French accent.

I'm not sure why my mind went there, but it was a fun digression.

on the ground or garden path for a few days, then move indoors to a spot with good air movement to finish the curing process.

Once necks have shrunk and dried, cut the tops off to about one inch above the bulb and store in mesh bags as close as you can to the freezing mark with ample humidity. One interesting fact I learned from Fedco Seeds ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)) is that if you don't have a room that cold, humidity can be adjusted to make up the difference for proper storage.

For example, best case scenario dictates that shallots need 34 degrees at 66 percent humidity. Say the coldest you can get your storage spot is 55 degrees, well then they would like 45 percent humidity. The closest you can get it to add up to 100 the better.

I wonder if this theory holds true for other crops in storage. My squash and pumpkin aren't the happiest this year, so maybe I will look into how to manipulate the environment to avoid some of the shriveling I am seeing.

Anyway, I hope you had a few chuckles reading this column and that you might feel inclined to give shallots, that cultured onion cousin, a try this gardening season.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



In terms of culture, shallots are similar to onions in that they can be grown from both sets or seeds. Seeds would be started indoors anytime now through March. Transplants or sets are best planted in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked, usually early April.

Although shallots mature smaller than onions, spacing should still be four-six inches apart so that they can size up to their full potential. They are shallow rooted, so supplemental watering is a must.

When foliage reaches 12 inches, apply a mulch around the base of each plant to help conserve moisture and cut down on weed competition. Until that point, cultivate carefully by hand or pull individual weeds as they pop up.

Like onions, scallions begin to "bulb up" around the time of the summer equinox. Top dressing with fertilizer at that time is a smart idea.

As summer draws to a close, shallots will exhibit similar die back as onions, whereby the tops begin to fall over, indicating they are ready for harvest. If the weather cooperates, sun cure



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## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

## Turley Election Policy

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

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

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### In support of Jeromie Whalen for Congress

I support Jeromie Whalen for Congress. If you haven't met Jeromie yet, I am sure you will. He is out and about, meeting people in the four corners of congressional district one. He is learning from and sharing ideas with the communities in the 413. He meets people by sitting on their porch stoops, walking alongside them, singing with them at protests, asking questions, showing in local stores, sharing a meal at a local dinner, and more.

How do you get to know each community and how federal decisions, federal actions, and federal inaction will affect those you care most about?

Look for Jeromie's yellow van at your Big Y parking lot, look for him at an event in your community, and take the time to talk with him

and learn where he stands on the issues you care about.

His decision not to collect PAC money allows him the freedom to shape policies that reflect the community he represents. His experience as a teacher is invaluable in negotiations to create the best possible outcomes. His knowledge, skill, ability, and sense of humor are evident in the visual material he is creating to share his policies and beliefs.

Finally, he is young and is actively mentoring and learning from even younger people who are part of TEAM WHALEN. They are the future.

These are some of the reasons why I am supporting Jeromie Whalen and ask you to join me.

Marie Rohan  
South Hadley

## Don't let your heart get hacked

SOUTH HADLEY – Met someone online who might be the one? If you haven't met them in person, make sure it's not a romance scam!

Scammers don't always ask for money up front. Sometimes, they start by flattering you and claiming they feel a romantic connection. Once you feel comfortable with them, they'll convince you to send money, purchase gift cards, or invest in cryptocurrency.

Don't get sweet-talked into a romance scam.

Romance scams are also called confidence fraud; a criminal uses a fake online identity to gain a victim's trust and affection. The scammer convinces the victim they have real feelings for them, either romantic or a close relationship. However, this is a ruse that they ultimately exploit to trick the victim into sending money, personal or financial information, items of value, or unknowingly launder money

for them.

In early 2026, the FBI's Boston Division reported that for the year 2025, more than 700 victims across Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire reported losing approximately \$20 million to romance scams. And these numbers may not be telling the whole story, as oftentimes victims are too embarrassed or ashamed to report it to law enforcement, family, or friends. In 2024, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) collected nearly 18,000 confidence and romance fraud reports from victims across the U.S. for a total loss nationwide of more than \$672 million.

They use well-rehearsed or scripted schemes to deceive vulnerable individuals looking for love or companionship. Some romance scammers use AI-generated content—images, videos, voices—to help them and their profiles appear more

believable and to assist foreign criminals with language translation, which can expand their scheme on a much larger scale against numerous individuals around the world.

After establishing a connection, romance scammers use different tactics to keep their hooks in and convince their victims to do whatever they ask. They may quickly endear themselves to gain trust, sometimes proposing marriage. The scammers often make plans to meet in person, but the con turns into one excuse after another, such as work on overseas projects, making it too difficult to travel. These tales make it easier for them to avoid actually meeting in person while also appearing disappointed.

Be careful about what you post publicly online. Scammers use details shared online to better understand and target you, and could eventually use that information against you.

## Chief Gundersen lists office hours

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen will be hosting several office hours around town between now and the

end of March.  
 • 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

### BUDGET from page 1

With an anticipated \$3 million gap in the budget for FY27, the town is being forced to look at alternative options, including an override. The amount of the override, however, will determine whether or not certain services can be kept.

“South Hadley is facing a structural deficit, and the override discussions are about stabilizing core town and school services over the next several years,” said Superintendent Jennifer Voyik. “This is not unique to South Hadley, as many communities across Massachusetts are experiencing similar pressures.”

Multiple options are being put forth at STM for town meeting members to vote on, and they include \$6 million over three years, \$9 million over four years, and \$11 million over five years.

If the override question is passed, it will appear on the April 14 ballot to be voted to pass on to the Annual Town Meeting.

A town tax override will allow the town to permanently increase its property tax levy beyond the annual 2.5% limit mandated by Proposition 2 1/2 in Massachusetts. For example, if the \$6 million is chosen, there will be an increase in property taxes by a total of \$6 million, phased out over the three-year period. The same is for the options for \$9 million and \$11 million.

The override option chosen will determine what the town has to cut, or not, with the \$11 million override option making it so the town can keep all of its existing services at full capacity, including the schools for special education and transportation, sports, extracurriculars, and more, as well as the libraries, first responders in both districts, staff at the town hall, the senior center, and more.

“First and foremost, we know that this is an incredibly difficult ask during a time when a lot of our residents

are feeling squeezed in many areas of their lives, and I want to stress the importance that this is about bringing choice to the voters,” said Wong. “... This is something we want people to choose as we have to limit the services offered to the community, and we want to ask folks about what they value and what they want to support with the precious resources that they have.”

You can find more information about what the Budget Task Force has found, including the past recordings of their meetings on the town website under Budget Task Force. There is also a video series available to give easy-to-understand information on the budget itself and how it works.

Effects on the schools  
 The school district is facing significant personnel cuts, including 20 student-facing positions, and two administrative positions, which could result in larger class sizes and fewer activities for students.

Other reductions in the schools include elimination of all sports and extracurricular activities, reductions to advanced placement courses, honors, and elective course offerings, and more.

“We are doing our best to support the schools, and whether we have kids in the school system or not, the quality of education affects... [everything]. It’s incredibly important to the next set of leaders, and I want to emphasize that the schools are very much a top priority for town and school officials because we see their importance in the community,” said Wong.

Effects on the town  
 The upcoming effects on the town and schools will result in drastic cuts to the schools, but the other areas of the town will greatly benefit the town and its well-being.

These include the South Hadley Public Library and the Gaylord Memorial Library, Department of Public Works, Recreation (including Ledges Golf Course), Police Depart-

ment, Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector, Senior Center, Planning and Conservation Commission, Building and Inspections Department, the Town Administrator, Board of Health, Selectboard, Animal Control, Veteran’s Services Agent, and the Board of Assessors.

“The reason we have done so much in bringing volunteer residents together is that we can’t do it alone without their help. We know that the library, Senior Center, and the schools provide support and are a huge part of people’s quality of life, but we want to be transparent about what they cost,” said Wong.

Important dates and information

The community is strongly encouraged to educate themselves on the work the Budget Task Force has done to analyze and come up with possible solutions ahead of the Feb. 25 Special Town Meeting. You can find more on the town’s website at [www.southhadley.org/1504/Budget-Task-Force](http://www.southhadley.org/1504/Budget-Task-Force).

The School Committee will be hosting a community meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, about the school’s budget at Michael E. Smith Middle School at 6 p.m., and all are encouraged to attend with questions.

The Special Town Meeting will be held at the high school on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The STM is to vote whether or not an override will occur, with two action items on the Warrant. The Warrant is currently available to view on the town website. Mar. 4 is the next School Committee meeting, and Mar. 11 will be the School’s Public Budget Hearing.

“The best way to prevent misinformation is for residents to engage directly in the process and rely on the official presentations and posted materials,” said Voyik.

## Turkeys came to visit



A gaggle of turkeys huddling together in the snow.

Submitted photo

## Granby Democratic Town Committee to hold Annual Caucus

GRANBY – The Granby Democratic Town Committee will hold a caucus on February 28 at 11 a.m. at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State Street.

The committee will elect four delegates and four alternates to the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will

gather to endorse candidates for statewide office. The Convention will be held on May 29 and 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

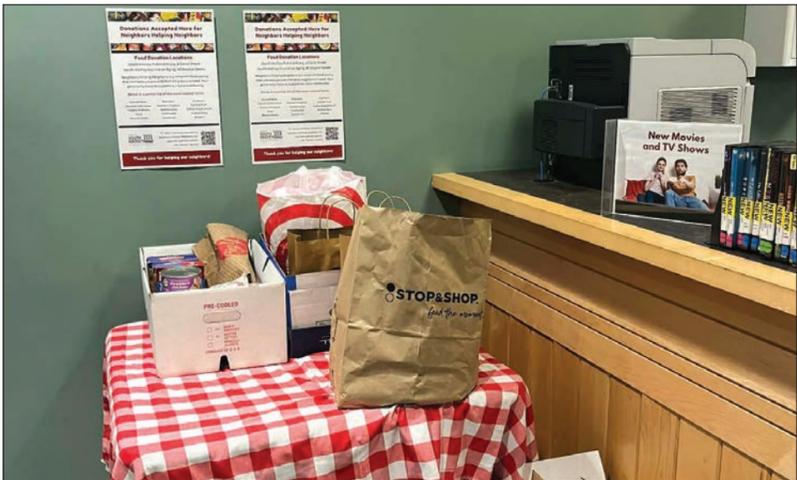
The Democratic Committee welcomes participants. The caucus is open to all, but only Democrats registered in Granby can run for delegate. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the Caucus

will start at 11.

The committee normally meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Granby Free Public Library. For more information on the caucus or the committee please contact Tobias Wilson at

[chair@granbydemocrats.com](mailto:chair@granbydemocrats.com) or visit their website at [www.granbydemocrats.com](http://www.granbydemocrats.com).

## Library seeks food donations



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

The South Hadley Public Library has a food drive going, and is accepting food, diapers, hygiene items, and other items to be delivered to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

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<b>Saturday, Feb. 21st</b> 6-9pm <b>Jeff Blaney</b>	<b>Sunday, Feb. 22nd</b> 2-5pm <b>Jim McArdle &amp; Jerry Murphy</b>	<b>Saturday, Feb. 28th</b> 6-9pm <b>Baird Souls</b>
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# SPORTS

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## Rams head for Western Mass finals

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—The Granby girls' soccer team has won the last two Western Mass. Class D championship titles.

Most of the soccer players are also members of the Lady Rams basketball team, which hasn't won a Western Mass. title since 2007.

The top-seeded Lady Rams hoop team advanced to the Western Mass. Class D finals after dispatching the fifth-seeded Pioneer Valley Regional Lady Panthers, 61-23, in a semifinal game played at Sullivan Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"This is the first time that the basketball team will be playing in the Western Mass. finals since I've been a member of the team, which feels really good," said junior Kalli White. "Almost all the players on the basketball team also play soccer, so we already have experienced playing in a championship game. We always wanted to win a Western Mass. title in basketball."

Granby (17-3), who beat eighth-seeded Smith Academy, 55-42, in the quarterfinals, was scheduled to face third-seeded Pioneer Valley Christian Academy in the Class D finals.

"I'm extremely happy for these girls," said Granby head coach Dave Padavano.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kalli White heads down the court on a breakaway.

"They've worked very hard all season long and they deserve it."

Back in 2007, the Lady Rams, who were also the top-seeded team, defeated Lee, 62-46, in the Western Mass. Division 3 finals at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass Amherst campus.

White, who scored her 1000th career point during the regular season, has compiled more than 100 points (goals

+ assists) on the soccer pitch. She'll enter her senior season with 90 career goals and 21 career assists.

White, who also excels on the lacrosse field, finished the semifinal basketball game with a total of 34 points and 10 rebounds.

"Kalli plays well in almost every game, and we can't take her for granted," Padavano said. "She's a very special basketball player."

White came out of the game with 1:28 remaining in the third quarter and she didn't play during the fourth quarter. She finished with a total of 15 field goals, which were mainly lay-ups and inside hoops, along with four foul shots.

"Most of the time, the opposing teams would clog the paint, which makes it a lot harder to score," White said. "They left it open in tonight's game, which allowed me to do

my thing. I also received a lot of nice passes from my teammates."

The Lady Rams' only other double digit scorer against the Lady Panthers was junior Brenna Moreno, who scored 10 of her 13 points in the second half. All three of the Lady Rams 3-pointers were made by Moreno, who also plays three sports, has racked up close to 50 career points as a member of the soccer team.

Eleanor Szlosek goes for the three-pointer.

Please see **FINALS**, page 7

## Taconic defeats Chicopee co-op hockey



Landyn Klein looks to send the puck up the ice.



Landon Johnson hustles up the right side of the ice.

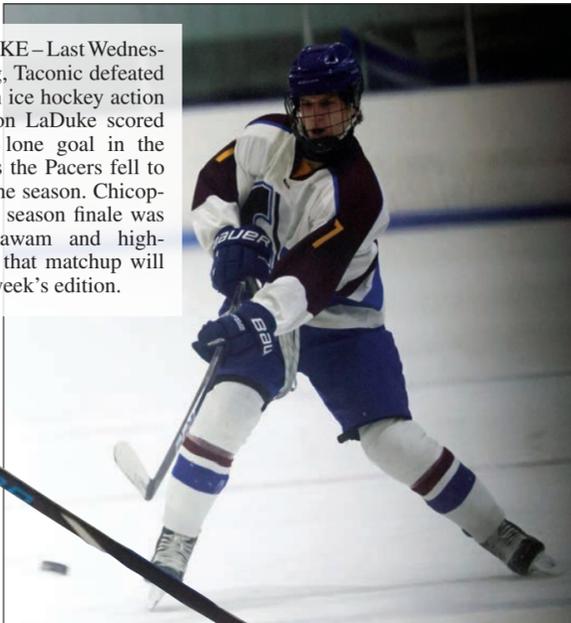


Braydon LaDuke looks for an opening to pass.



Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Owen Buchanan sends the shot away.

HOLYOKE—Last Wednesday evening, Taconic defeated Chicopee in ice hockey action 6-1. Braydon LaDuke scored Chicopee's lone goal in the matchup, as the Pacers fell to 1-12-2 on the season. Chicopee's regular season finale was against Agawam and highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Dylan Haryasz fires the puck away.



Aiden Nadeau heads off the puck.

# Springfield Thunderbirds outslug Iowa Wild on road

DES MOINES, IA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-24-4-2) once again posted a prolific offensive showing, outpacing the Iowa Wild (13-28-4-1) for a roller-coaster 8-6 victory on Saturday night inside Casey's Center in Des Moines.

The opening 20 minutes were a roller coaster of emotions for both teams and their fans. Operating a man down in the opening minutes, the T-Birds still managed to break the ice, as Otto Stenberg beat Cal Petersen with a wrist from the left circle at 1:20 of the period, making it 1-0.

Normally a very disciplined team, Springfield

succumbed to another penalty two minutes later, and Iowa made them pay as Tyler Pitlick jabbed a backhand rebound over Georgi Romanov to tie the game, 1-1, at 3:53.

Springfield quickly countered at 6:36, as Quinton Burns flipped a wrist that glanced off Zach Dean's blade, skipping through Petersen to make it a 2-1 game in the T-Birds' favor. Jakub Stancl followed up 3:10 later with his second goal in as many days, finishing off a 2-on-1 pass from Hugh McGing to extend Springfield's lead to 3-1.

Like an evening ago, though, the Wild refused to go away, and Pitlick cashed

in on his second of the period off a 2-on-1 setup by Hunter Haight to make it a 3-2 game at 15:14.

The one-goal deficit was short-lived for the Wild, as Thomas Bordeleau stripped the puck from an Iowa defender and rifled home a perfect shot past Petersen's blocker at 15:43 to make it 4-2. The goal was Bordeleau's first in a T-Birds uniform.

With just precious seconds remaining in the period, the Wild again responded in kind, as Nic Aube-Kubel set up Jack Peart in the left circle for a buzzer-beating tally in the midst of a delayed Springfield penalty, sending

Iowa into the break trailing by just a goal at 4-3.

Yet, despite the potential momentum changer from Peart, Springfield quickly responded to begin the middle frame, as Chris Wagner went to a knee to guide a power play feed from Matt Luff in behind Petersen at 1:32 of the second, making it 5-3.

The T-Birds' defense stabilized after the chaos of the first, and the offense continued its confident weekend, as Theo Lindstein cashed in for the second time in two games, punching a shot through Petersen's glove side at 9:15 off another Luff assist to push the lead to 6-3.

Springfield's power play

added to their tally when Michael Buchinger whistled a shot through the legs of William Rousseau, who entered the net in place of Petersen to begin the third. Buchinger's fifth of the season gave the T-Birds a 7-3 advantage.

Even facing a huge deficit, the Wild continued to scratch and claw. A pair of Springfield penalties opened the door for Iowa, and the home side took full advantage as Dylan Gambrell cashed in on a rebound to the right of Romanov at 8:04 to make it 7-4.

David Jiricek followed with a slap shot from the blue line that caromed in behind Romanov at 12:47, and the Springfield lead

shrank to 7-5.

Things got even hairier for the T-Birds when Caedan Bankier got to his own rebound at 16:32 to beat Romanov along the near side, and Iowa incredibly got the lead shaved down to a single goal, 7-6.

In the end, though, Iowa's miraculous comeback attempt came up one tally short, as Luff delivered a much-needed empty net goal with 26 seconds remaining to seal the win. Luff and Stancl each finished their evenings with a goal and two assists, and Springfield's eight goals from eight different players set a club record for most goals in a game on the road.

## FINALS from page 6

Freshman Rowan Cook (4 points), who's a member of the cross country and softball teams began the game with an inside hoop before White scored the next seven points.

Holding a 9-0 lead in the middle of the opening quarter, Pioneer Valley finally broke the ice with back-to-back 3-pointers by senior Kyler McClelland. (11 points).

The Rams reeled off the next 19 points, which gave them a commanding 28-6 lead with 1:25 left in the first half.

Pioneer Valley freshman Maggie Tsipenyuk scored the final four points of the half.

White scored 16 points in the third quarter. She made a lay-up with 2:25 left in the third quarter giving the home team a 48-12 lead.

Kalli's younger sister, Kara, who's a freshman, also made a lay-up in the fourth quarter, which were her only points.

Rounding out the box score for the home team were junior Meredith Bartosz (1 point), freshman Ari Mislak (2 points), junior Eleanor Szlosek (2 points), and senior Kaitlyn Curran (3 points).



Brenna Moreno attempts the layup.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kaitlyn Curran tries to get around the defense.



Rowan Cook tries to grab the rebound.

## Tigers edge way into WMass finals

SOUTH HADLEY - After a very tough season that saw South Hadley High School girls basketball take on a much tougher schedule in their new league, the Tigers moved to the cusp of a Western Massachusetts Class B title with a win over Frontier Regional in the semifinals of the tournament.

South Hadley also is now 10-10 on the season after going through most of the season below .500.

In a 62-60 win on the road, South Hadley entered the final frame tied with Frontier 44-44, but

Cara Dean led the offense in the final frame. She would lead the Tigers with 22 points for the game, with Kate Phillips notching 14 points. Olivia Athas added 12 points and Taylor Bullough scoring 11 points.

South Hadley was scheduled to meet a familiar foe in Pittsfield in the Western Mass. finals. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition. South Hadley will move into the state tournament next week with seeds being announced this Saturday.

→ Support Your Local Newspaper

## FACE from page 1

enced, and know everything there is to know about the real estate field.

"They are trusting us with a giant milestone in their lives: buying a home. I want my agents to be better equipped to give that information up front, so that the client feels comfortable doing business with that agent, and knows every step of the way," said Mak.

His family immigrated to Massachusetts from Poland and legally obtained citizenship in 1996, and Mak has worked hard to provide a better life for his family and to provide for his father the way he provided for him.

The desire to provide for his family translated into the mission statement of Signature Realty, where he made it a point to ensure that anyone who joined the company would be able to provide a service that would be able to benefit other families.

"We perfected the S.E.E Method, Simplicity, Effectiveness, and Efficiency, and our core values to prioritize the agent so they can go and sell and do well without wor-

rying about anything else," said Mak.

These include ways to streamline agent work by having an admin person in-house to work with the agents for paperwork, which then helps agents move to new clients more effectively, paying agents within 24-48 hours, an in-house social media person, and installing signs in the ground for their agents.

The company currently has 40 agents as of the past year and a half, and Mak is looking forward to the ways the company will be able to continue to grow.

"I'd like to thank Steve Laplante, and I think he did a phenomenal job in leading the Chamber, and I think it has grown significantly because of his leadership," said Mak. "To me, and having him be a fellow real estate broker, it means a lot that he was able to put on the hat of President of the Chamber and welcome in almost a competition. That selfless action really captured who he is and what he's done for the community."

The business was packed with people to support the



Submitted photos

Karl Mak, Mortgage Lender Tom Roark, Lana Ochs, Area Manager for Annie Mac, and Mortgage Lender Ken Askins.

new member of the Chamber and the new business, welcoming him into the community. A part of the gathering included Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Homar Gomez, and Mak said he was "thankful that they came out and made the time to be there with us."

"Given the opportunity to

network within the community with other business owners is a wonderful opportunity, and a lot of the Chamber's mission is to help people grow in that space," said Mak. "It's always good to network with other local businesses, and to help other small businesses and charities. That means a lot to us."



State Representative Homar Gomez, Business Partner at Signature, Armando Roman, Building Owner Sam Bernash, Karl Mak, Senator Jake Oliveira.



The ribbon is cut, and Signature Realty in South Hadley is officially open!

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Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to: [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

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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.

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# Legal Notices

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HEALTH SETS REGULATION PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURING, SALE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SYNTHETICALLY DERIVED CANNABINOIDS, SYNTHETIC KRATOM UNREGULATED NOVEL INTOXICATING PRODUCTS

Town of South Hadley regulations prohibiting the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of synthetically derived cannabinoids, synthetic kratom unregulated novel intoxicating products were passed by the South Hadley Board of Health. Copies may be obtained at the Board of Health Office.

Karen Walsh Pio, Chair  
Tony Judge, Vice Chair  
Charles Scott, Clerk  
Michael Rosner, MD  
Stephen Frantz  
02/20/2026

### Town of South Hadley Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM to consider a repeal and replacement of the South Hadley Zoning By-law Chapter 255-91 Floodplain Regulations. The public hearing will be held in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Multipurpose Room, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley. Virtual attendance is also welcome through the Zoom Webinar platform via the following login:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301770371?pwd=s051CnIzUBBqQXlZd7RRqqr2Ubdlx.1>

Join by phone: (646) 558 8656  
Webinar ID: 863 0177 0371;  
Passcode: 766965

The proposed bylaw amendment is on file in the Planning and Conservation Department at Town Hall, Room U6, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, and is available to the public for review between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM. Materials are also available online at <https://southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws-under-Floodplain-Regulations>.

Any person interested in or wishing to be heard should appear/join the hearing at the date and time specified and in the manner designated. This notice is filed pursuant to MGL c40A, sec. 5.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
02/20, 02/27/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS26P0040EA Estate of: James Arthur Corey**

### Also known as: James A. Corey Date of Death: 10/05/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jacqueline L Reardon of South Hadley, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Jacqueline L Reardon of South Hadley, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/09/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 06, 2026  
Mark S Ames, Register of Probate  
02/20/2026

### Town of South Hadley Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM to consider an application for Site Plan Review and Stormwater Management Permit filed by James Falcone c/o TJF Properties LLP to construct two (2) 3,500 square foot one-story office buildings and associated parking lot and stormwater management system on a parcel with an existing commercial building at 577 Granby Road, South Hadley, Massachusetts, Assessor's Map 32, Parcel 42, within the

Business A-1 zoning district. The application is filed pursuant to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 Article XII Site Plan Review; Chapter 255 Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules; and Chapter 200 Stormwater Management of the South Hadley General Bylaws.

The public hearing will be held in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Multipurpose Room, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley. Virtual attendance is also welcome through the Zoom Webinar platform via the following login:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301770371?pwd=s051CnIzUBBqQXlZd7RRqqr2Ubdlx.1>

Join by phone: (646) 558 8656  
Webinar ID: 863 0177 0371;  
Passcode: 766965

The application is on file in the Planning and Conservation Department at Town Hall, Room U6, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, and is available to the public for review between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM. Plans are also available online at [www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review-under-Granby-Road-577-Professional-Office-Space](http://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review-under-Granby-Road-577-Professional-Office-Space).

Any person interested in or wishing to be heard should appear/join the hearing at the date and time specified and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
02/20, 02/27/2026

### GRANBY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 11, the Granby Planning Board will hold a public hearing on March 9, 2026, at 5:50 PM, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA. The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Smith - Merrill Inc dba Dressels Service Station (Applicant) / Merrill Holdings LLC (Owner), seeking a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval for a used auto sales in addition to current use of automotive repair, under Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III - Use Regulations, 3.5.10 - Sale of used motor vehicles at 161 West State Street, and known as Assessors' Map 3-C-10-1, in the General Business Zoning District.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (9:00AM - 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM - 12:00 PM Fridays) at the Select Board's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair  
Granby Planning Board  
02/20, 2/27/2026

## VALENTINES from page 1

"I love being with my family and spending time with them," said Roisin,

Fay's sister.

The children's room was filled with kids and their caregivers to make something special for the ones

that they love, and remembering the true meaning of Valentine's Day is to share and spend time with the people who matter most.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas  
**Mac and his friend Terrie are making a heart with his favorite colors.**



**Junot is showing his heart proudly and repping his love for Pokémon, too.**



**Little Mac's finished heart.**



**All the tools needed to make a beautifully unique Valentine.**

## SKALA from page 1

teers transitioned to Mosier School. Still, parent involvement remains essential. "Without volunteers, these events wouldn't happen," Bartlett said, noting that continued engagement is key to sustaining programs year after year.

The PTA works closely with administrators and teachers at the Henry J. Skala School to identify needs

and set priorities. Teachers regularly reach out for help with supplies or support for events like field day and picture day. Ensuring access is central to that mission. "We want all students to be able to experience every event regardless of the ability to pay," Bartlett said, adding that scholarships are available for families with financial need.

Like many school organizations, the Skala PTA

faces challenges, particularly rising field trip and transportation costs. "Busing cost is extremely expensive," Bartlett said, noting that providing no-cost field trips has become more difficult, along with securing nursing coverage for trips.

Even so, the PTA remains committed to finding solutions—and to making sure no Skala student is left behind.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object

### CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Small water spirit (Germ.)
- Heroes
- Monetary units
- Some don't want to share theirs
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- Litigates
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- A way to remove dog\_\_
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals
- Rider of Rohan

### CLUES ACROSS

- Wet dirt
- Southwestern Russia city
- Observed
- Angry
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They \_\_
- Women
- Be filled with love for
- Thick-soled sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Protein
- "Gunga Din" script writer
- Art \_\_, around 1920
- \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

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Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

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**COLLEEN** from page 1

Holyoke; Anna Mary Evans, 22, of Holyoke; and Olivia Rose Royland, 20, of Holyoke.

This was a moment she had been waiting for all her life.

"Honestly, I am speechless; this is just a shock to me," Christie said. "But I also want to add that I'm so proud of all my fellow colleens, like let it be known we were all fantastic tonight. I love working with all these girls, they are such amazing people, and lastly it's just an honor to carry this for the next year, for when I pass this onto the next colleen."

Christie also revealed that one moment she is looking forward to is interacting with the children in the community and creating a lasting and positive impact.

"I have always dreamt of this moment, and it's reassuring that I'm going to be that person they look up to, and I want to say that I really love my family and I wouldn't be here without them," Christie added.

In addition to Christie's reign kicking off, right next to her throughout the entire process post-selection was Reardon, who took a mo-

ment to reflect on her reign, which officially drew to a close.

"It's a little bittersweet, but the year honestly just flew by, and this has been just a fantastic experience, and now being able to see the other side of the sisterhood and handing off the crown to Jadyn (Christie) is just a special experience, and I'm so happy for her and her court," Reardon said. She also offered a point of praise towards the rest of the 2026 court, congratulating them on their success.

"Everyone did such a phenomenal job, and they should all be proud of themselves, and I just hope everyone has a blessed and happy green season," Reardon said.

Now that the Colleen and her court have been assembled and chosen, the parade committee and the city now turn their focus toward the big day, as fast approaching is the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race which kicks off on Saturday, March 21, 2026, and closing out the holiday weekend is the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2026. And next up on the calendar is an Irish flag-raising ceremony at the JFK Memorial on March 1.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
**Jadyn Christie is cheered after the announcement.**



**2026 Grand Colleen Jadyn Christie receives her robe.**



**Moirá Reardon, the 2025 Grand Colleen, gives her farewell address.**



**O'Connell Award winner DJ O'Connor.**



**The Grand Colleen sits on the throne surrounded by her court.**

Turley photos by David Henry



**Court member Anna Evans.**



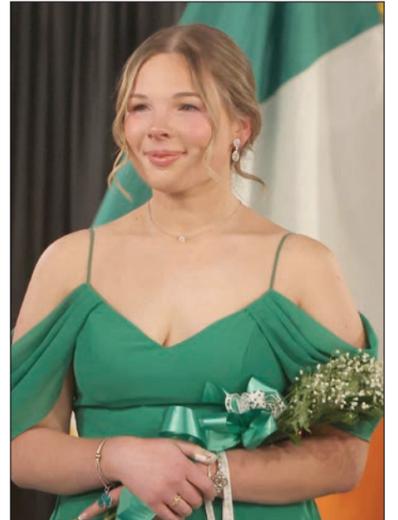
**Court member Birdie Bowler.**



**Jadyn Christie stands with past Grand Colleens.**



**Court member Olivia Royland.**



**Court member Paige Leahy.**



**Rohan Award winner City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti.**



**Gallivan Award winner James Menard.**



**Parade President Jim Wildman welcomes attendees to the coronation.**



**Candice Clark (1992 Grand Colleen), Trina Laponte, Caroline Danlo, Michael and Heather Kies (1993 Grand Colleen), and Aggie Warren.**



**Grand Colleens Heather Kies (1993) and Candice Clark (1992).**



**Pageant coordinators Kathy Dulchinos and Nicholle Harrison.**