

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Senior Center hosts Irish celebration with Colleens

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

SOUTH HADLEY – St. Patrick’s Day is here, and the Council on Aging held a special Irish celebration last week to commemorate the holiday, called From Ireland to America.

The event featured live music by Roger Ticknell who sang classic Irish songs, and Mont Marie donated mint brownies and ice cream to enjoy.

This was the first event, and Kathy Florence at the senior center loved seeing all the people who came, saying, “This is going to be so much fun, and it’s a great way to relax and have some fun with music.”

The event also had the Grand Colleen and members of her court come to say hello and help to hand out ice cream and greet the guests.

The Colleens are representatives for the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade, which falls on Sunday, March 23 this year.

They serve as ambassadors, and they bring the Irish spirit of the parade to neighboring communities leading up to the big parade.

Please see **COLLEENS**, page 12



Colleen Coordinator Kathryn Dulchinos, Miss Congeniality Maura Joseph, Grand Colleen Moira Reardon, and Colleen Court Erin Gauthier.



Eighth Graders Grace Proulx (left) and Autumn DeLuca portray the uptight butler-turned-clock Cogsworth and charismatic maître d’-turned-candleabra Lumiere in this production of Beauty and the Beast, Jr.

Beauty and the Beast to enchant audiences

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

Co-Director Stefani Holmes shared her excitement about the production, stating, “We chose Beauty and the Beast because of the large ensemble cast. We have many talented actors in our school and are thrilled to provide moments for each of them to shine on stage.” Holmes also emphasized the story’s meaningful message, adding, “The show continues our year-long theme of friendship and sacrifice. Beauty and the Beast demonstrates acceptance and vulnerability, and our actors have worked

SOUTH HADLEY - The Michael E. Smith Middle School Drama Club is ready to enchant audiences with its production of Beauty and the Beast, Jr. Running from March 27-30, this magical show features an ensemble cast of sixty students, ages 10-14, as they bring to life one of Disney’s most beloved tales. With five performances at the South Hadley High School auditorium, the young cast invites the community to “Be Our Guest” for a truly unforgettable theatrical experience.

Please see **BEAUTY**, page 5

Council On Aging hosts chronic illness support group

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – When dealing with a chronic illness, it can often become a lonely time, as the people who don’t have a chronic illness rarely are able to completely understand.

Janet Lucier, who is dealing with a chronic illness of her own, stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, has not let her diagnosis slow her down as she works towards finding

ways of healing for herself, and to show others what she has found.

“I am a teacher and spiritual teacher, and I am very oriented to helping people,” said Lucier. “Now that I am dealing with cancer myself, we thought of doing a support group, and now it is a very pertinent topic in my life,” said Lucier.

Lucier had been hosting classes at the senior center

before, one holistic health program, and another group called This is Your Life.

“In my cancer journey, I was shocked to find the lack of information about what to do when you have cancer, I have been putting my time and energy into reading about it, so that I can share so that people don’t feel lost.”

Lucier has her master’s degree in education, is a Reg-

istered Nurse, and has worked hard to become a board-certified holistic nurse. She has also specialized in mental health, working at bedsides in psych hospitals working with patients one-on-one, and has training in mindfulness meditation.

Through her holistic studies, she found shamanism, which she studied in Scotland, and a Buddhist mindfulness teaching, which ended up helping her the most.

“I feel like my time isn’t up, and I am going to be here

to support others and be a source of caring comfort and facts for people not only dealing with cancer, but with chronic illness of any kind,” said Lucier.

She has worked as a holistic nurse for about fifty years and studied deeply the ideas of this Eastern tradition and religious belief to find clarity within herself and with her healing journey.

“Holism is just the idea of integrating holistic thinking of the body, soul, and mind in the environment,” said Lucier.

“Western medicine doesn’t do this much and just gives medications and doesn’t deal with the whole person.”

“Cancer is affected by the environment, what we eat, exercise, self-care, and mental illness, and all of these things are important when dealing with cancer, and it’s really been made real for me,” said Lucier.

Lucier took what she has learned and brought it into a

Please see **SUPPORT GROUP**, page 5



Janet Lucier

Not just your ordinary items

SHPL announces a new Library of Things

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The library is always full of people ready to explore the shelves to find a new book,

video game, audiobook, or movie to enjoy, or take part in the events they host, but not everyone knows how much more they have to offer.

Rena Stromgren, the Circulation Librarian, has created a new Library of Things, which allows for more than just the “normal” items to be checked out.

“We’ve always had equipment and kits at the libraries

that didn’t quite fit into your regular book/movie category of items to check out, but they were little known and used,” said Stromgren.

The library has a Kill-a-Watt electricity usage monitor, bird watching kits with binoculars, and other items that are very rarely checked out, but are waiting to be utilized and enjoyed by you.

“The Library of Things is a way of collecting those non-traditional library items together and branding, presenting and promoting the collection so patrons know what we offer,” said Stromgren.

There is a section of cards next to the video games across from the circulation desk where there is a binder of pages to flip through that feature the different items available for check out.

If you see an item you’d like a turn with but its checked out, you can go to the circulation desk and have

Please see **THINGS**, page 6

Local churches Lenten lunches bring community together

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Marilyn Gass, a member of All Saint’s Church, has a great love for her church community, and the Lenten Lunches the church is able to give out to the community.

“All Saints Church has hosted Lenten Lunches since 1970, and they were really creative. The idea came from another Episcopal church in Springfield, and our chairman heard about theirs and created ours,” said Gass.

“Now, we are doing a lot of collaboration with St. Patrick’s in the Falls and shared the ideas with some people at St. Pat’s, so we were happy to have another church join us,” said Gass.

Over the past two years, the two churches really came



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

A delicious spread of the Lenten Lunch available to purchase on Fridays at both All Saints Church in the Center, and St. Patrick’s in the Falls.



Rena Stromgren with a loaded kindle and a bird watching kit from the Library of Things.

The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors seek membership support



Friends' board member Cheryl Pelland-Lak serves free hot apple cider at the Winter Preparedness Fair.

Friends' board member Kathy Gallivan serves as a judge for the Senior Center Friendsgiving bake off. Friends' members Ola Herbert and Fran O'Connell participate in the event.



SOUTH HADLEY—The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors have been serving the town for over 40 years and they have no plans to slow down. Last year, they provided over \$20,000 in funding for senior related events, items and activities. The funding went toward programming at the senior center, print and meeting support for the age & dementia friendly initiative, funding for Project Lifesaver, and gift cards for stockings for seniors (a jointly sponsored program with TRIAD),

to name a few. This year, their plan is to double their community support. One of ways they are able to give back so much to the community is through their membership program. For just \$10 year, a person can join the Friends. “100% of our membership dollars go back into programming and benefits for our seniors,” commented Janet Stawasz, vice president of the Friends. “March is our membership month and one of the ways we’re giving back to our seniors is by funding free coffee at the Senior Center for the month. Folks can stop in at the Senior Center in March for a free cup of coffee, sponsored by the Friends.” Over 500 cups of coffee were given out the first week in March alone. Membership is open to all ages and the Friends have many members who are not senior citizens but want to support the work of this valuable group. The Friends have an exciting program and dinner planned at the Senior Center on May 1 from 4-6 p.m. when they will host a speaker to present, “Less is More: Strategies for Decluttering”. Following the program will be a delicious catered dinner. The cost is only \$5 and people can sign up at the Senior Center. Tickets are limited and they expect to sell out. And on Friday, May 9, the



Friends' board member Janet Stawasz and Friends' member Maureen Murray help to stuff “Stockings for Seniors”.

Friends will host their annual Mother’s Day hanging flower basket sale from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. outside at the Senior Center. If you’re interested in supporting the good work of this dedicated group of volunteers please consider joining the Friends. Your \$10 membership can be made payable to the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and either dropped off at the Senior Center or mailed to PO Box 55, South Hadley. Keep up to date with the Friends on Facebook. The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Spring Forward Showcase preview event March 21

SOUTH HADLEY—The Showcase South Hadley 2025 festivities kick off early with a FREE Spring Forward preview event starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 21 at the South Hadley Council on Aging located at 45 Dayton Street. The event will be presenting local food, student entertainment, and a feature performance by the Bad News

Jazz & Blues Orchestra. Come join in the fun and learn more about the big weekend of arts, culture, entertainment and family fun activities planned for Showcase South Hadley to be held April 26th and 27th. Special thanks to our early sponsors for their critical financial support: Republic Services, Private Financial Design, Greenfield Coop-

erative Bank, SHELD, PIP Marketing Signs Print, Mark Teed/Raymond James, ChapdeLaine’s Interiors, and Verlyl’s Automotive. Showcase South Hadley is made possible with the generous support of the Town of South Hadley, the South Hadley Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, local businesses, individual donors, and MASH

(Music and Arts South Hadley). More information about the Spring Forward preview event and the full Showcase South Hadley weekend can be found by visiting the Showcase South Hadley website at www.southhadleyarts.org or the Showcase South Hadley Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ShowcaseSouthHadley.

Plains School kindergarten packet now available pick-up

SOUTH HADLEY – Plains School Kindergarten packet pick-up for South Hadley residents will be March 10 to March 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Families of Kindergarten and Grade One Students NEW

to South Hadley please stop by the Plains School Main Office to pick up the registration packet. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the main office at 413 538-5068.

NOTICE

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

TOWN OF GRANBY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

&

Q & A Session

On the

West Street Building Renovation Project

WHEN: MARCH 25, 2025

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: 10-B WEST STATE STREET

SOUTH HADLEY 2025

Spring

YARD WASTE

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

April 21st - May 2nd

Paper Bags or Open Top Containers Only; MUST BE CURBSIDE BY 7 A.M. ON YOUR COLLECTION DAY.

Each Route Will Have ONE COLLECTION. Brush Must Be Tied In Bundles (No Metal) of Not More Than Four (4') Foot Lengths. Leaves, Grass and Brush Only.

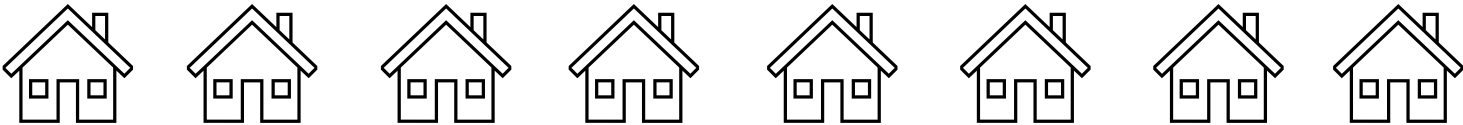
NO PLASTIC BAGS

Please keep yard waste barrels separate and apart from trash barrels

Questions? Please contact The DPW at 538-5030 www.southhadley.gov

Residents currently or formerly living in Affordable Housing wanted to join South Hadley’s newly formed Affordable Housing Trust

We need you to help ensure South Hadley remains a vibrant, inclusive and affordable place to live for all people. If you’re passionate about making a difference and want to help guide the future of housing in your community, contact Anne Capra, Director of Planning & Conservation acapra@southhadleyma.gov | (413) 538-5030 x6128



Opinion



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Health care 5 years after COVID

In March 2020, we were bracing for upheavals in our daily lives. COVID-19 had come to our shores, and doctors were at a loss at how to treat it, let alone prevent it from spreading.

And spread it did. COVID became the third leading cause of death after cancer and heart disease. Not only was COVID a serious threat, it kept us from going to doctors for routine health care, which made chronic conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, worse.

Today, COVID-19 is better understood and most of us have resumed our normal routines. Five years later, though, we are still living with its legacies, both positive and negative, as it pertains to health care.

Here are a few of the ways COVID is still changing your health care.

Telehealth became widely accepted

Online medical services were very limited before COVID and rarely, if ever, covered by Medicare and private

insurance. That changed with the pandemic, and it's been all to the good.

Reduced regulation and insurance coverage made telehealth more accessible and affordable, particularly for those in rural areas and seniors unable to travel to a doctor's office. Studies have found that outcomes are comparable to those obtained through in-person care. Technology has continued to improve as well.

There's a big however, here.

The emergency order covering telehealth was issued during the first Trump administration, and it was extended twice under the Biden administration. The last emergency extension for telehealth coverage expires March 31, which means that starting April 1, coverage for telehealth services will be sharply limited.

Some in Congress are hopeful that a bipartisan measure to keep telehealth going will be enacted, so I recommend you contact your representatives and urge them support it.

Remote medical care is routine

In response to COVID and the need to keep people from sitting in doctors' offices, tech companies raced to create RMDs – remote medical devices. Today, you can take your blood pressure at home and the readings can be sent to your doctor's office. Same for monitoring of other chronic conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease.

This not only benefitted patients, but also doctors and those tech companies. Doctors are allowed to bill Medicare for every patient being remotely monitored, whether or not

they personally reviewed the data. Some unscrupulous marketers, meanwhile, are trying to sign up seniors for remote monitoring without their doctors' knowledge.

"It's the Wild West out there," says an attorney who advises health providers. So this is a decidedly mixed bag: some good, some not so good.

Vaccine development sped up

The discovery that an effective vaccine could be developed using the structure of the virus (messenger RNA, or mRNA) let scientists come up with safe and effective COVID vaccines in a matter of months rather than years.

This technique was also used to create the RSV vaccine and is the basis for a whole raft of vaccines under development or in clinical trials to treat everything from the flu to HIV to cancer to Alzheimer's.

Patients still struggle with long COVID

The Kaiser Family Foundation reported, "As the nation moves further from the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of long COVID remain steady and 7 percent of all adults -- roughly 17 million people -- reported currently having long COVID in March 2024."

This suggests that the condition may persist indefinitely for some people, unless new treatment and prevention options are found. Long COVID is also difficult to diagnose because its symptoms (fatigue, "brain fog," muscle pain, shortness of breath, to name a few) could be almost anything.

The people most vulnerable to

long COVID include seniors, those with underlying health conditions, those who had severe COVID infections and the unvaccinated.

The health-care system cracked under pressure

The pandemic brought about an unprecedented exodus of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals from the field because of burnout and PTSD. A study in the Journal of the American Medical Association noted that turnover remains high and "the pandemic may have long-lasting implications for workers' willingness to remain in health care jobs."

In my view from the front lines, I have seen patients bear the unfortunate consequences: delayed care, more infections, higher rate of complications and mortality, higher risk of errors and decreased satisfaction. This level of frustration is why patients are turning to private patient advocates in ever increasing numbers.

COVID-19 seemingly came out of nowhere in early 2020. Hopefully the lessons COVID taught will help us through the next pandemic.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

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.

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I avoid paying the Medicare premium?

Dear Rusty:

Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65?

We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%.

Signed: Disheartened Senior

Dear Disheartened:

For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage. The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to free Medicare coverage for Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.. For that coverage from Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185 per month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, unless you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends.

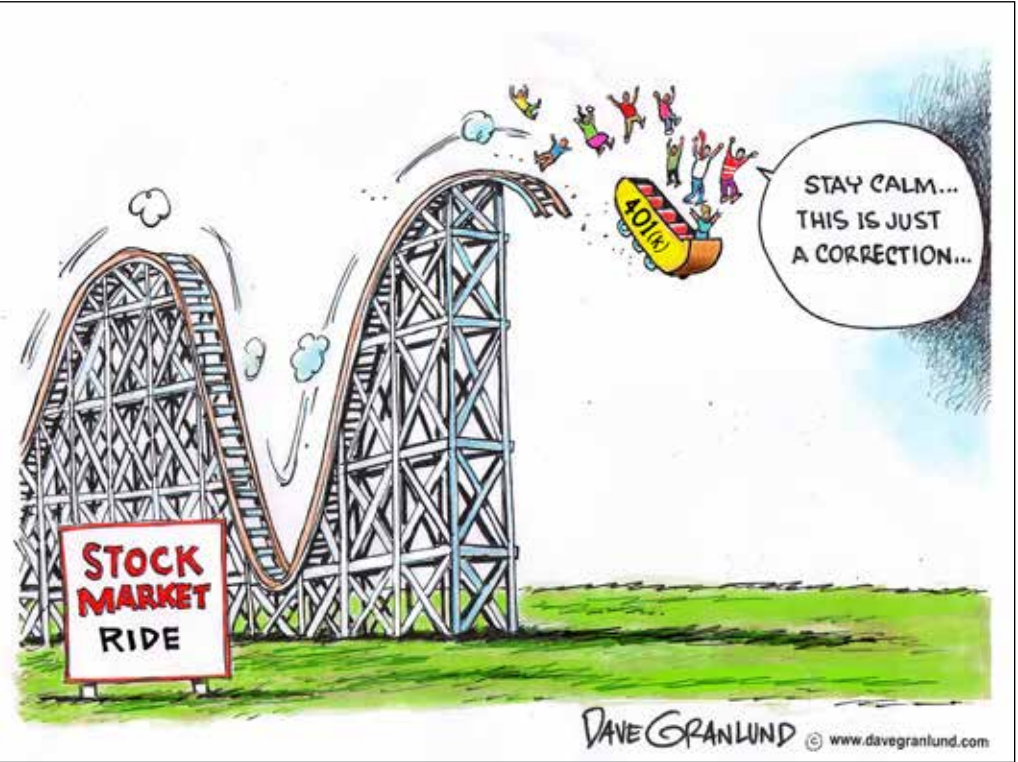
If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period at 65 or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B

outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premium. FYI, "creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish – it's just not advisable, unless you have current creditable healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to consider getting either a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

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



Grateful for the March garden

I don't know about you, but those first few warmer days do something to my brain. I begin to expect that we are in for nice weather all the time.

It's easy to start dreaming and scheming, but alas, we are not exactly on a fast track to summer just yet, nor should we be. There is much to enjoy about this time of year.

Here are just a few of my favorite things about March.

First on the list is that my however-many-year-old Gerber daisy houseplant gave me a flower, with a couple more on the way. I had three of these plants last year. I gave a two away in one of my "less is more" moods.

Do they bloom as well as they did when they were a year old? No, but that bright and cheery daisy in seashell pink was just the pick-me-up I needed last week.

Soon, you will see Gerber daisies for sale in the grocery stores and plant nurseries. Try overwintering one in a bright but cool window next winter for your own dose of pre-spring happiness.

After the size 10 footprint landed on the corner of my front border, in exactly the spot that I planted some tulip bulbs last fall, I made a fence out of apple tree prunings. What a fun March activity!

I bent each long piece into a U shape and plunged the ends into the ground, starting the next one in the middle of the one prior. That

outta keep my husband off the bulbs; I hope at least. Speaking of prunings, I have started to accumulate



"pea brush." I'll be sowing pea seeds in the next few weeks, and although I typically plant the seeds right up against the garden's fence, I am going to need more room this year, and these leftover prunings will be perfect for the tendrils to grab hold of.

I make a wide bed the length of the garden row, insert the prunings in the middle of the row and plant pea seeds four deep up against the branches. In addition to my old stand by, shelling peas, I am going to be sowing sugar snap and snow peas.

My first experience with sugar snap peas came from harvesting some pods while on a weekend getaway at bed and breakfast. It was a cool little place in southern New Hampshire where you could pick the vegetables from the kitchen garden and eat them for dinner.

It'll be fun to grow my own for fresh eating.

"Pea brush" can also be used to support annual or perennial flowers that tend to have weak or floppy stems. The brush blends into the

scenery a little better than stakes and twine, and it's easily dismantled when the time comes.

My favorite March bulb is a harbinger of all harbingers, the Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter.

Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower. You'll notice three white outer petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals.

The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks. Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search of pollen during the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we "deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form.

It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing. Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed at a perfect distance

Please see **GARDEN**, page 6

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BEAUTY
from page 1

hard to bring that emotion to the stage.”

Based on the Tony Award-nominated Broadway production and the Academy Award-winning animated film, *Beauty and the Beast*, Jr. tells the story of Belle (played by 8th grader Lily O’Connor), a young woman in a small provincial town, and the Beast (voiced by 8th grader Josie Seborowski and performed by 7th grader Carly Peterson), a cursed prince in search of redemption. The Beast, under an enchantress’s (7th grader GiGi Vegaulla-Morales) spell, must learn to love and be loved in return before time runs out. Alongside Belle and the Beast, a colorful household of enchanted objects—including Lumiere (8th grader Autumn DeLuca), Cogsworth (8th grader Grace Proulx), and Mrs. Potts (8th grader Elena Carpentier)—adds charm, humor, and heart to this timeless tale.

A unique feature of this production is a larger-than-life, full-body Beast puppet created by local artist Eric Weiss of Homeslice Puppetry, made possible through a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Arts Council. The elaborate costumes, sets, and props were crafted by a dedicated team of parents, staff, and community volunteers, including Carol Parrish, Jim Dahrouge, Carla Froeberg, Abby O’Connor, Jill Koval-



Eighth grader Ella Goodhind and seventh grader Shina Adeyemi will portray Gaston and his sidekick Lefou.

TICKETS
AVAILABLE ONLINE
& AT THE DOOR

mesmsdrama.
ludus.com

General admission \$12 for Adults
\$8 for Students & Seniors

SHOWTIMES

EVENINGS:
MARCH 27-28-29 • 7 PM

MATINEES:
MARCH 29-30 • 2 PM

chik, 8th grader Zivile Pagan, Dan Parrish, Eric Peterson,

Chris Camp, and Devon Santos. The entire production has been a community effort, with Saturday morning workshops allowing alumni, families, and volunteers to assist in creating elements of the show such as the village, castle, library, and even a whimsical tavern.

In addition to the hard work put in by the directors and crew, the student actors have embraced the production with enthusiasm. “My favorite part of the play has been the wolf scene with Maurice, Belle, and the Beast. I hope the audience will learn that a person’s appearance doesn’t matter—it’s their actions and heart that count,” said 8th grader Blessing Ebai-Bate. Fellow cast member Kaylyn

Colon, also in 8th grade, expressed excitement about the elaborate costumes in the “Be Our Guest” number, while 6th grader Kenslie LaBarre eagerly anticipated the thrill of performing in front of an audience. “My favorite part of the play so far is working with my directors and castmates,” added 8th grader Ella Goodhind.

Holmes expressed her gratitude for the community’s involvement in making the production possible. “I have enjoyed sharing this creative process with members of our school staff and community. We have talented families that have offered their time and talents to our productions. We would not be able to do this caliber of show without their skills and creativity.”

The MESMS Drama Club, a self-supporting program first established with a \$500 grant from the Michael E. Smith Endowment for Education in 2005, continues to thrive thanks to the passion and dedication of students, teachers, and supporters alike.

Tickets for the production are available online at mesmsdrama.ludus.com or can be purchased at the door. General admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Showtimes include evening performances on March 27, 28, and 29 at 7 p.m., with matinees on March 29 and 30 at 2 p.m. Additionally, audiences can purchase actor-grams and concessions to support the drama club.

A night celebrating
women March 27

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Council on Aging is holding our first event to recognize and celebrate women in the area.

The event will be held Thursday, March 27 from 2 to 6:30p.m. at the Senior Center. Registration is requested. This event is free and open to all ages.

This event will be a multi-faceted event including over 10 vendors (women owned businesses) with items for sale. The Social Hour will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. and will include refreshments, hors d’oeuvres and desserts. This hour will provide an opportunity for mingling with

distinguished women in the community.

Guest speakers will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. which will include Kristen Elechko, The Western Mass. Director, office of Gov. Healy. A newly appointed position to represent Western Mass. Lisa Wong, South Hadley Town Administrator and Kari Kastango - the first person to swim the Connecticut River.

The evening will conclude with a performance by The Pearls from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Pearls are a fabulous, all female singer group. The Pearls are sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Voting by mail for the town election

SOUTH HADLEY - Voters must apply to receive a ballot. Applications may be submitted online, in person in the Clerk’s office, or by mail. Postcards are not mailed to voters during the years without a State/Presidential Election, as all Cities and Towns have different election dates.

Applications are only good for one calendar year and must be re-submitted annually.

How to apply for a Mail-in Ballot:

In-person: Applications are available in the Town Clerk’s office during regular office hours

Mail: An application may be mailed to 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075

Online: Apply online at www.VoteinMA.com under “Apply to Vote by Mail”

Applications must be in the Town Clerk’s office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to receive a mail-in ballot for the April 8, 2025 Town Election.

Please direct all questions to the Town Clerk’s office by phone at 413-535-5030, ext. 6183 or by email at elections@southhadleyma.gov.

SUPPORT GROUP
from page 1

new group at the senior center, a Living with Chronic Illness Support Group, which will include some bits of her holistic healing knowledge like reading, drumming circles, and other beneficial practices.

The group will also begin with breathing practices, or the reading of a helpful poem, and then people will be able to share with them what they are comfortable.

“I suspect we will be able to build a truly supportive community for one another and bring support to get

through the difficulties of chronic illness,” said Lucier.

The group is open to all kinds of chronic illnesses, not just cancer, but can also relate to mental illnesses like those struggling with PTSD, past traumas, anxiety, or depression.

“People need someplace where they can go that is safe and free and receive some help to get through what they are going through in their life,” said Lucier.

Through her work as a psych nurse, she has understanding of keeping things confidential and ensuring confidentiality and cultivating a safe environment to share.

“I feel like there’s really a great need for this, because a lot of people don’t get it. I am actually quite excited to be able to offer this and have more people come,” said Lucier. “I hope people can learn these holistic interventions and they will help others as they have helped me.”

The group will meet on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The time could extend depending on the number of people present to allow for all to share. You can also find more information about Janet at her website, www.windhorseholisticstrategies.com.

All Saints’ Church Lenten Lunches return

SOUTH HADLEY—Drive-Up, Pick-Up and Enjoy the Lenten Lunches which will return to All Saints’ Church on March 28 and April 11. Chair Person, Laura Marsh, says “that lunches should be ordered each week in advance by calling the All Saints’ Church office at 413-532-8917, and leaving an order on line or with the Parish Administrator.” Prices will be

available on request.

This year the menu offers three choices:

#1 Lobster Roll*, chips and dessert Brownie

#2 Tuna Salad Roll*, chips and dessert Brownie (*gluten free rolls may be purchased on request.)

#3 A Cup of Clam Chowder or A Cup of Vegetable Soup, crackers, and dessert Brownie

All items are made by our volunteers in the Church Kitchen, and picked up outdoors between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the All Saints’ parking area behind the Church off Dunlop Place. Proceeds benefit area mission projects.

On alternate Fridays in Lent, March 21 and April 4, lunches are available at St. Patrick’s Church in South Hadley Falls.

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Early voting by mail in South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY—All registered voters in South Hadley may apply to vote by mail in all elections, with no excuse required.

Step 1: Apply for a mail-in ballot

Ballots are not automatically mailed to voters. Voters must apply online, in person in the Clerk’s office, or by mail. Applications are good for one calendar year. The deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is the 5th business day before the election.

In person: Applications are available in the Town Clerk’s office during regular office hours Mail: An application may be mailed to 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075

Online: Apply online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailIn-Ballot.aspx>

Applications must be in the Town Clerk’s office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 to receive a mail-in ballot for the April 8, 2025 Town Election.

Step 2: Vote when your ballot arrives

The Town Clerk’s office begins mailing out ballots as soon as they arrive from the State or the printer. This is typically several weeks before the election.

Once you complete your ballot, you will place it into the “Early Ballot” envelope, sign where indicated, and seal the envelope.

Step 3: Return your completed ballot

Options for returning your ballot:

Mail: Place your sealed envelope into the postage pre-paid white envelope and place it in your mailbox

In person: Ballots are accepted in person during regular office hours

Drop box: Leave your sealed ballot in the secure drop box located behind the Police Station at 42 Bridge St, South Hadley, MA 01075

Once your ballot has been returned, you may track its status online at www.track-myballotma.com.

Contact the Town Clerk’s Office by phone: 413-538-5030, ext.6183 or email: elections@southhadleyma.gov www.southhadley.org/elections

South Hadley Democrats to elect state convention delegates

SOUTH HADLEY—Democrats in South Hadley will convene in-person on Saturday, March 29, 2025 to elect 10 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our town at the 2025 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 12 p.m. and the caucus will start at 12:30 p.m.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in South Hadley who are 16 years old by March 29, 2025 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Qualified Democrats who are unable to attend the caucus in person may apply in advance to be nominated for delegate and alternate slots in the event there are not sufficient nominations among those present at the caucus. To apply, email: southhadley-democrats@gmail.com. All candidates must consent to nomination.

Opportunities are avail-

able 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 2025 Democratic State Convention will be held in-person on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Mass-Mutual Center in Springfield. This year, delegates will gather to discuss and decide our Party’s Platform. Convention and delegate information is available at: <https://mass-dems.org/massdems-convention/>.

For more information or to get involved with the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, visit southhadleydems.com or email the Committee at southhadley-democrats@gmail.com. Massachusetts voters may register to vote or check registration online at: www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

THINGS from page 1

them put a hold on it with your name so you can go next.

“The American Girl Dolls are definitely popular with the kids! They are always rotating out. Same with our Wi-Fi Hotspots. I barely ever see one sitting on the shelf for more than a day before it gets snagged by another patron,” said Stromgren. “I think the coolest is our telescope. We just got it re-sighted and tuned up.”

The list of the items in the Library of Things also includes items at the Gaylord Memorial Library, and there is an online catalog under the Library of Things tab.

Items to check out from the Library of Things include American Girl Dolls, bird watching kits, gardening tools kit, hotspots, juggling balls, a Kill-A-Watt, a portable CD player with headphones, pre-loaded Kindles, STEM kits for kids, a telescope, a ukulele, a USB C charger, and so much more to come.

“Donations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, especially because of storage space,” said Stromgren. “We are not actively looking for items, but we would love suggestions of things patrons would want to borrow.”

The Library of Things began with items the library already owned, and they brought them all together



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

You can flip through this binder to find your next item to test out in the Library of Things.

into their own section with the branding of “Library of Things.”

“I’m most looking forward to having some digital converters, I think those would get a lot of use, including from me as a patron,” said Stromgren. “My parents still have VHS tapes that need to be converted before they magnetically degrade to dust particles!”

There is also talks of seeing portable CD and DVD

players that are looked forward to by some of the staff, as well as a Nintendo Switch.

“We hope branding and presenting these items as a Library of Things will make useful items more visible and user friendly for patrons to get their hands on,” said Stromgren.

Stop by the library and look through the items available in the Library of Things and find something new to take home and enjoy.

LUNCHES from page 1

together, and St. Patrick’s does three weeks, and All Saints does three, alternating between the churches throughout the Lent season.

“It’s really, from the beginning, has been outreach to the public,” said Gass. “The public being able to enjoy something fresh is a real sense of mission amongst the people of our church, as well as raise funds for the church, but its real purpose is outreach to the public, and they support our outreach, too.”

The money raised each year goes to a mission project, and this year they are looking into one, but the funds last year were donated to the Amherst Survival Center, and the year before to the Circle of Care.

The church has also supported through the Circle of Care a young woman from a

neighboring community find a job and place to live through this support.

A group of ten people that makes the soup and lobster salad, and the church has a small group of men who takes turns doing the clean-up and dishwashing each of the weeks they served.

“It’s been really exciting to me that every year we have been able to hold these lunches since it began in 1970,” said Gass. “There has always been someone here to put these together.”

All Saints will be hosting Lenten Lunches on March 28, and April 11. St. Patrick’s served the first Lenten Lunch on March 7, and the others will be hosting lunches on March 21, and April 4.

All Saints is also on March 21. It is time to get to “Know Your Neighbor” from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for a new film series to watch, and popcorn to

eat.

On April 27, they will also be hosting a “Love Your Neighbor” event following the 9 a.m. Sunday service from 10 to 11 a.m., and all are welcome.

“I’ve always really liked the All Saint’s motto that we are all saints, and remembering that all are welcome here, and all are free to participate,” said Gass. “I want to stress that people are so welcome to just come in and participate as fully as they wish.”

All Saints also has a cookbook that they have been selling for a number of years, and it is a group of recipes from the church community, as well as recipes for your furry friends and crafts for kids.

All Saints Church and St. Patrick’s Church are here in our communities, and are on a mission of outreach to share love and acceptance to all who enter.

GARDEN from page 4

from the mother plant.

Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry. It may not be the most beautiful to look at, but all the while that it is green it

is making and storing food for next year’s flowers.

Enjoy these early days in and around the garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts.

For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Library offering adult dominoes club

HOLYOKE – Love the strategic game of dominoes? Come play it at the Holyoke Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. every Monday starting Monday, March 10. The weekly

games will be held in the first-floor board room. For more information, call Abbey at 413-420-8101 or email abuedinger@holyo-kelibrary.org. The event is geared toward adults.



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Tigers prevail in state semifinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—Sophomore Kate Phillips scored a total of 55 points in the South Hadley Lady Tigers first three victories of the 2025 Division 4 state tournament.

Phillips also performed very well offensively in the semifinal game. She scored a game-high 18 points leading the third-seeded Lady Tigers to an exciting 45-42 victory against the second-seeded Millis Mohawks at Worcester State University last Wednesday night.

“It just feels amazing to be going back to state finals again,” said Phillips, who was also a member of last year’s varsity squad. “It’s a really hard thing to do, so I couldn’t be prouder to be a part of this team.”

The Lady Tigers (22-3) were trailing, 42-40, against

Mohawk with 48 seconds left in regulation.

Following a missed 3-pointer, Phillips grabbed the offensive rebound and was fouled on a put-back basket with 28.5 seconds left on the scoreboard clock. She then made the bonus free throw giving her team a 43-42 lead.

“Offensive rebounds are hard work and being in the right position at the right time,” Phillips added. “I was fortunate to be in the right spot on that one.”

Phillips, who’s also a dancer, sealed the deal by sinking two more foul shots with 3.1 seconds left.

“Kate is just a great rebounder, and she made a couple of big free throws at the end of the game,” said South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. “I’m thrilled that I’ll be coaching her for two more years.”

A year ago, the Lady Tigers beat Tyngsboro in the semifinals, which was also held at Worcester State, before losing to Cathedral High School of Boston in the state finals.

“We played in this building last year,” Dubuc said. “We’re now 2-0 here, which is very nice.”

The only other double digit scorer for South Hadley in this year’s semifinal game was freshman Olivia Athas, who scored seven of her 10 points during the first half. Sophomore Cara Dean added eight points, and senior Ava Asselin scored all five of her points during the third quarter. South Hadley’s only other scorer against the Mohawks was senior Caitlin Dean with four points.

The Mohawks, who finished their season with a 16-8 overall record, were led offensively by senior Lindsey Grattan with 16 points. Sophomore Lucy Miller added 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
CC Gurek makes her way toward the basket.

points.

“We just beat a very good team in tonight’s game,” Dubuc said. “They never quit, but our experience helped us out in tonight’s game. We’re battled tested.”

At the end of the first quarter, South Hadley built a 13-8 lead following an Athas inside hoop and a Phillips layup.

With 5:30 left in the first half, Athas knocked down a 3-pointer from the right side, which gave the Lady Tigers a 21-12 advantage.

Athas, who watched last year’s state tournament games from the stands, gave

her thoughts about playing in it for the first time.

“It just feels amazing to be a part of it for the first time,” she said. “I’m very glad that I’m a member of this basketball team.”

South Hadley would build a double digit lead (24-14) for the first time when Cara Dean banked home another 3-pointer from the left side with a little more than three minutes remaining in the half.

Then Millis scored the final seven points of the opening half, which closed the gap to 24-21 at the break.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



Kate Phillips gets a jump shot.



Sophia Butler takes the open layup.



Cody Breault attempts a three-pointer.

Rams defeated at home in state tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY— It had been 420 days since the Granby boys’ basketball team lost a game at Sullivan Gymnasium.

The Rams, who entered the 2025 Division 5 state tournament as the three seed, saw their long home winning streak come to an end following a 51-46 loss to the 19th-seeded Rockport Vikings in the Sweet 16 game played before a large crowd on March 3.

“We’re the only Division 5 team in our league. The other teams in our league are either in Division 3 or 4,” said Rockport head coach Phil Whitely. “We didn’t win many games during the regular season, but we’re battled tested. My guys played very hard in tonight’s game, and we were able to beat an outstanding Granby squad.”

Rockport, who are members of the Cape Ann League, had a 9-13 overall

Please see **RAMS**, page 8



Riley Goodhind takes a shot.

Lusitano awards return

The Lusitano Club of Ludlow returned to their tradition of giving out awards and scholarships

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—More than 3,400 high school soccer players from throughout Western Massachusetts have been honored at the Lusitano Alumni and Fans (LAF) Awards Banquet during the past 35 years.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the soccer banquet has been a lot smaller, but it’s always a very special event.

Six scholarship winners were honored at this year’s LAF banquet, which was held at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow on March 9.

The six award recipients are Thomas Wadas (Ludlow High School), Gabriella Fialho (Pope Francis/Ludlow), Samantha Lowe (Pathfinder Tech), Kylee Gamache (Franklin County Tech), Kennady Marino (East Longmeadow High School), and Burke Warchol (Longmeadow High School).

Wadas, who’s ranked seventh in the senior class academically with a 4.5 G.P.A., will be playing college soccer at UMass Amherst. He’s also a member of the National Honor Society.

“I’m going to be playing soccer at UMass, which was my top college choice,” Wadas said. “Staying close to home was really important to me.”

A year ago, UMass lost at third-seeded Denver, 3-0, in the Elite 8 of the NCAA Division 1 tournament. The Minutemen finished with a 13-4-5 overall record.

“UMass had an outstanding season last year,” Wadas said. “I’m just going to try my best to make an impact as a freshman. I’m really looking forward to playing soccer at the next level. The college game is a lot more physical and quicker.”

The UMass men’s soccer coach is Fran O’Leary.

Wadas, who’s planning to study business in college, was a four year starter for the Ludlow boys’ varsity soccer team, which is coached by Greg Kolodziey.

“Coach Kolodziey made a big impact on my life both on and off the field,” Wadas said. “I’m going to do everything that he has taught me at UMass. I’m also going to miss



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The winners pose with members of the Lusitano Club board.

playing soccer for him a lot.”

Wadas, who was a team captain last fall, was selected to the All-State soccer team twice.

The Lions won three out of the past four Western Mass. Class A titles. They also advanced to the Elite 8 of the Division 1 state tournament each year.

“The new state postseason tournament format allowed us to play a few more teams in the Boston area,” said Wadas, who scored 13 goals and had 12 assists as a senior. “I think we did very well against

Please see **AWARDS**, page 9



Samantha Lowe presented Pathfinder Tech at this year’s event.

Worcester wins close matchup Southerners

WORCESTER – The Railers have not played seven periods of sudden death overtime the last two nights here, it only feels that way.

Less than 24 hours after Worcester took a wild 6-5 decision from the Norfolk Admirals, the Railers beat the Southerners, 2-1, in an equally tense affair Saturday night. The victory kept them two points ahead of Reading in the North Division playoff race, although the Royals do have two games in hand.

Reading also won Saturday night. It beat Trois-Rivieres, 2-1.

As can happen when teams are playing a third game in three days, this was a goaltending duel. The winner was Michael Bullion, who stopped 27 of 28 shots. He beat Thomas Milic, who was spectacular in the third period and made 25 saves on 27 shots.

The game ended appropriately.

The Admirals pulled Milic in favor of an extra skater. They won a faceoff with four seconds left in the third period and got the puck to Graham

Sward at the left point. He delivered a slap shot from about 55 feet and Bullion, following it all the way, smothered the puck in his gut as the green light went on.

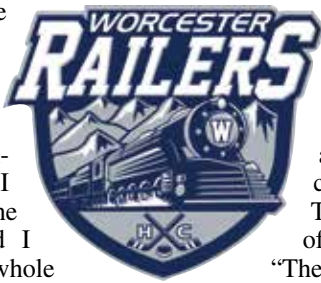
“I got a sight line,” Bullion said, “so I was watching it the whole time, and I stayed high the whole time, then just went down and ate it.”

Had the shot gone in, it probably would have counted. Bullion made sure there was no replay needed and was happy to hear the buzzer.

“Yeah, that was really nice,” he said.

The Railers got goals from Matt DeMelis and Anthony Callin. They had a 2-0 lead going into the third period but gave up a shorthanded goal to Sean Montgomery at 8:28. That left the Admirals with a lot of time to tie it, or worse.

Worcester’s penalty killing was once again a key factor in a victory. The Railers were 4 for 4 while shorthanded (all



four penalties were for slashing) and are 20 for 20 in the last six games.

“Right now it is getting guys who are comfortable with each other and super aggressive,” coach Nick Tuzzolino said of the killers.

“There are certain penalty kill details you have to follow — good sticks, lots of shot blocks — and your goalie has to be your best penalty killer and Michael was ours tonight.”

DeMelis scored at 9:56 of the first period with a high shot from between the circles. He was set up nicely by Tyler Kobryn, who fed him from the right boards. Callin’s goal came a lot later, at 15:49 of the second period, and from a similar spot in the slot but at the other end of the rink.

Matthew Kopperud made the pass.

Montgomery stole the puck at the right point and had a long breakaway. He

put a 25-footer over Bullion’s blocker.

The Railers had three fabulous chances to get a third goal in that third period but Milic made memorable saves on Loughran at 2:00, Jordan Kaplan at 5:30 and Anthony Repaci at 10:10.

The Admirals goalie kept them in the game, but he could not win it for them.

The Railers have 11 regular season games left. Their playoff push resumes Friday night in Maine versus the Mariners, who are longshots in the post-season picture but always troublesome. The first-place Trois-Rivieres Lions are at the DCU Center Saturday and Sunday.

“This group, no matter what happens with them, they are battle tested,” Tuzzolino said. “They have a good foundation. They know how to play with a lead in the third period, and if and when we hopefully make it to that mark and that push, it’s gonna echo in the in the post-season if we get there.

“Because they’ve been playing in the post-season for the last month.”

Providence gets by T-Birds at ‘sensory-friendly’ Sunday

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-23-2-4) could not keep the newest Bruin quiet as Providence (33-19-4-3) skated away with a 4-1 win on Sunday afternoon in front of another sellout crowd at the MassMutual Center on CHD Sensory-Friendly Sunday.

The day began with fireworks as Kale Kessy and Joey Abate got both benches on their feet with a fight just two seconds into the action. As a scoreless first progressed, a late post-whistle penalty to the T-Birds set the Bruins up for the game’s first power play. Providence made Springfield pay, as newest Bruin acquisition Fraser Minten chipped a shot over Vadim Zherenko at close range to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 15:20 of the first, a score that held into the intermission.

Minten was far from finished in his first career game against the T-Birds, adding a second goal at 2:29 of the second as he parked himself in the paint and guided a Billy Sweezy shot behind a helpless Zherenko. The rookie then completed a natural hat trick at 9:55 with some crafty hands at the side of the net to chip a puck into the top shelf over an outstretched Zherenko.

The T-Birds finally got a bounce to go their way, literally, at 12:46 when a Dalibor Dvorsky one-timer went off Bruins netminder Michael DiPietro, followed by the end glass. With everyone looking for the falling puck, it eventually careened off DiPietro’s back and over the goal line, giving the T-Birds’ 19-year-old his 19th goal of the season and making it a 3-1 game.

However, Springfield could not build upon their good fortune, as Minten fired another shot that Riley Duran tipped past Zherenko at 18:14 to polish off the rookie’s four-point game and send the game into the third at a 4-1 score.

DiPietro proved too tough to crack in the final period, as each of Springfield’s nine third-period attempts got swallowed up by the AHL’s leading victor in net. DiPietro picked up his 22nd win with 24 stops, while Zherenko was saddled with the defeat following a 25-save afternoon.

The T-Birds continue their four-game homestand on Wednesday as the Hershey Bears make their final trip to the Thunderdome this season. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

RAMS from page 7

record following their Sweet 16 victory.

It was the second time in a span of 72 hours that the Vikings made a long bus ride from the North Shore to Western Massachusetts and celebrated a victory against a higher seeded team. They squeaked out a 64-60 win at 14th-seeded Lee High School in the round of 32 on February 28.

The last time that Granby suffered a home loss was against Bi-County West rival Ware (55-49) on January 8, 2024.

While the Vikings magic carpet ride continued a little bit longer in the state tournament, the Rams finished their outstanding season with an 18-5 overall record. The Bi-County West League champions entered the Sweet 16 riding a six game winning streak.

“One game doesn’t define our season,” said Granby head coach Dylan Dubuc. “We had a heck of a run. We competed at the Western Mass. level and competed at the state level. It’s tough. I tried to tell the seniors that this game doesn’t define your season and what you’ve done for this program.”

Granby, who posted a 12-0 record at Sullivan Gymnasium this season, defeated Bartlett High School of Webster on their home court by ten points in a Round of 32 home game on February 27.

Five days earlier, Granby pulled out a thrilling 62-60 overtime victory over Drury High School in the Western Mass. Class C championship game at Westfield High School. It was the Rams first Western Mass. title since 2005.

The nine Granby seniors, who played in their final varsity basketball game against the Vikings, are Sawyer Clarke, Riley Goodhind, Cody Breault, Gavier Fernandez Jr., Ray D. Colon, Gavin Moreno, Cody White, Junior Alcantara Garces, and Brennan Dwyer.

Fernandez led the way offensively in the final game of the season with a team-high 19 points. The Rams’ only other double-digit scorer was Goodhind, who scored all ten of his points before halftime. Breault made three 3-pointers resulting in his nine points. Clarke added six points. Moreno’s only basket of the game was a fast-break lay-up following a steal in the middle of the opening quarter.

With 1:55 left in the first quarter, Breault buried his first 3-pointer from the right side which capped off an 8-2 run giving the Rams a 14-7 lead.

The Vikings scored the final six points of the opening quarter on three inside hoops, and they entered the second stanza trailing by only one point (14-13).

The game was tied a couple of times during the second quarter, but the home team managed to hold onto the lead.

An inside hoop by Rockport senior Chase Wheat (11 points) tied the score at 21-21 with 1:48 remaining in the first half.

The Rams then put together another 8-2 run, as Breault made two more 3-pointers and Goodhind added a pair of free throws.

Granby held a 29-23 half-time lead, but it would all slip away from them in the third quarter.

“We came out of the break and had three great looks. Like, really good looks. And we didn’t score,” Dubuc said. “And when you don’t score, you don’t get to set up your press, and then you’re running down and you’re trying to get your matchups. They’ve got a couple of guys that can score the ball. I said to them at half-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gavier Fernandez heads for the layup.



Ryan Colon eyes a teammate across the court.

time, ‘Let’s go throw the first punch. If we do that, maybe we get them on their heels a little bit. They made more shots than us down the stretch.’

The Rams’ only points of the third quarter was a Clarke lay-up with 5:40 left giving the home team a 31-25 lead.

That’s when Rockport senior Josiah Whitley, who scored his 1,000th career point during the regular season, took over the spotlight.

Whitley, who scored 10 of his game-high 20 points during the third quarter, made back-to-back 3-pointers tying the score at 31-31 with 3:34 remaining in the quarter. He

then made a pair of lay-ups. Wheat also made two free throws, giving the visiting team a six point lead (37-31) entering the fourth quarter.

A minute into the final quarter, Whitley buried a 3-pointer from the right side capping off the Vikings 17-2 run.

The Rams battled back with a Clarke lay-up. Fernandez also made back-to-back lay-ups slicing the deficit to 40-37 with 5:45 left in regulation.

Fernandez would score seven more points, but the Rams couldn’t get any closer than three points the rest of the way.

It was Granby’s first home loss in the state tournament since they lost to David Prouty by two points in the Sweet 16 in 2022.

TIGERS from page 7

The third quarter was evenly played, as the Lady Tigers held a slim 33-31 advantage entering the final quarter.

Millis would take the lead for the first time since the first quarter before Phillips became the hero of the Division 4 semifinal game.

“It was a very exciting game,” Dubuc said. “Every opponent that we played this season gave us their best shot. I’m so proud of these girls.”

The Tigers would fall in the state finals against Cathedral. A story from that matchup will be in next week’s edition.



ABOVE: Ava Asselin attempts a free throw during the state semifinals.



LEFT: Cara Dean goes for the long jumper.

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Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of

the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

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win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share

with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

AWARDS from page 7

them. We beat Newton South, who was the number one team in the state in last year's state tournament."

Fialho has been a high honors student at Pope Francis since she was a freshman, and also has 4.5 G.P.A..

During Fialho's varsity soccer career, Pope Francis has captured the Western Mass Class title three times.

Last fall, Pope moved up to Class A for the first time and posted a 1-0 victory against Longmeadow in the

championship match. They also celebrated 1-0 victories against West Springfield in the quarterfinals and Minnechaug Regional in the semifinals, which was decided in penalty kicks.

Just like Wadas, Fialho also will be playing college soccer close to home.

"I'll be playing college soccer at Springfield College next year," Fialho said. "I'm very happy that I'll be attending a college and playing soccer close to home."

The Springfield College women's soccer team is cur-

rently looking for a new head coach.

Kristin Cannon will be stepping down from her coaching duties for personal reasons on June 30. Fialho is hoping that the current assistant coach Brendon Boates is named as the new head coach.

"I was recruited by coach Boates," Fialho said. "He has a passion for the sport of soccer, and he has a lot of energy."

Prior to her freshman year, Fialho decided to attend Pope Francis instead of going to Ludlow High School.

"All of my friends wanted me to go with them to Ludlow High School," she said. "It was a very difficult decision for me to make, but I'm glad that I decided to go to Pope. It's a great school both academically and athletically."

Lowe, who lives in Ware, played soccer at Pathfinder Tech for four years and she was a team captain the past two seasons.

"I'm really excited to receive the scholarship award," said Lowe, who's not planning to play college soccer. "I'm proud of my accomplish-

ments during my high school soccer career. The girls' soccer team has improved a lot since I joined the team."

Lowe is planning to pursue a degree in culinary arts at a local community college.

"When I was growing up, I was always in the kitchen with my mom and we've grown a lot of our own food," she said. "I was also able to get into the culinary arts program at Pathfinder."

Lowe is currently working at Farmer Matt in New Braintree

"I've be working there for

two years on April 1," Lowe said. "They have a store, and we also make homemade soups. Working in a kitchen is just as fun as being on the soccer field. I'm learning something new every day."

The LAF President is Joseph Jorge Sr., who received a 30 year service award. Jeri Humphries is the Vice President, Luis Vitorino is the Treasurer, and Steven DaSilva is the Secretary. The four board members are Joseph Jorge Jr., Richard Oliveria, Teri Myette, and Stephen Scott.

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Granby superintendent finalists

GRANBY—The Granby Public Schools has selected two finalists in the search for the next Superintendent of Granby. The two finalists are Dr. Joanne Menard and Mary Jane Rickson.

Dr. Joanne Menard
Joanne Menard, of Holden, is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Holliston Public Schools where she collaborates with district curriculum coordinators and leaders on the development and management of UbD curriculum alignment and mapping documentation and re-establishing district wide curriculum reviews in which all levels are represented. Dr. Menard has been with Holliston Public Schools since 2021. Other responsibilities she has maintained include being the liaison to the School

Committee’s Policy and Budget Committees, a district English Language Learner Coordinator, and running the district’s professional development council.
Dr. Menard has been in education for 17 years and 10 of them are in leadership. She received her Masters in Education from Anna Maria College and her CAGS in Educational Leadership from Fitchburg State University. Her doctorate in Educational Leadership was from the University of Hartford.

Mary Jane Rickson
Mary Jane Rickson, of West Warren, is currently the Interim Superintendent of Granby Public Schools. In the past year she has worked diligently to align financial resources with district goals to optimize student outcomes and ensure high-quality in-

struction and a supportive learning environment. Previously she was the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Hampshire Regional School District, Director of Career and Technical Education at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical and Interim Superintendent of Schools at Maynard Public Schools.
Ms. Rickson has been in the education field for 35 years, 18 of those years being in leadership. She received her Bachelors from Western New England University and her Masters in Educational Leadership from American International College.
The next step in the process involves site visits by representatives of the search committee the week of March 31 and public interviews to be held the week of April 7.

Calling all fiber artists - yarn sale!

GRANBY—The Friends of the Granby Public Library and the Library Knitting Group are sponsoring a Yarn Sale on Saturday March 29, 2025 at 11 a.m. Stop by and

find amazing discounts on quality yarn as well as tools, notions, bags, pattern books and more.
All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Li-

brary, who support Library Programming. For more information please call the library at 413-467-3320.

Ghosts with local Psychic Medium Lisa Lanno

GRANBY—The Granby Free Public Library is hosting a night of ghost talk and evidence with local psychic medium, and ghost hunter, Lisa Lanno on Thursday, March 27 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an interactive ghost-filled night with real evidence including audio, video and photo. We will answer questions about who and what ghosts are, if they are bad/harmful, what they can or can’t do. Space is lim-

ited, so please call to pre-register at 413-467-3320.
For more information, visit granbylibrary.org or queenparanormal.com. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby MA 01033.

Spring 2025 yard waste collection

SOUTH HADLEY—South Hadley’s 2025 spring yard waste curbside collection will take place from April 21 to May.
Paper bags or open top containers only; must be curb-

side by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Each route will have one collection, brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four (4’) foot lengths, leaves, grass and brush only no plastic bags.

Please keep yard waste barrels separate and apart from trash barrels
Questions, please contact The DPW at 538-5030 ext. 6500. www.southhadleyma.gov.

Public Notices

Town of Granby Board of Appeals
The Granby Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at 259-A East State Street, (Public Safety Complex, Meeting Room), Granby MA 01033**, to consider the following petition:
1. Appellant, 185 West State St, LLC, is appealing a determination from the Granby Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer that the outdoor display of goods and wares is not permitted in the GB (General Business Zone) and within the Mixed-Use Overlay, pursuant to the Town’s Zoning By-laws. regarding 185 West State Street and known as Assessors’ Map 3-D-1.1 in the town of Granby, MA.
In addition to the above hearings, the Board of Appeals may conduct other agenda items following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.
Kathleen Bronner, Chairman
Granby Board of Appeals
03/14, 03/21/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday,**

April 14, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to consider an application for Site Plan Review filed by Mount Holyoke College c/o Karla Youngblood, 50 College Street, South Hadley, MA 01075; to develop a new energy center to include a new 6,158 SF building with associated site improvements including utility, storm-water management, and parking upgrades at 9 Woodbridge Street, Map 49 Parcel 53, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article XII (Site Plan Review); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.
The public hearing will be held in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075.
The project location is within the Residence B Zoning District and is an existing parking lot with a small building, proposed to be demolished.
The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under ‘Permit Applications’- ‘Site Plan Review’ under section ‘**Woodbridge Street (9) - Mount Holyoke College Energy Center**’ or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the

time and in the manner designated.
Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/21, 03/28/2025
TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Zoning Map Amendment Request
The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider a petition by Christine J. Walton to amend the Town of South Hadley Zoning Map regarding a 1.5949+/- acres parcel from Business C to Residence A-1. The subject property is described as follows:
Beginning at the southwest corner of Parcel 133 on Assessors Map #8; Thence, running westerly a distance of approximately 740+/- feet to a point on the west line of Parcel 1 on Assessors Map #8; Thence, running southerly along the west line of said Parcel 1 to a point at which the Business C and the Residence A-1 zoning districts abut (a distance of approximately 175+/- feet); Thence, running northeasterly along a line which marks the existing division between the Business C and Residence A-1 zoning districts to the point of beginning at the southwest corner of Parcel 133 as

shown on Assessors Map #8. The subject property is part of a tract with frontage along the west side of Old Lyman Road.
The public hearing will be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075.
The materials relative to the petition are available on the Town’s website at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1477/Zoning-Amendment-Requests>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department office.
Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.
Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/21, 03/28/2025
TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map Amendment Request
The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider a petition by the Center Redevelopment Corporation to amend the Town of South Hadley Zoning Bylaw in § 255-11, Article VII,

Attachment 1, and Attachment 2 to create a new zoning district – “Village District” and amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of the subject property from Business A-1, Residence A-2, and Residence A-1 to the new “Village District” zoning district.
The subject property is a 7.810+/- acre parcel generally referenced as “The Village Commons”, depicted on the ANR Plan endorsed by the Planning Board at their January 13, 2025 meeting (and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds on January 24, 2025 at Page 77 in Book 257), and more particularly described with boundaries as follows:
• On the east by Hadley Street (Route 47)
• On the south by “College Street” for approximately 389 feet;
• On the south and west by parcels owned by Mount Holyoke College and depicted on Parcels 85 and 86 on Assessors Map 49 and Parcel 65 as depicted on Assessors Map 47; and,
• On the north by Parcel 64 as depicted on Assessors Map 47 and Parcels 63, 64, and 68 as depicted on Assessors Map 49.
The public hearing will be held in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075.
The materials relative to the petition are available on the

Town’s website at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1477/Zoning-Amendment-Requests>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department office.
Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.
Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/21, 03/28/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Town Reminder

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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Irish celebration with Colleens



Live music of classic Irish songs brought to life by musician Roger Ticknell.



Getting ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with friends and music and sweet treats.

COLLEENS from page 1

The Colleens included Grand Colleen Moira Reardon, Maura Joseph, Miss Congeniality and a member of the court, and court member Erin Gauthier.

“It’s a cultural way to celebrate Irish heritage,” said Grand Colleen Moira Reardon. “It’s a way to connect with the community and get people excited about celebrating.”

The Holyoke Sat. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee are celebrating 69 years of the Colleen tradition and hosted its annual pageant where the Colleens are voted for based on their kindness, helpfulness, and other positive qualities.

“The Colleens visited my elementary school, and I looked up to them so much,” said Maura Joseph, Miss Congeniality. “It’s tradition for us, too, to go to the parade and see the Colleens. My



The Grand Colleen and her court addressing those in attendance and thanking them for having them

mother and my aunt wanted to be Colleens, so its like I’m living their dreams, too.”

The word Colleen is Irish for “Irish lass,” and the Colleens are a group of Irish lasses truly dedicated to and proud of their heritage.

“Every single year, the Colleens would come to my school, and my whole family was excited, too,” said



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Friends Carol Plasse Pronovost and Donna Rossini in their green St. Patrick's Day outfits.

Erin. “I think it really gives a chance for little girls to see real princesses in a way, because that is what I saw when they would come to the schools.”

“Seeing them celebrate their Irish heritage was really inspiring and made me want to celebrate my Irish heritage, as well,” said Moira.

The Colleens are a beautiful tradition for St. Patrick’s Day, and Holyoke’s parade, and serve to keep the tradition of St. Patrick’s Day, and Irish heritage, alive and well.

“Every year I get five more daughters,” said Kathryn Dulchinos, the Colleen Coordinator and affectionately called “Colleen Mom.” “I take them under my wing and try to mentor them the best that I can.”

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