

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Celebrity bartending brings in \$15K for local pantry

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

SOUTH HADLEY - The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce held their annual Celebrity Bartending last week, and SOK's filled to bursting with people ready to support Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

In years past, they have raised thousands of dollars, but this year, they rose far, far above that amount and raised a total that was one for the books.

"It was inspiring to see how our community came together to raise such an amount, tripling the amount we raised last year," said Emily Kyser.

Please see **CELEBRITY** page 12



Submitted photos

Above: Jameson Gianville, Steve Laplante, and Carrie Hamel, last year's top bartender, handing the trophy over to Jameson. Left: Michele Lyman holding the boxes of tips from fellow celebrity bartenders.



MESMS Drama Club celebrates 20 years with heartfelt production of 'A Christmas Carol'

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The Michael E. Smith Middle School Drama Club is marking a major milestone this year as it celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a spirited and community-minded production of A Christmas Carol. Featuring more than fifty students from grades five through eight, the show brings together one of the largest and most enthusiastic casts the club has ever assembled. For Dr. Ted Blaisdell, who co-directs with Stefani Holmes, the significance of the anniversary lies not in the number itself, but in the people who have shaped the

program.

"Twenty is just a number," Blaisdell said. "But what continually surprises us is the support we have received from parents, teachers, and school administrators. We are also continually amazed by the depth of talent and commitment these students bring to each and every project. Twenty may seem like an important number, but every year has been a reason to celebrate."

Managing more than fifty young actors—many new to the stage—is no small feat, yet Blaisdell embraces the joyful chaos. "It's like herding cats, if you really en-

Please see **CAROL**, page 9



Submitted photos

Sixth Grader Hannah Guggino-Laramie and Fifth Grader Shoshi Smith portray Ebenezer Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol at MESMS December 12-14.



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Superintendent Brian Cameron, Town Manager Steve Williams, Select Board Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson, Chair of School Committee Julie Quink, and Superintendent Eric Duda standing outside Cold Spring School with the presented check for \$100,000.

Pathfinder strikes deal for Cold Spring

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN - Cold Spring will hold its last day on June 30, 2026, but not all is lost as the town received a message from neighboring Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School that they needed to expand.

Pathfinder Tech has been expanding its school's offerings. These include an addition of new academic classrooms, an expansion of existing programs, a potential of over 50 seats at the main campus, and an expansion of Adult Continuing Education.

The Cold Spring School building served as the perfect solution to the school's growing need for space. Cold Spring was the perfect solu-

“IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE KIDS AND GOOD FOR THE TOWN,”

ERIC DUDA
PATHFINDER TECH
SUPERINTENDENT

tion, with 30,000 square feet of space, and is a 10-minute drive from the main school in Palmer.

Pathfinder Tech proudly announced the official signing of a 25-year lease

agreement with the Town of Belchertown for the use of the Cold Spring Elementary School building, and they made it official with a presentation of a \$100,000 check last week.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for the kids and good for the town," said Pathfinder Tech Superintendent Eric Duda.

Pathfinder Tech is looking to move into the building and start preparing it for the Fall 2026 semester after the last day of school in June of 2026. Though a bittersweet moment, the transition has left the town leadership and Pathfinder leaders hopeful for the good things that will come from this partnership in

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 8

Wine Haus allowed to continue business as winery

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY - Last month, the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing regarding the Wine Haus to determine whether the business had violated its special permit. After hearing from owner Jim Trompke's attorney, Peter Durning of Verill

Law, and John McLaughlin of Green Miles Lipton representing abutter Raymond Morrisette, the ZBA moved to continue the hearing to November 7.

In 2024, the winery received a cease-and-desist order after noise complaints, and over the past year, since the order, residents have raised their concerns about the property.

The purpose of the meeting is to address a "Missing Information," which was issued by Granby's Building Commissioner, Tom Quinlan, regarding the winery's special permit. The permit was originally issued in 2010.

It was put forward that the Dover Amendment, which was put in place in 1950 and

Please see **WINERY**, page 8

Granby police raise funds for a child with cancer

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY - The Granby Police Department participated in a fundraised event with Cops for Kids with Cancer and successfully raised \$5,500 for the family of Evan Caraballo.

Cops for Kids with Cancer is a 501c3 charitable organization that focuses on raising funds to assist families with children who are fighting cancer, and to improve their

"We were proud to be able to offer our facility to provide a location for the check presentation," said Police Chief Kevin O'Grady. "Anytime the departments can assist a family, that is what we are here for. Our officers are always looking for ways to assist."

Please see **CANCER**, page 9



Submitted photo

Sergeant Jason Richard, Mom, Stephanie, and 16-month old Evan, Scarlet, Fire Chief Evan Briant, and Kevin Calnan with Cops for Kids with Cancer.

VOICE: Creating a way for veterans of Western Massachusetts

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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REGION – The Veterans Outreach Into Community Engagement, or VOICE, is a group of members of Western Massachusetts dedicated to helping veterans.

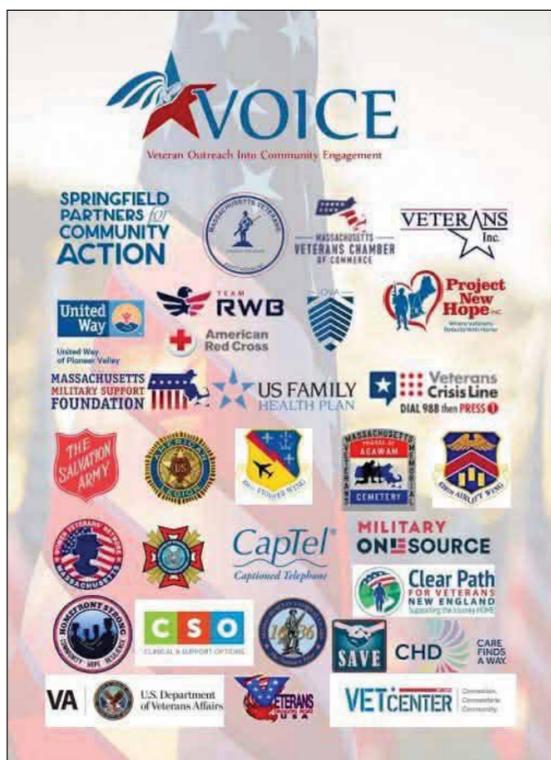
Composed of Veterans Agents, veterans, nonprofits, small businesses, and beyond, VOICE is a group that prioritizes the veteran living in the Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and the Berkshires Counties.

“It started with a veteran employment and opportunity approach, and it’s really blossomed into something more for all veterans. It’s such an amazing network, and its intended for any program, whether a governmental department, business, or nonprofit that has a veteran program that they administer, and it’s to collaborate,” said Stephanie Shaw, Chair of VOICE and Director of Veterans Services in Chicopee.

VOICE has been going on for at least 20 years, focusing on cross-sharing resources between veteran agencies, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations that work to serve the veteran in many different ways.

Shaw has been engaging with VOICE for the past fifteen years, since 2010, and has seen organizations like Encompass, Compassion Care, Veterans’ Inc., and Project New Hope come together to sit in person at their meetings to collaborate.

“It’s about ensuring that veterans are prioritized. We look at it as it’s about the veterans, and I think that really



Submitted photo

A collection of the local agencies a part of VOICE that help it reach as many veterans as possible.

helps make us unique. There really is something unique about our cohesiveness and the bonds that these representatives have,” said Shaw. “These people are consistent and show up, and after doing this for so long, it’s invigorating to sit down once a month to collaborate and support one another.”

VOICE works hard to create ways to ensure that veterans across all four counties in Western Massachusetts can access care and resources like fuel assistance, employ-

ment help, connections to food pantries, and also enjoy events for veterans and coffee hours at different places in towns all over.

“It’s so that any veteran we come across can have access to more, and be able to access more from neighbors,” said Shaw.

75 to 80 different entities offer a full program or have specific offerings for veterans to access, and take part in working alongside VOICE so that all representatives of veterans can access this essential

information.

“Not everyone in that room is a veteran, but they really care about veterans, and that’s what makes this perfect,” said Shaw.

Alongside their regular meetings, VOICE brings in a guest speaker, and this month, Loving Hands and its faithful leaders, Marie Francis and Margie Bacon, who work to sew with love hats, scarves, and mittens, and create blessing bags for the homeless and veterans.

The pair pray and are blessed with donations as they believe in trusting in God to provide for them, as they have seen miracles happen left and right, a testimony of the power of faith, and a tight-knit community willing to help others in need.

The organization is in need of yarn, socks for both men and women, and mittens and gloves in order to put together the blessing bags they hand out to anyone in need.

“In the veterans sphere in western Mass, there is always something happening and we’re always working and we want the veterans to know they aren’t alone,” said Shaw.

For people who work with a veteran-centered mission and services, they can connect on Facebook or through their Gmail, voicewesternma@gmail.com

You can donate to veteran-centric food pantries which include The Barnes Air National Guard Wellness Center, Project New Hope at Hampden Pond Plaza in Westfield, Ludlow Veterans Services Center, and Belchertown Veterans Services Office.

Greenfield / Northampton Cooperative Bank hosting toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots

REGION – Greenfield / Northampton Cooperative Bank is spreading holiday cheer by hosting a community toy drive at its Hampshire County branches to benefit Toys for Tots. From December 1 through December 12, community members are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys to help bring joy to children in need this holiday season.

The Toys for Tots program, run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, collects and distributes toys to ensure that every child experiences the magic of the holidays. Donations of all kinds are welcome, from classic toys and games to books and stuffed animals.

“We’re proud to support an organization that brings hope and happiness to families right here in our community,” said Erin Cleary, Branch Manager of the South Hadley Branch. “Every toy donated



helps make the season brighter for a local child.”

Donations can be dropped off during business hours at the following branches:

- South Hadley Branch: 487 Newton Street South Hadley, MA, 01075
- Amherst Branch: 390 College Street, Amherst, MA, 01002
- Northampton Branch: 67 King Street Northampton, MA, 01060
- Florence Branch: 6 Main Street, Florence, MA, 01062

Together, we can spread the joy and magic of the season to children in our community.

Get ready for the Knit and Basket Sale at the library

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library will hold a Holiday Gift Basket and Knit Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The sales will continue to run through December during open library hours, while supplies last. Come shop from a variety of gift baskets, knitted & crocheted items, holiday ornaments, and much more. Do you have someone on your list who is hard to shop for?

We have got you covered!

Donations of premade gift baskets and new handcrafted items are accepted until December 4th.

*Sponsored by the In Stitches Knitting Group and the Friends of the Granby Library. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St in Granby, MA. For more information and a listing of open library hours, please visit granbylibrary.org or call 413-467-3320.



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Tours will be offered following the event.

Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, November 25th to 413-561-7958.

It's time to put your Life Plan in place.

Day Brook Village Senior Living is a locally owned, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community (CCRC) offering all levels of care. Residents have priority access to each level should their needs change, and couples remain together on campus even if their care needs differ.

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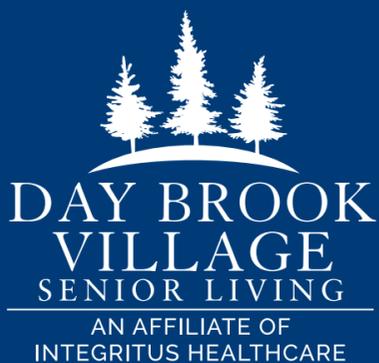
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*Dinner is included in the Monthly Service Fee. Limited availability. Offer applies to new Independent Living depositors after October 1st, 2025. Monthly Service Fees range from \$2,682 - \$4,935.



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413-561-7958
www.daybrookvillage.org



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

If we both collect Social Security, will our benefits be affected?

Dear Rusty:

I reached full retirement age back in June, but I have not yet filed to collect Social Security. My husband currently collects SS funds, and he waited until he had reached full retirement age a few years ago. I am considering signing up now to receive my funds, but I am a little confused about whether I will receive my full benefit or is there some kind of adjustment made based on both of us collecting?

We are a simple case. We have been married for 46 years, so there are no other exes involved in this equation. He did everything online when he was ready to start receiving his funds, but we didn't consult with any advisor when my husband claimed. Now I think that adding me as a spouse might trigger some other things I should consider. Thank you for your advice.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Since you and your husband have both reached your respective SS Full Retirement Age, you are both entitled to receive your full benefits without any reduction. And since you haven't yet filed, you are now accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of 6.67% additional benefit for each month you continue to delay. You will get your full SS retirement benefit plus any earned DRCs when you claim. The only question you need to consider is whether either you or your husband will be entitled to a "spousal boost," an increase when you claim.

If the SS retirement benefit you were entitled to at your FRA is less than 50% the amount your husband was entitled to at his FRA, then you will get a "spousal boost" on top of your own SS retirement amount (the "boost" amount would be the difference between your FRA amount and half of his FRA amount). But if your SS amount at your FRA is more than 50% of your husband's FRA

entitlement, then you will only get your own SS retirement benefit based on your own lifetime earnings record. Spouse benefits are always determined from each partner's FRA entitlement and if one partner's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other partner's FRA amount, then a spousal boost will be given. And that also works if your FRA entitlement is higher than your husband's, if your FRA amount is more than twice your husband's FRA amount, then he will get a spousal boost from you. Otherwise, each of you will get only your personally earned SS retirement amount and both of you collecting SS will not negatively affect each other's individual SS benefit.

FYI, the spousal boost amount stops growing at full retirement age, so if you are eligible for a spousal boost from your husband then you should claim your SS benefits now and ask for benefits retroactive to June (your FRA month). However, if you will not get a spousal boost from your husband, you have the option of delaying even further and earning more DRCs (thus a higher monthly benefit). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which time you will get the maximum possible Social Security benefit about 127% of your personal FRA amount if you delay that long.

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Thanksgiving nostalgia and planning ahead for next year's gratefulness

The arrival of Thanksgiving always gets me a little nostalgic.

Gone are the days of sneaking into the kitchen with my sister for a little bit of the crispy dressing from the stuffed turkey still in our parent's oven. Or how about awakening to the wonderful scents the morning of, knowing mom had been up at 4 a.m. getting the bird prepared.

It was always so much fun to butter the brown and serve rolls and then transfer them from the oven to the pre-heated trivet in their little wooden basket. I can smell the smells if I think about it long enough, and surely I can see my dad at the counter with the carving knife in hand.

Another big tradition was the nut bowl and the nut cracker and tools. We only ate nuts at Thanksgiving, and at Christmas to a lesser extent. I remember the Brazil nuts and walnuts being especially hard to crack with my little hands, but the challenge was half the fun.

These memories from my childhood are replaced with new traditions that my kids will call their own memories when they are my age. I guess the important thing is that we are thankful on this day whether it is for the memories, the people or the food or all of it. Gratitude goes a long way.

This Thanksgiving I am especially thankful for the bountiful harvest from this year's vegetable garden. The old motto goes something like: "you get out what you put in."

This year I sure put in a lot of effort in hopes of that harvest. When rain stopped I watered and watered and watered some more.

I made an investment in organic fertilizers and mulched the rows as best as I could. I lugged free compost home by the bucket. I harvested even when I was tired of it and preserved it all even after I grew weary.

lining is practical.

If you want to try growing new things, maybe Brussels sprouts like I wrote about last week, or sweet potatoes, like I experimented with this past summer, take some time over the offseason to look up the particulars so that you will be successful.

I did a show and tell with some students recently and it was a lot of fun to show them some out of the ordinary things that can be grown at home, like popcorn and luffa sponges for example. Get creative.

Maybe what will inspire you is getting something right, doing a better job growing a certain crop.

Did your zucchini look like baseball bats? Don't worry, next year you'll harvest sooner and more often. Same thing goes for those blimpy cukes. And what about those carrots? Next year you'll loosen up your soil and remove some rocks from the carrot patch so that they won't all fork. Straight, long roots here we come.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving! Have fun when the planning stage begins for next year's garden. It is, after all, just about six months away from our frost-free date.

Now that is something to be thankful for!

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.

That is just an example, but you get the idea. Stream-



THANKS for GIVING



Legion post receives generous check



Submitted photo

The members of the Granby American Legion Post 266 proudly accepting the generous check.

GRANBY – On Monday, November 17, the Holyoke Rotary Club, Inc., presented the Granby American Legion Post 266 a check for \$1200 towards purchasing the stoves in our new kitchen! Thank you so

much for this generous donation. We are truly grateful for your support in our kitchen project, and your donation shows the commitment the Holyoke Rotary Club has to serving the community.

Tell Us What You Think

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Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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Protecting South Hadley's natural landscapes: A look inside the Conservation Commission

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Charged with safeguarding South Hadley's wetlands, open spaces, and natural ecosystems, the South Hadley Conservation Commission plays a central—if often unseen—role in shaping the town's environmental future. Conservation Administrator/Planner and Tree Warden Rebekah Cornell said the Commission's work spans from reviewing development projects to stewarding roughly 1,000 acres of conservation land.

"The Commission's jurisdiction is to protect and preserve open space, and review projects under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetland Bylaw," Cornell explained. "When the Commission isn't reviewing permits—typically a request for determination or notice of intent—they are helping to make management decisions about town conservation lands."

One of the most significant undertakings in the past year has been the commission's review of improvements at Buttery Brook Park. The project

required extensive oversight because of its location within a sensitive riverfront area.

"Knowing the importance of the balance between public accessibility and natural resources, the commission issued a permit that included significant plantings and restoration promoting habitat restoration within the riverfront area," Cornell said. "It will take a few years to grow in, but the riverfront area is now filled with a massive planting of native trees and shrubs. The increase in habitat diversity is a wonderful improvement."

Beyond project review, the commission works to help residents understand and participate in conservation efforts. Cornell said education is a growing part of the department's mission. "The commission has hosted educational workshops, lately specific to Growing Wild, and will collaborate with the Bike/Walk Committee on Treks," she noted. The Planning & Conservation Department also distributes Conservation Connections, a quarterly newsletter that "talks about all things nature related, preserved public land, and highlights projects

in town." A small but dedicated Volunteer Conservation Corps assists with trail work across the town's conservation areas.

As the region experiences more severe storms and shifting weather patterns, climate change is emerging as one of the community's most significant environmental challenges.

"We are seeing more storms of higher intensity more frequently," Cornell said. "Residents can do small things like promote pollinator species and plant trees to fight back against a changing climate. The commission carefully reviews projects with this in mind."

Balancing environmental protection with development needs is an ongoing conversation. "It is a balance," Cornell emphasized. "Remember, property owners have private property rights. A property owner will only receive a permit from the commission if a project complies with state and local regulations and is designed to have minimal impact on the natural resource areas." Education, she added, is a key part of the process: "We encourage everyone to be stewards of the land. This

conversation isn't always easy."

Partnerships are essential to advancing the commission's goals. "Kestrel Land Trust is our biggest partner in land protection," Cornell said. She also credits town departments for stepping up when resources are tight. "Parks & Department of Public Works are my biggest supporters in town. My budget is very small, and they always come through when I need a favor, like when a tree comes down on a trail."

Looking ahead, Cornell hopes the community can continue to support conservation efforts despite fiscal uncertainties. "Yes, I'm concerned with the financial concerns the town is facing just as much as I'm concerned with the cost of my groceries increasing," she said. "Can I control that? No. But I can show up to work, do my job, and do my best to help protect this town's natural resources."

For Cornell, the work requires resilience—something many residents can relate to. "I think we all are doing our best and should just try to keep our heads up while we figure the budget out."

Residents invited to Budget Task Force listening session

SOUTH HADLEY - Force as it develops budget recommendations. The listening session will take place on Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m., at the South Hadley Public Library and on Zoom. You can find the Zoom link on the town website.

South Hadley Police to host food and toy drive

SOUTH HADLEY - The SHPD is collecting food to be distributed by Neighbors Helping Neighbors Inc., serving South Hadley and Granby. Needed: any non-perishable food items. They are also accepting new, unwrapped toys and gift cards for families in need in our community. All collect-

Granby Public Safety to host a stuff-a-cruiser

GRANBY - The Granby Police and Fire Associations invite the public to help stuff a cruiser with toys. Please bring new, in-box, unopened, unwrapped toys to place in a cruiser that will be gifted to children in need. The event will take place on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



A NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING? WHAT A GIFT.

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Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025

McCrays Farm
Holiday Light Stroll

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South Hadley

WWW.MCCRAYS-FARM.COM/HOLIDAYLIGHTS

Local food pantries to donate to and utilize

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – With SNAP and EBT benefits canceled this month, it is essential to know that resources are available. Below is a list of local pantries where you can donate food and other items, and for anyone who needs to utilize them. Here are the two major food pantries in town, as well as where you can find nearby resources.

Emergency Food Pantry at The Salvation Army-Holyoke Corps Community Center

Call: 413-532-6312
271 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

The food pantry serves everyone from low-income families, single parents, senior citizens, unemployed individuals, disabled veterans, working poor, and anyone else who comes to the pantry. This program provides food to meet basic nutritional needs. The emergency food pantry serves a food bag per family

every 30 days. In addition, the Salvation Army will be distributing bread and vegetables to individuals and families in need on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, South Hadley

Call: 413-437-7593
Email: info@nhnfoodpantry.org
30 Carew St. South Hadley, MA 01075

Meeting the needs of individuals and families experiencing food hardships. Improving the health and well-being of our communities. Educating and advocating about the issues of hunger and nutrition in our communities. For more information and for hours, go to www.nhnfoodpantry.org. (In Service with Full Circle Garden and Granby to Go)

Granby to Go
Call: 413-493-5000 x5200
Email: granbytogo@granbyschoolsma.net

Granby Jr./Sr. High School, 385 E State St, Granby, MA 01033

Granby to Go is a public, non-profit 501 c3 organization for the Granby Public Schools community to provide food, clothing, resources, and referrals to outreach services to individuals and families regardless of socioeconomic status in Granby, MA.

You can find them on Facebook and on the Neighbors Helping Neighbors website. (In Service with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Granby to Go).

Saint Theresa of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church

Call: 413-732-3069
stfaithformation@gmail.com

9 E Parkview Dr, South Hadley, MA 01075

As a part of its Ministry of Care, the parish hosts Kate's Kitchen, and has a Take and Eat Ministry, People Feeding People.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING SERVICES Town of Granby Massachusetts

The Town of Granby, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen invites sealed proposals from qualified parties to provide municipal solid waste and single stream recycling services for a three (3) year Solid Waste and Recycling Services Contract for the period July 1, 2026, through July 30, 2029.

Proposal Documents may be downloaded online at the Boards and Committees\Board of Selectmen\Bids-RFP-RFQ page found on the Granby website: www.granby-ma.gov under Boards & Committees; Select Board; Bid Documents. Documents may be examined and/or obtained from the Town of Granby, Attn: Tammy Martin, Town Administrator, 10-B W State St Granby, MA 01033 during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday: 9:00A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Friday: 9:00A.M. - 12Noon).

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Board of Selectmen until 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.
11/28/2025

Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, December 09, 2025** *1 Library Lane - Carnegie Building - Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 pm: "RDA"** filed by Marion Excavating Co., Inc., applicant, Tan Realty Corp., owner, a to see whether the area/activities depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, or municipal wetlands' ordinance/bylaw of the Town of Granby and to see whether the boundaries of resource area depicted on plans/maps referenced are accurately delineated with regards to property located on

New Ludlow Road and known as Map 5 Lot E-1, in the Town of Granby.

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

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "RDA" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission

11/28/2025

Food to provide food pantries

REGION - As we prepare to bring food to pantries this season amidst SNAP closures, it's important to consider some important things to remember when we are donating:

- Right now, pantries are asking for cans of green beans and corn, and other fixings for a Thanksgiving Meal, like stuffing, potatoes, gravy, and canned ham and turkey.
- Canned meat is always appreciated and asked for, including chicken, tuna, spam, and chili with meat.
- Many people bring in cold cereal, but hot cereal and instant oatmeal is always appreciated.
- Pets are often forgotten, so make sure you are bringing some canned or dry dog and cat food, and maybe some treats, too!
- Pasta and sauces are good options, but also remember bags of rice are equally appreciated.
- Canned veggies and fruit of all kinds, as well as beans, are a good option. Canned chili, unsweetened and sweetened fruits, and seasoned vegetables are good options, too.
- Tea, coffee, and hot chocolate are often luxuries and are wonderful items to receive. Other luxuries include seasonings like salt, pepper, garlic, and onion powder, as well as olive or vegetable

oil, butter, and bouillon cubes for them to cook with.

- Cake mixes, frosting, and candles are also special, and can help make someone's special day even better.
- Many people will donate peanut butter, almond butter, or sun butter, but don't forget about the jelly or fluff to go with it!
- Personal hygiene items are often expensive: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, shaving cream and razors, lotion, deodorant, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and hair brushes and hair ties. Feminine products like pads, liners, and tampons are also huge necessities.
- Many families may have babies, so see if your pantry will accept donations of baby food, formula, diapers, or other perishable supplies for infants.

Make sure when you donate, you donate with the dignity of others in mind. Please check your expiration dates, and make sure there are no dents, holes, or tears. Helping our neighbors is essential, but so is helping with dignity and care.

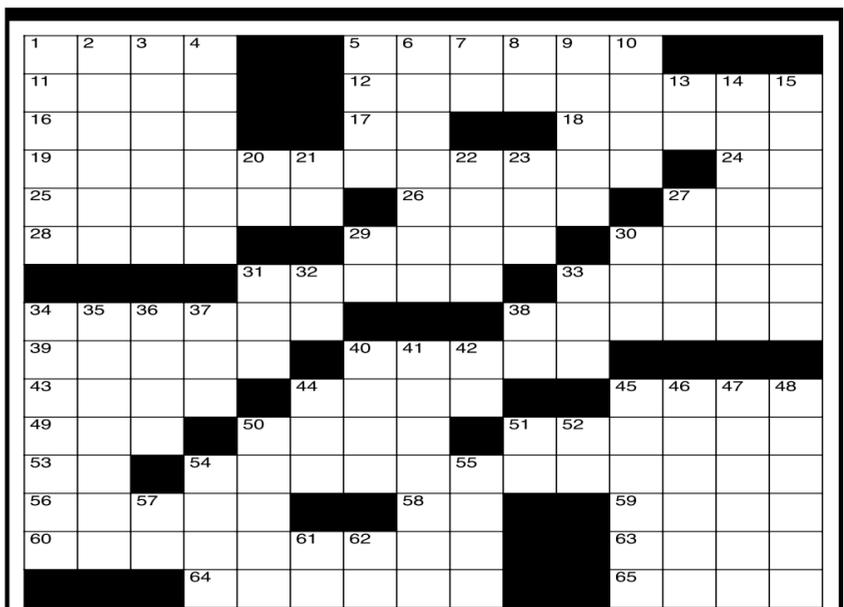
Always reach out to your local pantries to find their specific needs, and a monetary donation is always helpful for them to be able to restock and maintain the pantries and any refrigerated options they have.

Jingle Bell Bazaar returns to Church of Christ

GRANBY – The Jingle Bell Bazaar is coming up fast. December 6, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come enjoy our Cookie Walk, it will have hundreds of delicious cookies to choose from. Be

sure to check out handmade crafts, freshly crafted greens, jewelry, a New to You section, Bake Sale, hot Lunch, the Quilt Raffle, see Santa, and more. Santa will be in the building. Come and visit.

This event helps support the work of our WOTC at Church of Christ Congregational, UCC Granby, MA. Come on down and get in the holiday spirit. a



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Popular wine ___ Spumante
 5. Greatly impressed
 11. ___ and that
 12. Uttered with passion
 16. Boats
 17. Veteran actor Harris
 18. Casserole with game
 19. Reprehensible acts
 24. They precede C
 25. Says under one's breath
 26. Taxis
 27. It transfers genetic info
 28. NFL great Randy
 29. Where college students sleep
 30. Major European river
 31. Taco condiment
 33. -frutti
 34. Polish city
 38. Astronomy unit
 39. Khoikhoi peoples
 40. Bears QB Williams
 43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
 44. Price indicators
 45. One-time world power
 49. When you hope to get somewhere
 50. Farm building
 51. Choose carefully
 53. Magnum was one
 54. One who combines
 56. Nursemaids
 58. Partner to Pa
 59. Notable river
 60. Officially honors
 63. Colorless compound
 64. A fancy chair
 65. Email function
- CLUES DOWN**
1. The central area in a building
 2. Religion of Japan
 3. Leggings
 4. Officially distributes
 5. Arabian Sea seaport
 6. Spanish doctors
 7. It cools your house
 8. Currency of Poland
 9. Slowly moves into
 10. Days (Spanish)
 13. Unit of volume
 14. Emit
 15. With two replaceable hydrogens
 20. Title for a man
 21. Equally
 22. Scarlett's home
 23. One-time tech titan
 27. Subway dwellers
 29. One-tenth of a liter
 30. Central European river
 31. Distress signal
 32. Expression of sympathy
 33. The bill in a restaurant
 34. Football equipment
 35. Dance music
 36. Russian river
 37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___
 38. Gym class
 40. Automobiles
 41. Roman honorific
 42. Losses in sports
 44. Skin tone in summer
 45. Distant planet
 46. Critical humor
 47. Illegally obtained
 48. Go back over
 50. Home appliance brand
 51. Unit of radioactivity
 52. Home of the Flyers
 54. Short official note
 55. Emit coherent radiation
 57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
 61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
 62. Toward

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Wed., Nov. 26th The Healys
CLOSED THURSDAY
Fri., Nov. 28th Eagle Eyes

Wed., Dec. 5th The Healys
Fri., Dec. 6th Kilashandra

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS.....	\$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN PARTY CUT CHICKEN WINGS 5 LB BAG.....	\$8.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.33 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAKS OR ROAST.....	\$5.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG.....	\$1.66 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SPARE RIBS.....	\$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGH TRAY PAK.....	69¢ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TEMPURA BREADED SHRIMP 12 OZ. BOX.....	\$3.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HADDOCK FILLET SKINLESS.....	\$5.99 lb		
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb				
TAILGATE SPECIALS USDA INSP. STORE MADE CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN THIGHS.....	\$3.69 lb				
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$3.35 lb				

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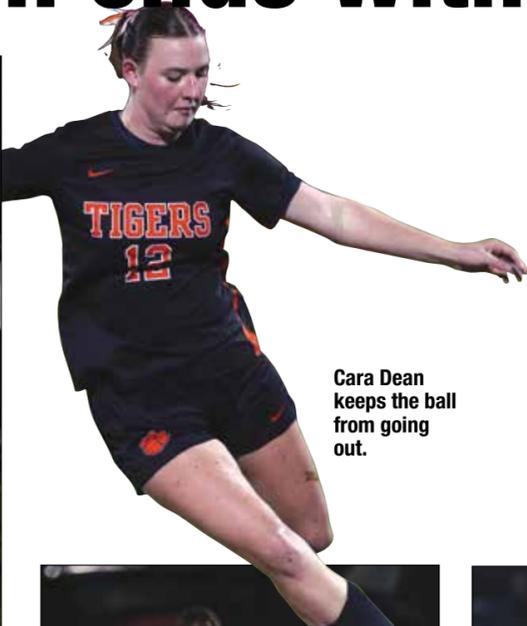
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Phenomenal season ends with OT loss



Maya Legowski tries to send a shot on goal away.



Cara Dean keeps the ball from going out.

SOUTH HADLEY – In overtime, Littleton squeezed a goal past the Tigers girls soccer team in the quarterfinals of the Division 4 state tournament. South Hadley, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, got a second half goal from Hannah Haesaert. The teams went to overtime tied 1-1 before Littleton was able to score a goal in the first 10-minute overtime period, ending the matchup. South Hadley's season ended with a 13-8-1 overall record. Olivia Athas made five saves in the defeat.



Sofie Quinn sends a free kick away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Hannah Haesaert attempts to use her body to keep the ball away from an opponent.



Allison Fluery tries to settle the ball.

Local players participate in showcase event



Grace Matyszewski sends a spike away.

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday evening, the International Volleyball Hall of Fame hosted the Western Mass. Girls Volleyball showcase with a second team game and a first team game held at Holyoke Community College. Grace Matyszewski represented South Hadley on the second team.



South Hadley's Grace Matyszewski represented the Tigers in this year's all-star showcase.



Grace Sherman looks to get around an opponent.



Mikayla Weaver is pressured for the ball.

MIAA makes calendar change to start of fall

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association recently approved a couple of changes in their calendar, including codifying a practice that is already in place. The biggest change will be the start of the fall season for football preseason while two other changes were denied. The Board of Directors voted to set the official start date of all fall sports, including football at two Mondays prior to Labor Day, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. In recent years, football

would begin the Friday prior to that Monday with the rest of the sports beginning two Mondays before Labor Day. A proposal was denied to delay the start of winter preseason to the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Right now, practices immediately begin on Monday after Thanksgiving. The proposal sought to give an administrative day for schools to prepare for the winter season. Another proposal denied was for all postseason tournament brackets to be released exclusively on weekdays,

with the exception of the football brackets, which are released on the Sunday after Week 8 games conclude. The final accepted proposal was establishing a firm date for the end of all spring athletic seasons to be no later than the third Sunday in June, to coincide with the end of the academic year. It ensures that all postseason play and championship would take place on a consistent timeline each year. This is the current practice so no noticeable change will be seen on the current MIAA calendar.

T-Birds score win over Utica

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-10-2-1) rode a magnificent night from their goaltender to a 2-0 shutout victory over the Utica Comets (2-9-2-1) on Friday night inside a sold-out MassMutual Center.

An unlikely source got the T-Birds onto the scoresheet just 4:04 into the period, as defenseman Leo Loof made a wise read from the defensive zone, jumping into a rush to create a 2-on-1 attack. With Jakub Stancl crashing the net from the left-wing side, Loof used the shooting lane available to him, snapping a wrist over Nico Daws' blocker, giving Springfield the one-goal edge off setups from Hugh McGing and Nikita Alexandrov.

Georgi Romanov got the nod in the T-Birds' goal crease and answered the bell in the opening 20 minutes, making eight stops while his defense in front of him limited Utica's high-danger chances.

The middle period did not produce much in the way of chances, but the Comets made a strong push in the final minutes of the frame, and Romanov was forced to be at his best with a handful of saves off redirections. The netminder also got some fortunate luck on one occasion as a Mike Hardman deflection attempt glanced off the underside of the crossbar, but stayed out.

Springfield also killed off one Utica power play attempt in the later stages of

the second, while Utica went 2-for-2 to begin its night on the penalty kill, including 1:16 of power play time for the T-Birds at the start of the third. The Comets relentlessly pressured the Springfield net throughout the third, but Romanov had answers time and time again. Utica finished the game with 33 shots, but Romanov had stops on every one.

Calle Rosen finally put the game away with 1:11 to play, taking a pass from Romanov behind the net and lobbing a shot 200 feet down the ice and into a yawning cage to round out the scoring. The netminder's first shutout and win as a T-Bird also gave Springfield its second straight win on home ice.

Polish National Alliance Lodge 711 to host Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

CHICOPEE - Lodge 711 Polish National Alliance of Chicopee will hold its annual meeting and election of officers on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. followed by the Lodge Christmas party with dinner served promptly at 1 p.m. at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home, 27 Grove Street, Chicopee, MA.

The Christmas party will feature the singing of Polish and English Christmas carols. Refreshments will be available and gifts for members,

ages 0-12 will be distributed by Santa. Assisting the President and Chairman, Joanne Cebula, are Jeannie Zapala and members of Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276, dinner and refreshments, Teresa Sherman, publicity, and Cindy Kirejczyk, toys, decorations and entertainment. There will be arts and crafts, games, and a hot cocoa station.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers from the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High

School in Wilbraham, MA to assist the committee in preparing and conducting this fun-filled event.

There is no admission fee. Donations for the raffle are welcome to help defray party costs. Please RSVP by Dec. 1.

PNA Lodge 711 is a non-profit organization dedicated to assure an active role in area social, cultural, civic and charitable events. For more information call Teresa Sherman at 413-596-9578.

Monadnock set to hold awards banquet

MILFORD, N.H. - Monadnock Speedway is set to close out another thrilling racing season with a night of celebration, recognition, and community. On Saturday, Dec. 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m., the speedway will host its highly anticipated Annual Awards Banquet at the Best Western in Keene, New Hampshire.

The event will spotlight the achievements of the champions and top ten drivers in the regular weekly divisions, while also recognizing the top three in the Six Shoot-

er Division, Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown Champions, and competitors in the Young Gun Division for their dedication and commitment to the sport. In addition, several specialty awards will be presented throughout the evening, honoring standout performances and contributions both on and off the track.

Fans, drivers, teams, and families are invited to join the festivities as Monadnock Speedway celebrates the close of a competitive season and the community that makes it all possible. This an-

nual tradition brings together the best of the racing family for an evening of camaraderie, reflection, and excitement for the upcoming season.

To purchase a ticket online go to: <https://square.link/u/jHFglOQf>

Tickets are limited! Event capacity is 200. Seating is 8 to 10 people per table. Requests to be seated with another team may be made by emailing the speedway @ monadnockspeedway@ymail.com.

PATHFINDER from page 1

the future.

"As Superintendent of Pathfinder Tech, I want to assure the Belchertown community that Cold Spring School will remain open, improved, and valued long into the future," Duda said. "We will protect this taxpayer investment, enhance it, and grow it into a facility that the entire region can be proud of."

The goal for Pathfinder Tech is to move five technical programs to the new Belchertown Campus and create new programs, including Medical Assistant, Animal/Veterinary Science, Engineering, Public Safety (Legal Protective Services), and Early Childhood, as well as the expansion of Adult Continuing Education.

The change and addition of this new building will allow for the elimination of waitlists for nine member towns, as well as opening over 150 seats for non-resident students, something the growing institution needs.

"Just watching this unfold has been a real pleasure, and I'm so glad to have you here," said Select Board Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson.

"It's kids having access to these programs. Having the opportunity to introduce kids to these programs is so important, so they can have these experiences outside of college," said School Committee Chair Julie Quink.

With Belchertown's own student-centered approach, the town and school district

welcomed the idea of Pathfinder coming into town and creating a way for even more students to access the town's resources, including the two veterinarian offices in town for the veterinary course, and the police station for the public safety course, for example.

"It's going to be a great way to see these students grow," said Belchertown Superintendent Brian Cameron.

The deal was one of smiles and forward-thinking to a brighter future for students to come, as well as a time to remember and thank the current building, and remember fondly the times and memories had within its walls.

Railers grab home win over Gargoyles

WORCESTER - At the next ECHL Board of Governors meeting, Railers COO Mike Myers should suggest that, to save time and aggravation and wear and tear, the league should forego the first three periods of each hockey game and go directly to overtime.

If enough of those around the table said "aye" Worcester might be the first ECHL team to go undefeated.

The Railers did it again last Sunday afternoon. Anthony Repaci scored 90 seconds into OT to give his team a 3-2 victory over the Greensboro Gargoyles. Worcester has won six games this season, three in overtime.

It is 36-32 in overtime through the years but a remarkable 12-3 in its last 15 OT games. Sunday's fourth-period goal was the seventh of Repaci's career.

At the time, the shot seemed like a waste of time.

Repaci was at the very bottom of the offensive zone, almost to the goal line, and at least 10 feet from Gargoyles goalie (say that fast three times, why don't you?) Ruslan Khazheyev (say that fast three times, too) but fired away, anyway.

It went through the five-hole to earn two points for the home team.

"I didn't have an angle," Repaci said. "I knew I was late in the shift and I could see (Matt Stief) coming downhill. I didn't want to make a pass that gets picked off and there's a 2 on 1 going the other way.

"So what I was trying to do is just throw it into the goalie's pads and hopefully have it pop out somewhere."

Repaci has scored 97 goals now for the Railers so, just doing the math, some of them had to be overtime goals. Seven is a high percentage, though.

"I'll take 'em," he said. "I'm thankful that coaches trust me to go out there for 3 on 3 and put me in good situations where there's open ice."

The victory was Worcester's fifth in the last six games, all at home. The Railers finished this eight-game homestand, their longest of the season, earning 10 of a possible 16 points. That is a .625 winning percentage, a good mark in a league where home ice is not a huge advantage.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win in the Railers net. He has won four in a row with an 0.73 goals-against average. Worcester is 5-2-1 for 11 points in Tikkanen's eight starts this season.

Riley Piercy and Matt DeMelis had the other Railers goals. Colton Leiter and Wade Murphy scored for the Gargoyles.

The Railers played one of their best first periods of the season, especially at home, and had the lead after 20 minutes for merely the second time this year.

They dominated the early going and had a lot of pressure, but not a lot of goals. Worcester was finally rewarded when Piercy got his first goal of the season at 13:36 as the Railers took advantage of a turnover created by Max Dorrington.

He controlled the puck about 10 feet inside the blue line and passed it to Piercy. He put a low shot under Khazheyev's pads to make it 1-0.

Leiter tied it with a power play goal at 4:32 of the second period. DeMelis got the lead back at 11:04, set up by Stief. Murphy re-tied it with a shorthanded goal at 3:53 of the third period, finishing off a 2 on 1 break.

It remained 2-2 until Repaci figured he would just put the puck on net and see what happened.

What happened turned out to be a happy ending for the Railers.

WINERY from page 1

exempts certain land uses from some local zoning regulations, can be used to defend the Wine Haus' use of the land and what they do on it.

The November 7 meeting began with Durning providing a callback to the Right-to-Farm Bylaw, and stating that "it is unquestionable that that land is being used in agriculture, even though there's not a dollar value or a monetary transaction for the ability to take that hay... It's really a good neighbor thing to do."

The Wine Haus allows for a local farm, Barstow's Long View Farm, to harvest hay from their property, free of charge, making it, arguably, land used for agriculture.

"The economic activity that Wine Haus is engaged in is in the sale of the wine that it produces," said Durning. "And with that, I think it's very strong for the board to be able to find that this is predominantly an agricultural use."

Durning shared that he and Trompke also discussed "pursuant to the farmer winery license, [as] it does allow for the bringing on of agricultural products for the production of the wine and pursuant to 4DA section 3, the language describing the farm activity is that the materials are produced on site, and we would maintain very strongly that the wine, the end product,

that Wine Haus is production from agricultural products is produced on site."

"The definitions under our bylaws define farm business as a business established to farm products, where 50% of which must be raised or produced on the premises or else brand," said ZBA Chair Steven Nally.

Durning argued that the Wine Haus was making use of the Dover Amendment, and that it was perfectly within its means to be considered as such.

"Where did the grapes come from? Where did this yeast and hops, and barley come from? Before you even get to that, the Dover Amendment only applies if the property is primarily commercial agriculture," said McLaughlin, arguing that the Amendment could not count for Wine Haus.

McLaughlin argued that for the Dover Amendment to be seen as valid is by "looking at the money" and finding out what is making the Wine Haus more: the agriculture itself or the entertainment side and selling alcohol.

"For the Dover Amendment to apply and supersede any restrictions or provisions of your bylaw that might establish other standards, you have to determine first... that the primary purpose of the use of this property is commercial agriculture," said

Special Town Counsel Adam Costa. "And then number two, you have to look at this tasting room, this component of the operation, and say, is that part of that? If you determine yes, the primary purpose of the property is commercial agriculture."

Members of the community came forward with questions, comments, and concerns regarding the winery itself and the positive and negative effects it has had on the town since it was built in 2020.

The board reviewed the concerns of the people and came to the conclusion that the property is, in fact, a farm based on how it uses the land to grow hay and grapes, while also importing and processing more grapes, something many other farms do in surrounding communities.

ZBA member Brian Johnson explained that out of the 15-acre parcel, 11 acres is used to grow hay, which is harvested by the Barstow Long View Farm, and two acres is grapes, making 13 out of the 15 acres of land used for farming.

The Wine Haus is still up for site plan review, but the board moved that in light of the Dover Amendment, the Wine Haus will be able to continue to run as a farm, and the Missing Information letter was repealed.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

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.

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Help shape the future of Mosier Elementary School

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Elementary School Building Committee invites you to learn more about the process, design options, preliminary costs, next steps, and to ask questions. The meeting will include

a tour of the Mosier School, and will take place on Thursday, December 11, at 5:15 p.m. for the tour, and the meeting to take place 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a Q&A session. Childcare is provided

by the South Hadley High School, and parents are asked to meet in the Mosier Gymnasium. You can find a link to the Zoom to join the meeting remotely, or you can go to Mosier Elementary School at 101 Mosier Street.

CAROL from page 1

joy herding cats,” he joked. “Their energy and enthusiasm and willingness to try anything make directing an absolute joy. Although crowd management can become a challenge in many ways, their energy makes storytelling easier.”

That energy is evident in the way the cast speaks about what they have learned from the experience. Seventh grader and third-year actor Derek M. Colon, who plays Jacob Marley, said the production has reinforced just how essential collaboration is. “I think A Christmas Carol has taught me a lot about teamwork because in scenes like the prologue or the two party scenes, if everyone is not on the same page, it won’t look as good,” he explained.

Newer performers echoed that sentiment. Fifth grader Sharon T. Clark, a first-year ensemble member, said the experience has shown her “that anyone, including a younger kid, can have a large role and how people need to use teamwork to get the play to work, which brings people closer together.” Sixth grader Xavier Hall added, “Being in MESMS Drama has helped me learn that I don’t have to depend on myself and that I can work with other students and adults.”

For many students, A Christmas Carol has also been a lesson in confidence and maturity. Fifth grader Mia T. Chambers said performing has been “learning how to become a mature person and I just want to say thank you to Dr. B and Ms. Holmes.” Eighth grader and first-time actor Raymarie Costigan, who plays Mrs. Dilber, said, “You have to be

creative and get really invested in your role and that you have to be confident to show confidence on stage and not look foolish.”

Sixth grader and lead actor Hannah Guggino-Laramie, taking on the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, said, “It taught me about how if we work together, we can make something work and make something fabulous happen. It also taught me about how if you have confidence in yourself, you can always have something awesome happen.” She added that creativity “plays a big role in life,” both onstage and off.

For others, patience has been an important lesson. Sixth-grade caroler Marissa Dziadek shared, “Being a part of Christmas Carol has taught me to have fun and be more patient because sometimes you have to wait to practice your part, and it’s very creative.” Fifth grader Siobhan Cronin, who plays Charlotte Fezziwig, noted that the show “needs teamwork and responsibility. It is also a way a lot of people express their talent, or just themselves.”

More experienced actors say their appreciation for the ensemble has only deepened. Seventh grader Kenslie LaBarre, performing in her fourth MESMS production, said, “Being a part of A Christmas Carol has really shown me how dedicated each and every member of the cast is and that everyone has some sort of artistic talent, whether that be woodworking, painting, or simply picking out costumes.” Eighth grader Ellie North added that the show has taught her to “work with my cast to improve my overall performance and make

this show the best it can be.”

Students also reflected on the most challenging aspects of their roles. Seventh grader Sophie Saad, who plays Mrs. Cratchit, said pretending to weep has pushed her beyond her comfort zone.

Fifth grader Hunter Pietrantonio summed up the joy of performing simply: “The most rewarding part is when we finally get to practice our parts in the play.”

Choosing Dickens’s classic felt natural for the club, Blaisdell said. “This story is uniquely apt for younger storytellers,” he explained, adding that this year’s production focuses particularly on poverty and Tiny Tim’s message of universal love.

The production also includes a community service element: the Drama Club is collecting donations for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. “We try to model the Drama Club community values of acceptance and support,” Blaisdell said. “In a time when food insecurity is such a critical issue, we would like for students to learn that community actions can make an impact.”

Performances of A Christmas Carol will take place in the Michael E. Smith Middle School Cafeteria for three shows: Opening Night on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., followed by family matinees on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. General admission tickets—\$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors—are available online or at the door. Donations of food or funds will be accepted at all performances to support the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry.



Submitted photos

Rehearsals mean collaboration and team work.



Dr. B offers guidance to the young actors.



After much hard work, the sets are coming together.

CANCER from page 1



Submitted photos

Members of the Granby Fire, EMS, and Police Departments with little Evan.

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DECEMBER EVENTS

Level Up Your Sourdough Breadmaking with Sourdough Brandon
Wed., Dec. 3 at 6 pm (Program is Full- You are welcome to join the waitlist.)
The best things in life take time to rise. Join expert sourdough baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon for a flavorful evening of fermentation and flour power! Learn how to: *Make, maintain, and store a healthy sourdough starter * Troubleshoot common mistakes, * Explore creative ways to use your starter, * And best of all—leave with your very own live starter to continue the magic at home! Perfect for beginners or curious bakers ready to level up their loaf game. Registration required sign up on the website or here: <https://shadleylib.libcal.com/event/15076220>.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap
Sat., Dec. 13 at 10
Have Jigsaws over 500 pieces? Enjoy Jigsaw Puzzles 300 pieces? Want a new one.. or two. Come on down and bring a complete puzzle. Drop off starting Monday Dec 1 - 12: No Missing Puzzle Pieces at the Library Front Desk. Get a ticket for each puzzle dropped off. Puzzles available the morning of the swap. Bring your ticket to swap the number of puzzles you brought.

Wassail! A Victorian Holiday by the Small Planet Dancers
Wed., Dec 17 at 6
Through an interactive holiday ball set in Victorian times, we invite audiences to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year by singing holiday songs, playing a parlor game, and dancing a final march with the troupe Small Planet Dancers. This program is kindly sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council. Registration required sign up on the website or here: <https://shadleylib.libcal.com/event/13408995>.

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• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour
Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
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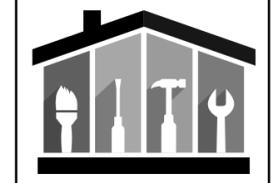


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Turley Editorial Coverage Policies

CALENDAR

This section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

EDUCATION

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests at least three days in advance. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly "editorial." Some readers confuse editorials with being objective "news." Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

plied through our reporters' stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That's the whole point of the "opinion" page.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

SPORTS

Our sports editor and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups.



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CELEBRITY from page 1

“Supporting Neighbors Helping Neighbors felt deeply meaningful. This event wasn’t just about raising money; it was about making sure families in our own backyard have food on their tables,” said Michele Lyman. “Seeing our community come together to help each other - joyfully and generously - was the best part of the entire night.”

The event featured three teams: the Legislatures, which included State Sen. Jake Oliveira, South Hadley Town Administrator Lisa Wong, Granby Town Administrator Tammy Martin, and Sindy Gomez, State Rep. Homar Gomez’s wife.

The next team, led by Emily Kyser, Mixing for a Mission, featured Daniel O’Sullivan, Manager at BankESB, Lauren Tabin, AVP Branch Manager, John Beaulieu, Assistant Superintendent of DPW of Chicopee, and Josh Powers, Director of Public Affairs.

Jameson Glanville’s team, Team Pour it Forward, featured Ashley Kohl owner of Ohana School of Performing Arts and Ohana Clubhouse, Amy Jamrog, CEO of the Jamrog Group, Nikki Jamrog, Bookkeeper of the Jamrog Group.

“My favorite part was the energy and unity. Leading Team Pour It Forward was a joy - everyone showed up with so much heart, humor, and commitment,” said Lyman. “And helping organize the event with Emily and the Chamber crew reminded me how powerful collaboration can be. It felt like we were building something meaningful together, and watching it come to life was incredibly rewarding.”

“My favorite part about leading a team was organizing our celebrity bartenders and working together to help such an amazing cause,” said Kyser. “Being part of the chamber is wonderful because it gives members like me the opportunity to be a part of something meaningful. We are an integral part of local events that bring the towns together and it means a

lot to be able to volunteer my time for my community.”

The night was full of fun, good food, and laughter as drinks were served and tips collected and counted, and at the end of the night, the people who work hard to make Neighbors Helping Neighbors received a check for \$15,527.25.

“It’s wonderful,” said Director Mary Lou Guarnera. “I have no words. We will be able to feed so many people with this.”

For every \$1 received, Neighbors Helping Neighbors is able to provide three meals, amounting to more than 46,500 meals for people in need.

“It was overwhelming in the best way. When we crossed \$15,500, it felt like a collective moment of ‘this is what community can do.’ Knowing that this translates into more than 45,000 meals for local families was humbling. It was proof that generosity is alive and thriving in South Hadley and Granby,” said Lyman.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors makes it their goal and mission to support people with dignity and with love, making sure the families who come to their door are met with open arms and know they are not alone in their struggles, and they have a community that wants to help and support them.

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors is inspirational because of the work they do in our surrounding communities. They will be able to provide over 45,000 meals with the money that was raised,” said Kyser. “One thing that amazes me is how they are able to bring together volunteers and use their networks to help achieve their mission of food security.”

The community of volunteers who help run Neighbors Helping Neighbors are hardworking, and with this sum of money at their disposal, will surely be able to help make a world of difference for families all over Granby and South Hadley this holiday season.



Submitted photos
Above: Mary Lou Guarnera and Julie Cyr (center) are receiving the \$15,527 check for the pantry. Left: Emily Kyser and Michel Lyman, the hosts of the evening, smiling brightly.



SOK's was packed with people ready to support a good cause.



Jameson Glanville and Michele Lyman holding trophies for their winning team, Team Pour it Forward, with SOK's owner, Davy Tob.



The Legislators' team is hard at work pouring some orders.



Senator Jake Oliveira, Sindy Gomez, Town Administrator Tammy Martin, and Town Administrator Lisa Wong.



Senator Jake Oliveira, Steve Laplante, President of the Chamber, and owner of SOK's, Davy Tob.