

# TOWN Reminder

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## Hot Chocolate Fun Run

### draws biggest crowd yet

By Murphy Fitts  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday morning, families gathered at Mosier Elementary School for the third annual hot chocolate fun run.

The event was run by the Mosier PTA. President Danielle Langevin, vice president Katie Joly, and secretary Amy Methot were in attendance in addition to many others.

This event would not have been possible without so many wonderful volunteers and parents who put in a lot of hard work, a lot of whom have been at the event for all three years its run.

“I hope the community sees how much the Mosier PTA does for the school. It’s an unpaid position that we run for, and we’re just a group of moms who want to have nice events and nice activities for our kids,” said Langevin.

The event gave local families with children, mostly in second through fourth grade a chance to meet each other and hang out.

School swag, sweet treats, and other trinkets were available for families to purchase. Runners were also encouraged to dress up in spirited holiday outfits.

After each participant completed the roughly

1.25-mile run/walk, they were met with a medal and a cup of hot chocolate.

For the competitive runners, there were first, second, and third-place prizes. The best-dressed contestant also received a prize.

“I love giving the kids the medals and prizes at the end.”

Please see **FUN RUN**, page 12



Medals for all of the participants of the fun run.



Turley Photo Submitted by Murphy Fitts

Fun run participants are ready to run and fight for the prize of best costume.

## Holiday Stroll returns

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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SOUTH HADLEY — The Christmas season is upon us, and for the past 37 years, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce has hosted the

Holiday Stroll, featuring the annual tree lighting, pictures with Santa, and cocoa.

“I love the sounds and Sights of the Holiday Stroll - The music, the laughter, and the children chatting with Santa and seeing their smiles,” said Regina Zebrowski. “Regardless of the

weather, there’s always a long line for Santa!”

This year, kids got the chance to make ornaments, and a magician came to the event for fun and laughter to be had by all.

“The South Hadley Com-

Please see **STROLL**, page 6



Santa greeting the children at the Holiday Stroll.

Submitted photo

## Knit and basket sale supports library

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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GRANBY – With the holidays here and presents to purchase on everyone’s minds, sometimes it’s easier to have a gift ready to go, and you can find it at the Granby Free Public Library.

The library hosted its annual Knit and Basket Sale over the weekend, and over 30 baskets full of fun items and of different themes were donated to the ten-year-old event.

“I love that the library can offer gift baskets and items for sale for the holidays that help shoppers and



Submitted photo

Adopt an adorable chicken today.

also benefit the library at the same time. The best gift is supporting our community,” said Library Director Jenn Crosby. “There are some really great deals. I always tell everyone that it is the perfect place to look to buy things for the hard-to-buy-for people on your list.”

“I love seeing both the variety and quality of items that the small community of knitters and basket makers gets together for this annual fundraiser. The combination of talent, creativity, and generosity humbles me,” said Friends President and Treasurer Xander Huff.

Please see **BASKET**, page 9

## Jingle Bell Bazaar brings joy and holiday fun for all

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

GRANBY — The holiday season brings many opportunities to find something new, especially at holiday markets and craft fairs.

A well-loved tradition amongst the various communities and towns across the country is getting together donated items into a bazaar, and these bazaars are oftentimes used a fundraiser.

The United Church of Christ in Granby has been hosting their annual Jingle Bell Bazaar since 1946, 79 years of community love and participation.

“I love the spirit of the Jingle Bell Bazaar. We have people who come and enjoy it every year,” said Tasondra

Jardine, one of the church’s members. “We look forward to seeing certain families and kids as they grow up and come for their favorite cookies and Santa visit.”

It was started by the Women’s Guild within the church, and not only features handmade crafts and items, but also, true to any good Bazaar, some new-to-you items.

“A Bazaar is traditional to the Middle East, but is often utilized when discussing church sales that have more than crafts. Bazaars have winding roads with little stalls of different wares for sale, which is exactly what you’ll find at the Jingle Bell Bazaar,” said Jardine.

From housewares to beautiful pieces of jewelry, handmade knitting and crochet, earrings, plants and wreaths,

and a bake sale, you can find a little bit of everything.

There was also the Jingle Bell Bazaar’s famous Cookie Walk, and the kitchens were filled with the comforting smells of cookies as hundreds were baked.

People could fill up a box for \$10 and take home a variety of cookies to enjoy with a mug of hot chocolate.

Santa Claus was also present for some pictures and gave kids a candy cane and a present to take home with them after hearing about their wishlists.

“I love that we call our congregation ‘Church Family.’ The congregation is truly centered around spreading Jesus’s love and mission work,” said Jardine.

Please see **BAZAAR**, page 6



Submitted photos

Jay Dwinell, Jennifer Oyola, Xylena Torres, Lydia Pike, Lyla Bullock, Willow Mata, Aubrey Basile, Ren Devers, and Santa ready for a wonderful Christmas season.

# SHCTV: Telling the town's story, one program at a time

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - For decades, South Hadley Community Television (SHCTV) has quietly served as the town's visual history keeper, government watchdog, and creative hub — all rolled into one community-focused station. Under the guidance of Studio Manager Dan Pease, SHCTV continues to evolve with changing technology while staying deeply rooted in its original mission.

"I think our main mission is to provide hyper-local content to help educate and entertain residents of South Hadley," Pease said. "From municipal meetings to community theater to local sports and events, a lot is happening to highlight and archive." In addition to covering community life, SHCTV also plays a crucial educational role. "There is also an educational and access component to our mission in terms of video production equipment and studio space. We can train anyone on the basics to operate equipment, as well as facilitate local producers and productions to help create content. I hope that giving the community a resource like SHCTV helps to accomplish that, and this is why I enjoy working and talking with different departments and organizations around town, in hopes that we can find new shared paths to these same missions."

SHCTV programming follows the PEG model — Public, Educational, and Gov-

ernment. "Programming that falls into any of those categories and having a hyper-local connection geared towards South Hadley residents is most preferred," Pease explained. Coverage requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on staff availability. Residents can also borrow equipment to create their own content.

Volunteer involvement is welcomed, though the station's small staff limits the scale of formal programs. "We mainly offer training and volunteer opportunities to people who reach out and have a specific project in mind," Pease said. "We love to help people create their own content and see their projects come to life on an individual basis."

As cable subscriptions decline nationwide, SHCTV is adapting to shifting viewing habits. "Not many people know it, but SHCTV is solely funded through a percentage of South Hadley Comcast subscriber fees. As residents are shifting away from cable subscriptions and towards streaming platforms, I like to make sure South Hadley knows that their cable subscription funds our operation and we appreciate their support, even if they don't know it," Pease noted, thanking residents who still subscribe. To reach cord-cutters, the station offers live streaming through its website and the CableCast app, available across multiple devices. "We're here for you," he added.

One of SHCTV's most

vital roles is promoting transparency in local government. The station provides live coverage of town meeting, selectboard, school committee, planning board, and SHELD commissioner meetings. Since Covid, it has also archived Zoom meetings online. "We're really proud to offer the largest catalogue to date of all the meetings happening around town," Pease said.

Among the station's most meaningful recent projects is The Town with the Band, a documentary honoring longtime high school band director Dr. Roger Farnsworth. "This collaboration between the public and SHCTV staff perfectly illustrates what we are capable of and the value we are able to provide our community," Pease said. "I was contacted by SHHS alumni, Beth Ballard, who coordinated some dedicated volunteers that wanted to honor the former Band Director, Dr. Roger Farnsworth, on building a respected program during his tenure and highlighting his achievements that everyone still looks back fondly on. I was able to film all the interviews we conducted in our studio, as well as help them with the technical logistics and guide them in the editing process. They took all the content and were able to come up with a great program that we are currently airing here on SHCTV. We also worked together to hold a screening of the film, which was attended in-person at the South Hadley High School



Turley photo by Tina Lesniak

Dan Pease, studio director of SHCTV, provides a way for the community to access all kinds of programming.

auditorium and simulcast on SHCTV for people who couldn't make it or lived out of town."

Financial sustainability remains SHCTV's greatest challenge. Subscriber numbers have dropped from about 6,000 at their peak to 2,694 in 2024. Still, Pease remains hopeful, pointing to proposed statewide legislation that could bring new funding by taxing internet streamers.

Another bright spot is the South Hadley Sports Network (SHSN), run largely by

dedicated student volunteers. "I'm very proud of the work we've done with South Hadley Sports Network and very lucky to have such a dedicated team that has helped to build it, including the founding members, Colin Zraunig and Brady Denniston, as well as teacher advisors Amy Foley and Jess Nelson. Without them, we wouldn't have the amount of coverage and volunteer support that we do. I was fortunate enough to have Colin and Brady reach out to me as freshmen when I was

still brand new in my role as studio director, and they have been the driving force to keep SHSN rolling along," noted Pease. "I should take a moment to acknowledge that they are seniors this year, and it's been an honor to see the confidence they have gained as well as the skills they have learned and improved on. With that being said, we are looking for some new students to help fill their roles and are excited to see some others getting a little more involved."

## Nomination papers available for 2026 Annual Town Election

SOUTH HADLEY - Nomination papers for the April 14, 2026, South Hadley Annual Town Election are available from Monday, December 8, 2025, until Friday, February 20, 2026 in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 116 Main St., South Hadley. Nomination papers may be obtained during office hours, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30

a.m. - noon. Appointments outside of regular office hours may be available by request. Any changes in hours will be posted to the Clerk's webpage at [www.southhadley.org/clerk](http://www.southhadley.org/clerk).

Interested candidates must be registered voters in the town of South Hadley. To appear on the ballot, candidates must obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk's Office and have them signed

by local registered voters.

Town-wide offices require 50 signatures on nomination papers from registered voters in South Hadley. Town Meeting Member offices require 10 signatures from registered voters in their respective precinct. It is recommended that prospective candidates obtain more than the minimum number of signatures.

Papers for the following seats will be available:

- Selectboard - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- School Committee - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- Board of Health - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- Municipal Light Board - One Seat - Three-Year Term
- Board of Assessors - One Seat - Three-Year Term
- Housing Authority - One Seat - Five-Year Term
- Trustee Free Public Library - Three Seats - Three-Year Term

- Planning Board - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
- Town Meeting Member - Eight Seats per precinct - Three-Year Term
- Town Meeting Member - One Seat, Precinct B - Two-Year Term
- Town Meeting Member - One Seat Precinct B, One Seat Precinct C - One-Year Term

obtained all the signatures needed, nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 for signatures to be certified.

Interested candidates may direct their questions and comments to the Town Clerk's Office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or by email at [elections@southhadley.ma.gov](mailto:elections@southhadley.ma.gov).

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# Delaney's Market launches first Holiday Food Drive

SOUTH HADLEY – Delaney's Market today announced the launch of its first holiday canned food drive, designed to rally community support for local hunger relief efforts during the crucial holiday season. In a special initiative to encourage donations, the Market will offer a **10% discount on all food purchases** to any customer who contributes a canned food item.



The drive will officially run from **December 1, 2025, through December 22, 2025.**

"This holiday season, the team at Delaney's Market wants to make a difference," said **Peter Rosskothén, Owner.** "While we regularly donate food to our local partners, we know the need is even greater during the winter months. By offering a 10% discount, we hope to make it easy and rewarding for our customers to pitch in and ensure that all families in our area have access to nourishing meals."

### How to Participate

Customers are invited to bring cans of non-perishable food items to any Delaney's Market location. Upon donation, they will receive a **10% discount** applicable to their total food purchase (meals

only), helping them stock up on delicious entrees while supporting a critical cause.

All collected food will be distributed equally among Delaney's Market's long-standing charitable partners:

- St. Vincent De Paul
- Bethany Assembly of God
- Lorraine's Soup Kitchen
- Rachel's Table

These organizations provide essential food assistance and meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity in the local community.

"This is about more than

just a discount; it's about using our business as a platform for positive change," added Rosskothén. "We look forward to working with our community to come together to support the incredible work done by St. Vincent De Paul, Bethany Assembly of God, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and Rachel's Table."

### About Delaney's Market

Delaney's Market is a local, family-owned and fresh ready-to-eat meals company committed to providing high-quality fresh meals and supporting the Western Massachusetts community.

## Church hosts raffle for Patriots game

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Granby is having a "Win a Trip to a Patriots Game with Fr. Michael Goodreau" Raffle for the January 4 game against the Miami Dolphins. The Winner will receive TWO 50-

yard line seats, FREE access to the climate-controlled GP Atrium with FREE Food and FREE Non-Alcoholic beverages (before, during, and after the game), and FREE transportation to and from the game.

Raffle tickets are \$20 and are available at our Parish Office (413-467-9821) and after all weekend Masses. Drawing is on December 29. All Raffle profits will be used to help pay our Oil & Snow Removal bills this winter.



Submitted photo

The Dan Kane and Friends group is ready to provide a wonderful holiday concert.

## Dan Kane and Friends Annual Holiday Concert features Freddie Marion

SOUTH HADLEY – The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors are hosting their annual Inspirational Holiday Concert with Dane

Kane, his singers, and Freddie Marion on Sunday, December 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Theresa's Church.

All are welcome to this free concert.

Hot cocoa and cookies will be served following the event.

## Residents: Take the Budget Task Force Survey

SOUTH HADLEY – You are invited to participate in a research study for the Town of South Hadley. This project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Melinda Tarsi-Goldfien, Department of Political Science, Bridgewater State University, in collaboration

with the South Hadley Budget Task Force. The purpose of this study is to collect feedback from residents on the town's finances. The study is voluntary and confidential.

The survey responses are collected and compiled by Bridgewater State Uni-

versity under the direction of Dr. Tarsi-Goldfien.

The survey results will be reported to the Budget Task Force and residents upon completion. Take the survey at [https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3UleV5odmqm4K](https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UleV5odmqm4K).

## South Hadley awarded ADA Municipal Grant

SOUTH HADLEY – Thanks to the efforts of Cable Director Dan Pease and the South Hadley Commission on Disabilities, the town will be awarded a maximum grant

of \$35000 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance for Closed Captioning for SHCTV15.

The contracts are being

signed, and the project will need to be completed by June 30, 2026. This will greatly enhance public access to municipal programming, including public meetings.



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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

#### About tax filing status and Medicare

##### Dear Rusty:

I'm trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to "Married - Filing Jointly" prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D.

My current IRS status is "Married - Filing Single" and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I've read that Medicare will review my income two years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated.

Signed:  
Uncertain Senior

##### Dear Uncertain:

Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you only, not your spouse, your spouse's Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated.

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly."

The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional

income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage.

For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare visit [www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles](http://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles).

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are reevaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 5

## Christmas decoration trivia

Last week I provided you with a few tips on how to make a simple evergreen swag and wreath. Hopefully you gave it a try.

For this column I thought it would be fun to share some fun facts with you, many of which I just learned today.

You see, I will be working with a group of students tomorrow and wanted to have some cool trivia up my sleeve.

I'll be bringing in all the Christmas greens I talked about a week ago and will pass them around to each student: juniper, hemlock, fir, white pine and more materials, including rose hips, pine cones and holly. Read on to see if what I share is new to you, too!

For example, did you know that the Easter White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the tallest tree in the northeast? It also goes by the name "the Great Tree of Peace," due to the fact that five Native American tribes formed an alliance under a tall white pine; a neat correlation because the needles that are attached to the twigs are in groups of five.

This tree also has a history of being used to make ship masts, and for awhile the trees were reserved for "the Crown." The great "Pine Tree Riot" was an act of defiance that led up to the American Revolution!

One other point of interest is that pine needles are edible and contain vitamin C.

Other materials that often shows up in Christmas decorations are pine cones. What I learned today is that the correct terminology is to generically call them "cones," since they are only pine cones if they come from

one, versus the pine that we learned attach in clusters.

An average, it takes about seven years to grow a decent size Christmas tree. According to my research, the first Christmas tree was in Latvia in the year 1510.

By the early 1800's German and Irish immigrants had brought the custom to America but it still took some time for it to catch hold.

Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) is another evergreen that often makes its way into our Christmas wreaths and arrangements. The species can produce greenery that is either smooth or picky.

One of the biggest draws to using juniper is that it smells nice and often has attractive waxy looking berries along with the foliage. It was interesting to learn that these berries are actually cones.

The seeds are protected well within the tough outer coating and can pass through an animal's digestive tract intact. That way the seeds can be dispersed far and wide - wherever the animal is traveling, I guess!

I've done complete articles on Holly (*Ilex* spp.) before, but I did learn a few new interesting tidbits with this most recent bout of research. The plant has a unique defense mechanism.

Lower foliage is extra spiny to reduce deer from browsing. Upper foliage is

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



a pine tree! Logical point!

The hard cones we use for decorating are female and their main purpose is to keep the naked seeds inside safe. They will open and close to maintain proper humidity levels. \

Some close so tight that they need the heat of a wild fire to have them open enough to drop their seeds! Cones can stay on a tree up to 10 years without falling off.

The kids will find it funny that dinosaurs even ate pine cones, the Parasaurolophus, to be exact! These trees belong to a group of plants called Gymnosperms, that have indeed been around since prehistoric times.

Many of our favorite Christmas trees are Fir trees (*Abies* spp.), with the Balsam Fir being one of the most common. Firs have needles that are soft and flat, and attached to twigs one by



## Not all mountains we climb are the same

### When life and mountains meet

By Julie Midura

With wind chills in the negative single digits, it was a blustery and viewless day on Mt. Pierce in the White Mountains of New Hampshire last Saturday. But our hike wasn't about the views.

It was about rising to meet the mountain. Feeling our legs burn and our hearts race. Experiencing a rush of adrenaline as we fought the intense wind above tree line. Finding our way to the very top in a cloud so dense that the snowy ground and white sky seemed as one.

Last weekend was about allowing ourselves a distraction in the face of unimaginable pain. Accepting the peace and strength that the mountains impart. Granting ourselves permission to feel joy... and not feel guilty for doing so.

It was a weekend of letting go. Allowing the mountain peaks to captivate us. Inspire us. Humble us.

After Saturday's adrenaline-racing adventure on Mt. Pierce, I was excited to see snow in the forecast for our hike on Sunday. For someone

who will never stop believing that snow is magical, I felt like an excited 6-year old.

Which is why I was disappointed when we awoke on Sunday morning, looked out the window of the motel room, and saw rain rather than snow. "Maybe it will stop raining by the time we get to the trailhead," I said hopefully.

There was a heavy overcast when we arrived at the trailhead, but at least it had stopped raining. With no illusions that we'd get a view from the summit of Mt. Cube, upward we went. And as expected, the summit was encased in a cloud. No matter. At least it wasn't raining.

We had just started making our way down from the summit when Tom said, "Well it looks like you're getting your wish!"

I was so focused on foot placement as I carefully navigated the steep, ice-covered ledges, that I didn't notice it had started snowing! I stopped, looked up to the heavens, and felt the soft cold kisses of dozens of snowflakes landing on my upturned face. Intent on lingering, Tom and I found a relatively flat ledge and laid out our sit pad.

For half an hour, we sat with our legs stretched out



on the wet granite, sipping steaming hot cider from our old green Stanley thermos. Staring at the snow and ice-covered trees against the backdrop of a ghostly sky. Watching the snow swirl and dance with each gust of wind. Feeling cold flakes lick our eyelashes. Hearing the faint whisper of flakes landing on snow-laden branches.

This moment was in stark contrast to the adrenaline rush we had experienced on Mt. Pierce the previous day...

when the wind raged angrily in ragged gusts and the cold was so harsh it stung.

It was softer. Calmer. It was a reminder that, in life, we are handed both. The smooth and the rough. The quiet and the loud. The raging and the calm. And each one can hold sadness and joy at exactly the same time.

If I'm being honest, it feels wrong to find joy in these mountains when our 2-year-old granddaughter is in the fight of her life against

the single deadliest form of pediatric brain cancer. But sometimes we need time to exhale. To physically distance ourselves from the pain... while still holding it in our hearts.

We're living in a season of extremes. Of conflicting emotions that are confusing to process. From the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. And it's hard to validate one, at what seems like the expense of the other.

But if this cancer journey is teaching me anything, it's that a heart can hold deep despair-and equally-deep joy at precisely the same moment.

I can be crippled by sadness one minute and smiling with joy the next. I can be consumed with fear one minute and filled with hope the next. And I'm learning that that's okay.

I'm learning to accept that peace CAN exist in the middle of chaos. We just need to open our eyes wide enough to find it.

For those who have asked about Charlotte, thank you. The monthly immunotherapy treatments are keeping her tumor stable. She is fighting like a warrior, and we are grateful for every precious moment that we get to be with her.

Onward.

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

### Turley Election Policy

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

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

## TOWN Reminder

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# Stuff a Cruiser with the South Hadley Police Department

By **Murphy Fitts**  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday, members of the South Hadley Police Department and their families gathered to collect toys for those in need.

“We are trying to help out with the Neighbors Helping Neighbors shelter here in South Hadley,” said Sergeant Michael Pollender.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors shelter has been working with the town of South Hadley and the town of Granby since 2003 to help those in the community who need a helping hand this holiday season.

At Sunday’s event, all kinds of toys were donated. The South Hadley Police Department has also been conducting a food drive that started on November 20th and will go through December 20th.

At the event, there were two cruisers with their trunks open for people to place their

donations.

“We’re trying to stuff the back of both cruisers. Fill them up. Have to maybe even swap them out a second time,” said Officer Molly Farber.

“I’m looking forward to getting both of these cruisers filled and hopefully getting a lot of donations for people that need them,” said O’Connor.

Members of the South Hadley Police Department were grateful to get this opportunity to help out their community.

They enjoy being able to make others’ days better so that they can have a joyous holiday season. This opportunity also gave them a chance to give back to their community that they work so hard for.

“We’re all in this together,” said Sergeant Barry O’Connor.

“We’re helping each other out and trying to make the world a better place for everyone,” said Pollender.



Members of the South Hadley Police Department and their families at the stuff-a-cruiser event.

Turley Photos Submitted by Murphy Fitts



One of the two South Hadley cruisers filled with toys.



South Hadley PD’s display at their annual holiday event.



Another cruiser filled with toys for families in need.



South Hadley Police Department members and their families enjoy collecting gifts.

## SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer, “creditable” is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an

employer, you don’t have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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

## GARDEN from page 4

not nearly as spiny. There are chemicals in holly berries that make the berries unpalatable to birds and other wildlife at first, but as winter goes on they begin to taste a little better.

Still the birds only eat a few at a time thereby dispersing seeds at various rates and

locales. I think all of this is so interesting and so carefully orchestrated to continue the species!

Well, I hope my research has been entertaining, and I do hope that the students enjoy my show and tell tomorrow!

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



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**STROLL** from page 1

munity never disappoints. Regardless of the weather and we have had frigid cold temperatures, snow, and rain over the years! The attendance is always wonderful," said Zebrowski.

The Fire Department, Police Department, and DPW have always attended, with Santa riding in on the fire truck. The South Hadley

Commons and the many, many people who volunteer their time also help to make the event a great success.

"Without their support the Stroll would not be possible," said Zebrowski. "Thank you to all the volunteers. We are so appreciative everyone that continues to make this annual, magical event possible."



Submitted photos

Smiling for the camera with fabulous sunglasses.



Two little ones telling Santa what they want for Christmas.



All smiles here at the Holiday Stroll!



Hello from Florence Bank.



It's a wonderful evening for a warm scarf and smiles all around.



A police officer preparing to help the firefighters get Santa here for photos.



A family bundled up warm on a freezing cold night, but still having fun with smiles all around.



Santa and his elf have arrived.



Robert Mason (left) and Marion Mason (right) posing with Santa Claus.



Everybody needs to get some delicious homemade cookies!



Submitted photos

The room stocked with perfect holiday gifts.

**BAZAAR** from page 1

The church uses the funds raised to go into their Women of the Church fund, which helps fund for congregation, community outreach, and the upkeep of the church and parish center, especially the kitchen.

The church's main goal

and mission is mission work, and they make it a priority to help as much as they can, and whoever they can.

The church puts together blessing bags for those who need the help, and they consist of a drawstring bag with personal care items and food

to bless someone in a simple way we may take for granted.

The church also hosts a clothing drive, as well as maintains a stocked food pantry to help those in need.

The church donates to many organizations in and around the surrounding com-

munities, and once a month, spends a day making and packing PB&Js for Providence Ministries, sending them anywhere from 80 to 90 sandwiches.

The church hosts many other community outreach events as well, and will host a

Living Nativity this weekend at 5:30 p.m., featuring costumes, live animals, and light refreshments to follow.

The Jingle Bell Bazaar, since its beginning, has been orchestrated by the dedicated women of the church, and their supportive husbands,

beginning with the Women's Guild so long ago, and still being run by it today.

This Christmas season, take time to pause and think of how you can bless the community, and see how even the smallest of actions can have the largest of impacts.



Stopping to admire some beautiful jewelry for the perfect outfit from one of the tables.



Captain Christmas is here in his fabulous Christmas jacket.



Jay holding an adorable fluffy kitten.

# SPORTS

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## Turley's Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving stu-

dent-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.

Last Friday night, it was their turn to be recognized for their dedicated work.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association awarded Henry and Peterson with Letters of Commendation.

The PVSOA, which held its awards banquet at the Ludlow Polish-American Club on Dec. 5, recognized the pair for their dedicated service of reporting and photographing boys and girls soccer, impacting multiple communities throughout the region.

The PVSOA Awards Committee believed their

longtime service at Turley Publications was deserving of the letters.

Peterson had a more conventional background in sports journalism. He participated in his high school newspaper at Oxford High School and went on to work at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications. At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

Please see **PVSOA**, page 8



Submitted photo

Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

## Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association hold 79th awards banquet



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks it's amazing that the

PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one

Please see **AWARDS**, page 8

## Tigers prepare for new season



Colin Lamb holds the ball high at the top of the arc.

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School boys basketball team has enjoyed its share of success the past few seasons, including a couple of good runs in the

state tournament. With a new season on the horizon, the Tigers hosted Longmeadow in a scrimmage on Tuesday evening at home. The Tigers will get their season going against

Amherst on Dec. 11. They are next scheduled to play on Monday, Dec. 15 against West Springfield at 7 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Noah Hambley calls out a play after an inbound pass.



Jacuson Pichel makes a pass inside the arc.



Noah Rivera makes his way down the court.



Chase Pecia makes a no-look pass.



Isiah James one-handedly passes the ball to avoid going out of bounds.

# Railers comeback falls short

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (9-9-1-1, 20 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (10-9-2-0, 22 pts) on Saturday, December 6th, with a final score of 4-5 in front of a crowd of 3,494 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday night against the Adirondack Thunder at will take on the Royals again on home ice on January 14th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Reading struck first with an early goal, scored by Massimo Rizzo (1-2-3), assisted by Nolan Burke (1-1-2) and Carter Berger (0-2-2) at 4:09 in the first. The Royals extended their scoring streak to two goals, the second added by Jeremy Michel (1-0-1), assisted by Rizzo and Ben Meehan (0-1-1) at 15:45 in the first (0-2). Worcester answered with a power play tally of their own at 17:46, scored by Gleb Veremyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-1-1) (1-2). Reading bookended the first period with their third goal of the night from Burke, assisted by Rizzo and Berger

at 19:24. Reading grabbed the only goal in the second period, a tipped shot from Robbie Stucker (0-1-1), redirected by Nick Capone (1-0-1), also assisted by Artem Kulakov (0-1-1) at 7:46. A final Reading goal was scored by Kyle Haskins (1-0-1) at 2:54 in the third. Worcester answered the Royals' fifth goal with three goals in the second half of the period. The first by Matt DeMelis (1-1-2) (2-5), the second by Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) (3-5), and the third by Lincoln Hatten (1-1-2) (4-5). The clock ran out just as Worcester pushed for their goal to tie the game and force overtime, but the game ended in a 5-4 Royals' victory.

Reading opened the game with an early lead at 4:09. Royal's forward Massimo Rizzo (4th) tucked the puck in between the pipe and left skate of Parker Gahagen (0-1). Reading stretched their lead to two goals with a score from Jeremy Michel (1st) at 15:45 (0-2). A chance for the Railers to narrow the gap came late in the period as they went on their third power play

of the night, which opened the ice for Anthony Callin to feed a pass from behind the net to Gleb Veremyev (2nd) for Worcester's first goal at 17:46 (1-2). T.J. Walsh headed to the box shortly after the tally for holding, which put Reading on their first power play of the night. Nolan Burke (3rd) nabbed a goal for the Royals 28 seconds into the game. Walsh's penalty to re-establish their two-goal lead. Shots on goal were 12-16 in favor of Reading.

The Royals' fourth goal of the night came just over a third of the way through the second period from forward Nick Capone (2nd). Worcester played the period on the defensive and found themselves down a man on two separate occasions. Neither penalty resulted in a Royals goal, but Capone's scored soon after the clock ran out on Riley Ginnell's time served for high-sticking. Worcester was kept off of the board in the second which left the score at 4-1 Reading to close the second. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with nine to

Reading's 12. Reading was assessed one penalty served by Ben Meehan.

As play resumed in the third, Worcester worked to cut into the Royals three-goal lead, turned four as Kyle Haskins (5th) added another to Reading's tally for the evening at 2:54. Worcester opened the floodgates on Reading's net and scored three times in the second half of the period. Matt DeMelis scored an even strength goal at the 12:41 mark to make it a three-goal game. Worcester then called its timeout and pulled goaltender Thomas Gale to give the team an extra attacker. Repaci (6th) (3-5), and Hatten (8th) (4-5) each added their own goals with the extra-attacker on to get back to within one. Despite their offensive push across the final 2:30 of the third, Worcester fell short by one as the final horn sounded. The final score was 5-4 Reading. Final shots were 41-35 Worcester, and final penalties were six for the Royals and three for the Railers.

# T-Birds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist

shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a highlight-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

# Cougars earn victory against Northern Essex

HOLYOKE – Women's basketball got back to their winning ways on Thursday night, earning a 65-59 home victory over regional opponent Northern Essex CC. The Lady Cougars dominated early on, scoring 38 points in the first half to take a 17-point lead into halftime. Holyoke was able to hold off a strong second-half push from their opposition on their way to the win

Johannes Andrade (Springfield, MA / Putnam Vocational Technical HS) played brilliantly for the Cougars, leading the team in points, rebounds and assists. Andrade scored a season-high 21 points while grabbing nine rebounds and dishing eight assists. Emily McGrail (Ware, MA / Ware HS) had a team-high four blocks for Holyoke and was second in points with nine.

Women's basketball is in second place in the New England standings with a 3-1 regional record. They are 4-3 overall and 4-1 versus NJCAA opponents.

## PVSOA from page 7

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his

years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holy-

oke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

## AWARDS from page 7

with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the

awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

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# Getting cozy this holiday season at the libraries

SOUTH HADLEY—Winter weather and a good book just seem to go together. As we move into December, we invite you to visit the South Hadley Public and Gaylord Memorial libraries to pick up a bestseller, discover a new author, or reconnect with a classic. You can find the most recent additions to the collection by clicking here. The page is updated weekly, and you can even sign up for email alerts for new materials. And we're much more than books...

**Adult Programs at SHPL**  
December is full of festive programs at the South Hadley Public Library!

Puzzle lovers can join us for a **Jigsaw Puzzle Swap on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m.**-drop off complete puzzles (no missing pieces) at the Front Desk from December 1-12 to receive swap tickets and pick up new-to-you puzzles the morning of the event.

Celebrate the season with **Wassail! A Victorian Holiday on Wednesday, December 17 at 6 p.m.** The Small Planet Dancers will feature songs, a parlor

game, and a festive march through a lively Victorian-inspired holiday ball. This program is sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council; registration is required by clicking here.

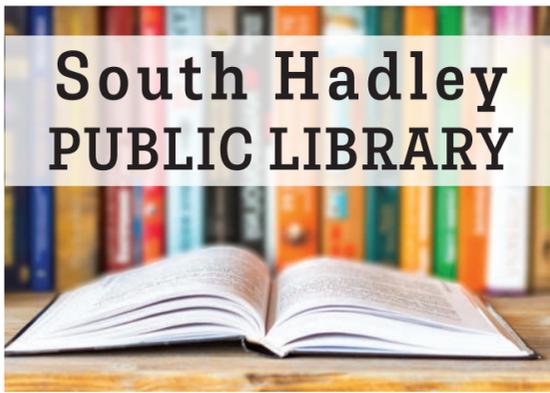
**Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)**

**The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks**, Leading Cultural and Political Commentator and Bestselling Author of *The Road to Character*. Tuesday, January 13 at 2 p.m.

**Children's Programs at SHPL**

This month we celebrate the shortest day of the year, followed by New Year's Eve. Join us as we count down to «noon year» with a **comedy magic show on December 31 at 10:30 a.m.!**

But wait, there's more: **Japanese Story Time with Kanae on Saturday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m.**, and **music with Mr. Liam on Saturday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.** And during school vacation, try out our new I Spy



board, come play **Book Bingo on Tuesday, December 23 at 2 p.m.**, and make a **paper snowflake craft on Tuesday, December 30 between 2 to 4 p.m.** (drop in).

Need some reading suggestions? Request a Book Bundle (these can work as gift guides as well! Books make great gifts!).

All our regular programs continue as usual while the library is open: Pajama Storytime, Lego & Games, Rhyme Time, Story Time, CFCE Playgroup, Baby Lapsit Storytime, and Pride Club. See the whole calendar here, and email Jenny if you

have any questions.

**Teen Programs at SHPL**

**Night Craft** will be happening on **Tuesday, December 30, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** We will be crafting Glue Snowflakes. None of these programs requires signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be held on **Tuesday, December 16, for Xbox X**. All gaming sessions start at 3:30 p.m. and run until 5 p.m. No sign-up is needed.

**Snackternoon** will be on **Thursday, December 18, from 4 to 5 p.m.** Please note

this is the third Thursday this month due to Christmas Day. This month features Dill Pickle Chex Mix. Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly **Teen Takeaways** continue to be available. This month features Silhouette Pom Pom Painting. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month. We also have our latest **Booktrovert** pick: *Conceal, Don't Feel* by Jen Calonita. There are no in-person meet ups, just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for check out.

December introduces our brand new Teen Book Club!

The **Read Whatever Book Club**. Come and talk about whatever you're reading with other teens! Hot cocoa and popcorn provided. This program takes place on **Monday, December 22, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**, and no sign-up is needed unless you want an email reminder.

Finally, during school vacation week, there is **Drip Sculpture** with day 1 taking

place **Monday, December 29, from 3 to 4 p.m.** and day 2 taking place **Tuesday, December 30, from 3 to 4 p.m.** We will also have **Open Gaming on Wednesday, December 31 from 3 to 5 p.m.** Gaming consoles and board games will be available for teens to play. Please email Bethany with any questions.

**Gaylord Memorial Library Programs**

For kids, we also have our usual **Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.)**. **LEGO Club** meets **Thursday, December 18, from 3 to 6 p.m.**

Families can also join us on **Saturday, December 13, at 10:15 a.m.** for special **Holiday Games**, and **Saturday, December 27, at 10:15 a.m.** for **Trains-n-Tracks**.

**December Holidays**  
Happy Holidays! Our schedule has some adjustments this month:

Wednesday, December 24, closing at 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 25, both libraries are closed

Friday, December 26, open normal hours at SHPL and GML

Wednesday, December 31, closing at 6 p.m.

## BASKET from page 1

The sale features several talented knitted and crocheted items made by members of the library's knitting club, and the knit items include hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, dish cloths, and the most adorable little stuffed animals and characters. You could even "adopt" an adorable chicken.

"Set up for every sale is motivating because it's the community giving to the community, all in support of our library," said Huff. "The sales directly benefit the library patrons in the form of equipment, services, and items they can check out and use. Our short-term goals are to expand the museum pass and mobile Hotspot programs and add to our growing library of things."

The library is also looking to host several new programs that sales like these help benefit, including a Wildlife on Wheels program from Forest Park Zoo, and so much more.

"We want to give back to the community by offering

enriching new programs that will teach new skills, inspire new hobbies, and help everyone learn and grow while also bringing our community together," said Crosby.

You can also find merch at the library, including mugs, durable tote bags to carry home your new books, t-shirts, and more with the library's logo on them, on sale year-round, so you can support the library at any time.

"It has been my pleasure over the years to watch our community grow and evolve and of course, the holiday season is my favorite," said Crosby. "I get to see everyone come into the library in their cute outfits while drinking cocoa and being merry together. Oh, what fun!"

The best way to spend the holiday season is to spend it with friends, family, and neighbors, and along the way of finding a special gift for someone in your life, consider stopping by the library to select them a gift basket, and support the library in its mission to serve the community.



Submitted photos

Fun little critters ready to come home with you.



Scarves and hats to make everyone feel warm.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Tips for navigating the holiday season while grieving a loss

By Rev. Peter-Michael Preble

The holiday season is often described as a time of joy, celebration, and togetherness. But for many people, this time of year also brings an immense sense of grief, loneliness, and longing. When someone we love is missing from the table, the lights seem a little dimmer, and the familiar traditions feel different. If you are grieving this year, you are not alone. There are ways to move gently through the season and even find moments of peace amid sorrow.

## Permit Yourself to Feel What You Feel

The pressure to be “festive” can be overwhelming, especially when you are grieving. It is okay, more than okay, to feel sad, tired, or disconnected. You have endured a loss. Grief doesn't follow a schedule, and it cannot be pushed aside for the sake of holiday cheer. Let go of the expectations you place on yourself and the expectations others may have of you. Allow your emotions to come and go as they need to.

## Adjust Traditions Instead of Erasing Them

Traditions can bring comfort, but they can also stir deep pain. You are allowed to decide which ones you want to keep, which ones you want to set aside, and which ones you might choose to reinvent. You might find meaning in continuing a loved one's favorite ritual. Or it may feel right to pause it for a year. You may even begin something new that honors their memory. Remember: if you do something twice, it becomes a tradition.

## Set Boundaries with Events and People

Boundaries are essential when grieving. You do not have to attend every gathering or celebration. Give yourself permission to say no without guilt. If you do choose to go, you may leave early or step outside for a moment of quiet if needed. Your wellbeing matters, and it is okay to pro-

tect your energy.

## Plan for the Hard Moments

Difficult moments will come, but planning for them can help. Identify the days or events that may feel especially heavy and create a gentle plan for how to navigate them. Have someone you trust available to check in with you. Step outside for a walk. Find a quiet place to pray or meditate. Often, the anticipation of the day is harder than the day itself, so prepare, but don't overprepare.

## Accept Help—Practical and Emotional

Many grieving people struggle to ask for help, especially if they are used to being the helper. But you do not need to carry everything by yourself. If you usually host a holiday gathering, ask someone else to take the lead this year. Let others support you with meals, rides, company, or simply their presence. Isolation can intensify grief; staying connected, even in small ways, can ease the burden.

## Create Space to Remember

Remembering your loved one can be healing. Share stories, look through photos, prepare their favorite dish, or set a place at the table in their honor. Some find comfort in lighting a candle or displaying a picture. But if remembering feels too painful right now, you can set it aside. There is no right or wrong way to honor memory.

## Care for Your Body and Nervous System

Grief is exhausting, emotionally and physically. Pay attention to your body's needs: drink water, eat nourishing food, rest when you can. Gentle movement, like stretching or walking, can help calm your nervous system. Listen to what your body is telling you; it often knows what you need before your mind does.

## Seek Moments of Comfort, Not Joy

This season is often labeled as “joyful,” but joy can

feel out of reach when your heart is heavy. Instead of forcing joy, look for pockets of comfort: a warm cup of tea, soft music, a quiet corner, a pet curled beside you. These small moments of peace are enough. Joy will return in its own time.

## Name Your Needs to Someone You Trust

People often want to help but don't know how. Tell someone you trust what you need, whether it's a phone call, company at an event, help with meals, or space to talk. Be honest about your struggles. Sharing your needs allows others to show up for you in meaningful ways.

## Consider Simple Ritual or Spiritual Practices

Ritual can be grounding in seasons of grief. Lighting a candle, journaling, praying, reading Scripture, or attending a simple service can offer a sense of presence and connection. Rituals do not need to be elaborate; sometimes the smallest act can be the most comforting.

## Seek Support When You Feel Overwhelmed

You do not have to walk this path alone. Counselors, chaplains, and grief groups can offer guidance, tools, and companionship. Don't wait until you feel overwhelmed, reach out early. Sharing your experience with others who understand can be deeply healing.

Grief does not disappear for the holidays, and it does not need to. But with tenderness, boundaries, and support, you can move through this season with compassion for yourself. May you find moments of comfort, rest, and light as you navigate the days ahead.

Rev. Peter-Michael Preble is the Chaplain for the Hull Fire Department and a Hospice Chaplain with Croí Health (Formerly Norwell VNA) in Norwell, Massachusetts. Follow him at [www.peterpreble.net](http://www.peterpreble.net)

# 2026 South Hadley Marshal announced for Holyoke Parade

SOUTH HADLEY – Andrew R. Beaudry, CFP®, is a lifelong South Hadley resident, respected community leader, and dedicated financial advisor. A proud supporter of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade for nearly five decades, he has long rallied local involvement and lent a helping hand through the South Hadley St. Pat-

rick's Parade Committee. Founder of Private Financial Design (celebrating 36 years in business) Andrew has also served as a Meeting Member, Appropriations Committee member, and minister.

As the 2026 South Hadley Parade Marshal, he represents the spirit of leadership, service, and

community that has defined both his career and his life's work. He is honored to represent and lead the South Hadley contingent in the March 22, 2026, Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade.

Andrew will be honored at South Hadley Irish Night at Mitchell's Public House on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

# GPD announced Code Red Monday, Dec. 8

GRANBY – The Town was notified of an issue with the Code Red Emergency Notification System. Code Red stated they suffered a cyber attack, and residents' names and phone numbers may have been compromised. Code Red created a new platform

and has uploaded some information. It doesn't appear that all of the information was transferred, as we believe there were about 4,000 numbers in the system, and the new system is displaying fewer than 1,000 phone numbers. We are asking that if res-

idents want to confirm they are still on the notification platform, either use this link, <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/granbytownma>

Or go to [granbypd.org](http://granbypd.org) and click on the Code Red link. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

# Legal Notices

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **December 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Site Plan Review filed by Jennifer Caisse to construct a detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on a parcel with an existing single-family home at 373 Granby Road, Assessor's Map 29 Parcel 158. This application is being filed pursuant to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 Article XII (Site Plan Review); 255-50 (Accessory Dwelling Units); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be held through virtual format with log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86756960747?pwd=BdOA8q4X4J89fZgJ1aJOR5HeJBrNV.1>

Or join by phone: +1 (305) 224 1968 Webinar ID: 867 5696 0747 Passcode: 847516

The subject property is located within the Residential A-1

Zoning District and is an existing single-family home.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org) on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Site Plan Review' under section 'Granby Road (373) - ADU' 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.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
12/05, 12/12/2025

## GRANBY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Granby Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on **January 5, 2026 at 5:35 P.M.** in the Old Carnegie Library (Top Floor Meeting Room), 1 Library Lane, Granby, MA, to consider an application sub-

mitted by Dan's Construction, 715 West Street, Ludlow, MA 01056, for approval of a Definitive Subdivision Plan entitled MUNSING ESTATES, a proposed subdivision of seventy-six (76) residential lots located on approximately 157 acres Zoned Single Family Residence (RS) located generally on the northerly side of Carver Street at the Belchertown town line (also identified as Assessor's Map 17, Block B, Lots 15.4 & 16).

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (8:00AM - 12:00 PM, Tuesday-Thursday) at the 1 Library Lane (top floor), Granby, MA 01033, and at the following website: <https://www.granby-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/public-hearing-notice>

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

James Trompke, Chair  
Granby Planning Board  
12/12, 12/19/25

# EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

New Year's will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in **TURLEY PUBLICATIONS** the week of Dec. 29, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026:

- Friday, December 26 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times
  - Agawam Advertiser News
- Monday, December 29 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Sentinel • The Journal Register
  - Ware River News • Barre Gazette
- Tuesday, December 30 at 2 PM for January 2 issue**
  - Quaboag Current • Town Reminder
  - The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

**TURLEY PUBLICATIONS**  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
413-283-8393 • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

# EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**

A **TURLEY PUBLICATION**  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Spiritual leaders
- A type of solution
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- They precede C
- A way to compare
- Government lawyer
- "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- The eighth month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- \_\_\_ ex Machina
- Makes happy
- Type of berry
- A doctrine
- Popular Dodge truck model
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricketer frogs
- Influential German
- psychologist
- Endured
- A female domestic
- You can get stuck in one
- Cigarette (slang)
- Fiber optics network
- Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Belonging to the bottom layer
- Sound
- MLB legend Hank
- Very attractive person
- Late beloved sportscaster Craig
- South Dakota
- Mocking
- Symbol for gold
- Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Preliminary patient assessment
- Swedish krona
- Start over
- Field flowers
- Fourteen
- A visual way to interact with a computer
- Up-to-date
- Campaigns
- Touch lightly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- Supporter of the Pope
- Anxiety
- Body fluid
- One who's faking it
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- City in central Japan
- Silk garment
- A form of dance
- Automobile
- The man
- Justice Dept. head honcho

**CLUES DOWN**

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Necklace material
- Containers
- A way to save for your future
- Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
- Dipped down
- Head injury (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- Opposite of yes
- Caused to be loved
- Spiritual leader of Islam
- Businesslike
- Not in
- Number above the line in a fraction
- An animal with its own day
- Pouch



Turley Photos Submitted by Murphy Fitts

Kids line up at the start of the fun run, ready to go.

**FUN RUN** from page 1

said PTO member Christine Heymanns.

The consensus for what people were most excited about was the hot chocolate at the end of the race, as well as the chance to run together and bring on the school spirit.

"It's always so nice when we plan these events when the kids come out, and they're all excited to run together and just bring the school spirit

and the holiday spirit together at the same time. Seeing the holiday cheer and the kids excited brings the magic," said Joly.

This event was a fundraiser for the school to try and raise money for different school events like field trips, assemblies, or anything else school teachers were in need of. All of the money goes back to school.

More importantly, this event was meant to bring

the members of the Mosier community together. With everyone's schedules being so busy, this was a chance for families to take a break.

In the midst of basketball and football season, families can step outside together and get a chance to exercise.

"It's just something that's really nice to do on a Sunday that's healthy and allows us to be with the community and get to be with friends and family," said parent Jessie

Wilson.

On such a beautiful winter day, this might have just been the best turnout yet.

"There's snow on the ground, but fortunately it didn't affect our turnout," said Langevin.

"We always try to give back to the community. We raise money all year long. This really isn't a money-raising event. It's just for the kids to get some exercise and have some fun," said Methot.



One of the many families attending the fun run in holiday attire.



Holiday sweets and refreshments for the community to purchase.



PTO member Christine Heymanns preparing everyone for the start of the run/walk.



Father and daughter at the start of the run and ready for some hot chocolate.



Kids enjoy a game of kickball before the fun run begins.



Therapy dog, Lexi, decked out in holiday spirit.



Kids and parents, and grandparents alike attended this year's Mosier fun run.



Parent, Jessie Wilson, is setting up the Mosier merchandise table.



All kinds of Mosier swag for local residents to purchase.



The hot chocolate table set up and ready to go when runners and walkers return.



Mosier PTA president Danielle Langevin posing for a photograph.