

TOWN Reminder

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Save South Hadley organizes grassroots push for override vote

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — With an override vote looming that could reshape the town's financial future, a grassroots organization has emerged to rally support and explain the stakes to residents.

Save South Hadley, a volunteer-led group advocating for an \$11 million override — with a second ballot option of \$9 million — has mobilized more than 100 residents in recent weeks to educate voters about what organizers say are significant consequences if the measure fails.

For co-chair Larry Dixon, the decision to get involved was personal.

Please see **VOTE**, page 5



Turley photo by Tina Lesniak

Significant cuts to the schools' budget would remove much of what students say they most enjoy about high school.

The Chamber and the Pantry: A story of support

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY — The Chamber celebrated Neighbors Helping Neighbors at their Business After 5 event, with a special evening of networking, and a chance to celebrate, uplift, and help good friends.

The Chamber hosts Business After 5 events for a chance for the members and nonmembers of the Chamber

to come together to meet and interact with other businesses.

"This is a networking opportunity that really benefits us all— but also, it's a time we can uplift not just the businesses in town, but the non-profits, too," said Chamber President Steven Laplante.

The Business After 5 events are always held at a restaurant that is a part of the Chamber and go to different

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 9



Submitted photo

Julie Gentile, Mary Lou Guarnera, and Joni Fleming at the Business Dinner in January.

Local artist shares her love for abstract art

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY — Art is how we work to share with the world our deepest thoughts, feelings, and opinions, with the world around us, coming in all sorts of shapes, styles, and textures, all serving to tell a different story.

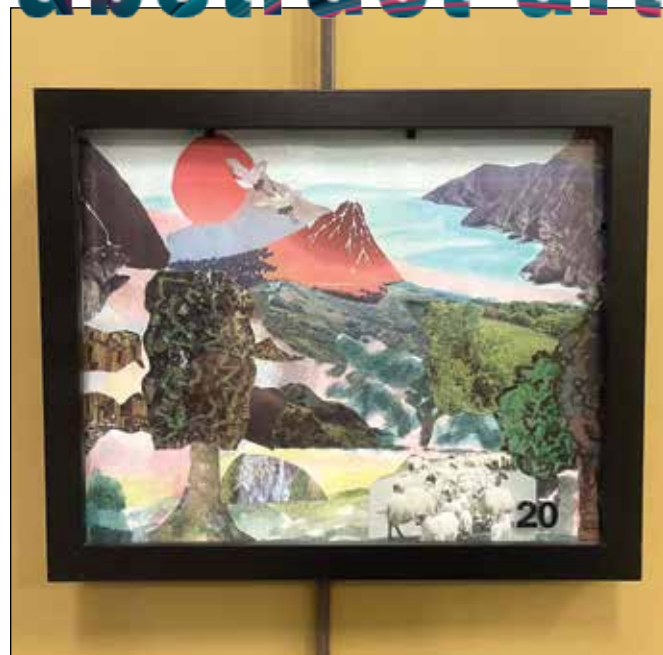
Artist Kathryn McKay currently has 27 art pieces up at the South Hadley Public Library, featuring works of art made out of collage materials, acrylics, ink, and pastels.

McKay graduated from classical high school in Springfield, then attended Springfield Technical Community College, and transferred to Springfield College, where she finished her degree in art.

"I was interested in [art] since I was a child and have been doing it since then. I love painting and collage mostly," said Kathryn McKay. "I like to use bright colors because they vibrate, and different colors bring about different kinds of emotions in you."

McKay taught art in the public schools for 25 years in Chicopee, teaching collage art projects that illustrated different holidays and seasons for the children to create.

abstract art



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

A stunning collage piece titled "Volcano."

"I love the way I can play with [abstract art]. You can try a few things, decide on a few colors, and you can decide what you want it to be like and watch it change and grow,"

— Kathryn McKay

"I hope people enjoy the color, and even if they don't know anything about abstract art, they'll see and recognize

the shapes and the colors, and I hope they appreciate the color combinations, and especially the sashes and how

they interact with the other geometric shapes," said McKay. "When it came to my retirement, I decided to do collage, and then add some paint to give it some texture. My inspiration lately has been Japanese prints."

These sashes, or obi, feature many different geometrical shapes and patterns, with different colors, making them the perfect models for the art form of collage.

"From the kids that I taught, we did a lot of collage, so I picked that up after I retired, and before that, I was doing collage with tissue paper. It's always been in me, and that's the way I do my artwork," said McKay.

Having always loved and enjoyed art, she took that love and enjoyment and brought it into her everyday life, resulting in the stunning display at the library.

"I sit down and want to do artwork, and I sit and play around with my origami and sparkly papers, and then keep on playing with it and changing it," said McKay. "Sometimes I'll have inspiration, like with the sashes, and it's an adventure."

Please see **ARTIST**, page 9

Comms survey shows desire of social media and website improvements

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — The Communications Committee on March 2 approved survey-based recommendations to overhaul town communications, calling for a revamped website, working email alerts and an official Facebook page to move residents from hunting for information themselves.

The package of changes, based on 429 survey responses representing about 7% of Granby residents, will be presented to the Select Board later this month. The proposals aim to make Town Hall information easier to find and understand, shift the town from a "pull" model — where residents must search for updates — to a "push" model that delivers

news directly, and clarify the committee's charge for the coming year.

Between November and February, the committee collected feedback on how residents get information, how well current systems work, and what they want to see improved.

Chair Tobias Wilson described a report created for the town as "a very high-level summary featuring the important results from our survey, nothing too granular, a list of recommendations for the town administrator and the Select Board, and a draft of new responsibilities for our charge for next year."

Residents who responded to the survey said they overwhelmingly rely on social media and word of mouth to

Please see **SURVEY**, page 6

Holyoke hosts 2026 Colleen Gathering

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE — The city hosted this year's Colleen Gathering at the Wyckoff Country Club on Sunday, March 8.

The gathering featured the 2026 Colleens and their courts from Holyoke, Chicopee, Agawam, West Springfield, Springfield and Westfield, along with the 2026 award recipients from the surrounding communities. Festivities included a luncheon, raffles, and perfor-

mances from the Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance, along with the Colleens and their courts, who also got to show off their Irish step dance moves.

Before the presentation kicked off, remarks were provided by Dave Haslam, a member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee and chairman for this year's Colleen Gathering, along with 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Pres-



Please see **COLLEEN**, page 6

2026 Colleens assembled.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Superintendent details next steps, parent concerns in Cold Spring School closure plan

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown school officials outlined key next steps and ongoing concerns tied to the closure of Cold Spring School and a broader grade reorganization during a Feb. 24 School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Brian Cameron said the district has held two listening sessions with families — one focused on Cold Spring students moving to Swift River and another at Jabish Brook Middle School.

“We met twice for a listening session with parents,” Cameron said. There was a crowd of about 15 people show up at Cold Spring and about 30 at Jabish.

He said the district is compiling questions raised at those meetings.

“We’re going to put them in a Q and A and put them on the website,” Cameron said.

Scheduling for next year is already in motion, including specialist schedules and classroom configurations across multiple buildings.

“We have been doing a lot of work around scheduling at

Jamish,” he said, including “behind-the-scenes scheduling of specialists at Swift River, Chestnut Hill, and Jabish.”

A meeting for Swift River parents whose children will be rescheduled.

“We were supposed to meet with Swift River parents ... We will have to reschedule that,” Cameron said.

Facilities changes are also underway, especially for preschool spaces and technology. Cameron said Pathfinder’s plumbing program is helping “start working on our toilets for the preschool and lowering those toilets”, and “Neil is in the process of ensuring that technology will be uploaded in each of the classrooms.”

He added that improvements around Jabish Brook may advance on the town side, noting “the Jabish Brook parking is at the top of the list” in the town capital plan.

Cameron confirmed that world language classes will not run at Jabish Brook under the new model.

“There is not going to be any foreign language at Jabish,” he said.

He linked the change to long-term hiring difficulties. “We couldn’t find a French

teacher for so long, and then Spanish ... and then we moved one to the high school,” Cameron said.

The shift is expected to reduce the number of students in the state’s Seal of Biliteracy pathway, but the district plans to maintain that opportunity through Belchertown High School.

“We probably won’t have as many students doing it, but certainly it’s still the opportunity,” Cameron said. “We will work with the high school.”

Cameron said two concerns stood out from the listening sessions: the Cold Spring playground and how sixth graders will fit in at Jabish. “The playground at Cold Springs was a big” topic, he said, along with “sixth grade recess going to Jabish.”

Recess at Jabish is currently more informal than at the elementary schools.

“Their recess is a little bit different. It’s more of hanging out for 10 to 15 minutes. It’s not like Swift River,” Cameron said.

Parents also raised questions about younger students mixing with older peers at social events.

One idea is to phase in mixed-grade dances.

“Maybe we start with just sixth grade and then sixth grade, seventh, and then sixth, seventh, and eighth,” Cameron said.

The future of playground equipment was another focus. Cameron said the Cold Spring structure will be evaluated, along with aging equipment at Swift River. The Cold Spring playground “is cemented in,” he said, and “the one at Swift River needs to be taken down. It’s just not in good shape.”

Despite worries, Cameron said many families appreciate that students will stay longer in a single school.

“We appreciate that they’re not going to have to move schools after one or two years,” he said.

Under the new configuration, some students may spend as many as five years in the same building.

Cameron pledged to keep the committee and community informed as more details are worked out.

“Once I meet with the parents, I will give you an update ... and then I will have a timeline of certain events that will occur from March,” he said.

SHPD celebrates International Women’s Day

SOUTH HADLEY — we recognize the women of the South Hadley Police Department. Chief Gundersen, Officer Romanovicz, Officer Boyle, Officer Tebo, Officer Cebula, Officer Farber, Administrative Assistant Ottomaniello, Dispatcher O’Neill, Dispatcher Kunasek, and Dispatcher Brunetti.



Submitted photos
Chief Gundersen awarding a Certificate of Appreciation.



Officer Farber helping with Meals on Wheels.



Officer Boyle with Mary Lou Guarnera donating to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

KYT to host Candidate’s Night next week

SOUTH HADLEY — On Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Main Public Library, Know Your Town will host the annual Candidates Night for candidates for major local offices.

Know Your Town Member Marion Pascone will serve as the moderator. Marion and James Canning will be the timers. Linda Sachs will be the usher and greeter. Liz Austin will screen the written questions. Marcia Durell will chair the Refreshments Table.

Candidates will give a three-minute opening statement. After all candidates are heard, audience members may ask oral or written questions of the candidates.

Light refreshments will

be served after the formal part of the program is over. Please plan to attend this event, which is free and open to the public. Meet and talk to the people who want to serve you in major local elected offices.

Please go to the KYT website, knowyourtown.org, to check for candidate statements.

You can also find the list of candidates that will be featured on the April 14 election ballot on the Town Website, or by typing the following link into the search bar on Google: https://www.south-hadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/14870/2026_South_Hadley_Candidate_List?bidId=

Lenten Lunches return to South Hadley

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

The last day at All Saints’ Church is Friday, March 20.

The last day at St. Patrick’s Church is Friday, March 27.

Remember these dates and locations, and bring a friend for lunch, or take home your favorite choice for supper.

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

Prices for each of the three luncheon offerings will be

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

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

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

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST	\$2.88 lb	Lenten Specials	
USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED SMOKED BRISKET	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SCALLOPS ON HALF SHELL 2 LB BAG	\$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS HADDOCK FISH FILLETS 2 LB BAG,	\$9.99 ea
SOUP'S ON!		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 26/30 COUNT PEELLED & DEVEINED 2 LB BAG	\$15.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAIL.....	\$9.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet	
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When, Where, and How to vote in South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – It's almost time to vote, but many may not know how to go about the process, where to go, or who to contact. Below is a guide from the Town Clerk on how to learn more about voting, and make sure you are registered to vote in time.

Registering to Vote in South Hadley

To vote in South Hadley, you must be registered at your address at least 10 days before the election or primary. You can register to vote as long as you meet the following criteria:

- A U.S. citizen
 - A resident of Massachusetts
 - 18 years or older
 - Not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.
- How to register to vote:**
- In person: In the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours
 - Mail: Send registration to 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075
 - Online: Register online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>

Voting Options in South Hadley

Voting options may vary by election. More information is available at www.southhadley.org/elections. Options for voting include:

- In-person on Election Day at South Hadley High School
- Vote by Mail* Absentee by mail/in-person*
- In-person early voting in the Town Clerk's office
- *Applications are required for voting by mail. Apply for a mail-in ballot online at www.VoteinMA.com

When to Vote in South Hadley - 2026 Election Dates

View sample ballots as they become available: <https://www.southhadley.org/1088/Sample-Ballot>

- Annual Town Election Tuesday, April 14, 2026
- Massachusetts State Primary Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- State Election Questions? Contact the Town Clerk's Office Phone: 413-538-5030, ext.6183 Email: elections@southhadleyma.gov www.southhadley.org/elections Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Lenten Lunches at St Patrick's

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

Their famous 100% lobster salad rolls are again available for \$24. White albacore tuna croissants are \$13. Both come with a choice of clam chowder or homemade min-

estrone soup, a bag of chips, and a cookie.

The lunch dates are as follows:

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

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

Sensory Street coming to Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE — A new addition is coming to the 73rd Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade, as the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is partnering with the Miracle League of Western Mass (MLWM) and Magic for Maddie to introduce 'Sensory Street' along this year's parade route, which offers and provides a lower-stimulus viewing option for visitors with sensory sensitivities.

Providing insight into how this came together was Holyoke City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, who explained that the inspiration came from a trip to Ireland last year.

"Last year, a group of city officials and Parade Committee members took a trip to visit our sister city of Tralee, Ireland. We marched in their parade and saw that their parade offered a 'sensory-friendly' area for spectators, and we thought it was such a great idea," Murphy-Romboletti said.

She explained that she pitched the idea to the Parade Committee, and they followed through.

"Our 2026 Parade President (Jim Wildman) and volunteers took the initiative and made it come to fruition, with the support of some amazing sponsors," Murphy-Romboletti said.

It was also revealed that Wildman then reached out to Kerry Parsons, a board member for the MLWM, who loved the idea.

"We're so excited, because this is such an incredible inclusion to the parade," Parsons said, something that Murphy-Romboletti also bestowed praise towards.

"This addition is a great

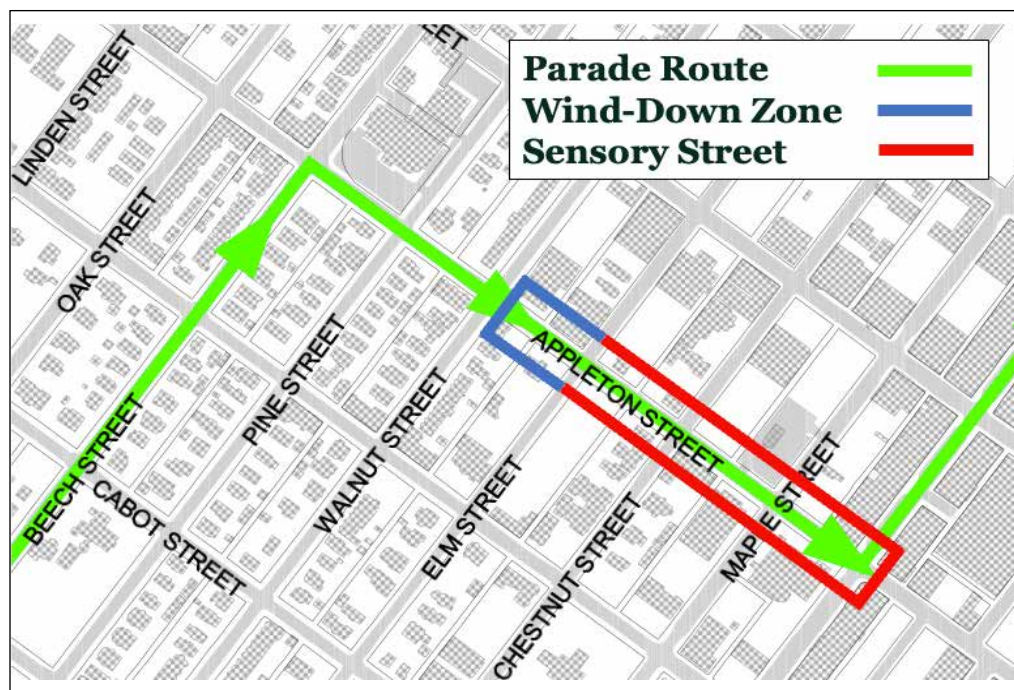


Photo courtesy of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

Map of the Sensory Street Designated Zone.

way to make sure everyone gets to enjoy the parade, including families with children and individuals who may not love the big noises that can happen during the parade," Murphy-Romboletti said.

"Simply, it's just another way for our city to say, 'you are welcome here.'"

Echoing similar thoughts was Wildman.

"This is a huge step for us, because I don't believe there is another St. Patrick's Day Parade that does this type of activity, and to have this area be inclusive for all these kids and adults who have issues with all the lights, sirens, and the noise, and for them to come in and join us is heartwarming," Wildman said.

Wildman added that the social media response and reaction to the announcement has been beneficial and surprising.

"For example, this past week, we had our social me-

dia go out, and we had almost 500 likes and close to 1K comments within 24 hours," Wildman said. "We gained interest and traction from groups we've never heard of, who have shared the announcement, that are all talking about coming, and so we're hoping for a very, very good first year, and for people to show up and enjoy this with their families."

According to details, the full Sensory Street zone runs from Appleton Street, Elm, Maple Street, and the wind-down begins to take shape at Walnut Street before the traditional parade experience returns on High Street. Both zones will be marked with signs along the route and highlighted on the official parade map.

No reservations are required to access Sensory Street, and the zone will be open to all spectators. Offering an in-depth analysis of what

families can expect was Murphy-Romboletti.

"During the couple of blocks of 'Sensory Street,' folks can anticipate no emergency or flashing lights, no sirens or amplified alarms, bands will feature strings only (no percussion or brass), as well as reduced loud or sudden vehicle noises," Murphy-Romboletti said. "I think it's great that we can join others in these efforts because true inclusivity isn't about taking away an experience from anyone else; it's about creating new opportunities that encourage bringing more people into the fold."

The new initiative is believed to be the first of its kind for any major event held in Western Massachusetts.

The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off later this month on March 22.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Is there income tax on Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:
The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works?

Signed: Confused Taxpayer

Dear Confused Taxpayer:

You are obviously referring to the so-called "One Big, Beautiful Bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits." Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income.

The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025. Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed.

The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits.

But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere

between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025). By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits.

This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025.

If you use a tax preparer or tax preparation software, they will guide you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 5

An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs (richters.com). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape.

Basil (*Ocimum spp*) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting it indoors. The Richters catalog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce leaf, with its crinkled pale

green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same

course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

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



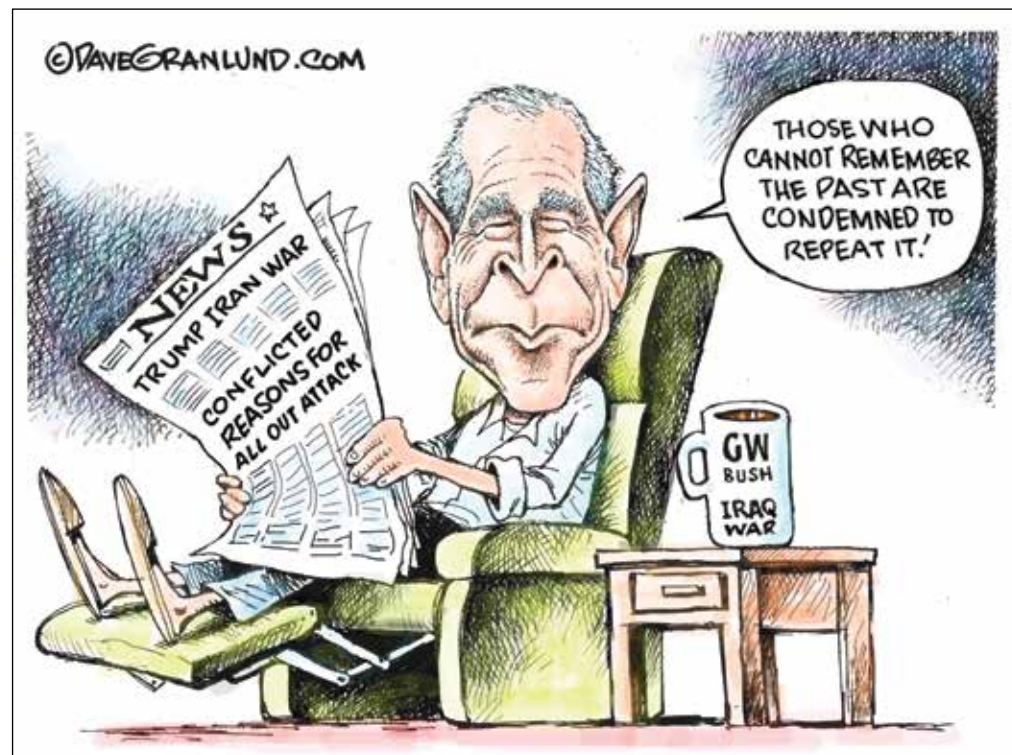
time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack. When true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties for you to try if this disease has been troublesome in your garden.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the



On March 2, I received an email from a Worthington resident that he just saw a red-winged blackbird.

Male red-winged blackbirds arrive before the females. They are one of the first birds to return to northern breeding grounds, arriving in late February or early March.

Red-winged blackbirds are abundant songbirds, who inhabit marshes, wetlands and fields. The male is glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches or epaulets. Females have streaked brown plumage.

The highly territorial males often sit on high perches, singing and displaying their epaulets. Their "conk-la-ree" is heard frequently. They are known for "dive bombing" crows, hawks and even humans to defend their territory. They primarily eat insects such as beetles, dragonflies and moths during the breeding season and seeds and

grains during fall and winter.

They nest in loosely associated colonies in shrubs or cattails and are found across most of Northern America. They are polygamous and a single male may mate with up to 15 different females in his territory. Red winged blackbirds can form huge roosts during the winter of up to a million birds.

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up some picture at the library for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a

nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least three years."

In Brimfield, he said, "Lately we have been seeing a Cooper's several times in the yard and a broad-winged hawk was seen on Feb. 22. The broad-winged hawk sat in a tree in front of the house for over an hour. Last year a pair of broad-wings had a nest on the next door neighbor's property. They could see the nest from their deck, but I was never able to see the nest walking around near where they described its location."

Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20 and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often see vultures soaring over that



Male red-winged blackbird

Red-tailed hawk

A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband shot. They watched it hungrily consume a "warm meal" in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

Bluebirds

An Oakham resident sees bluebirds on a daily basis. She enjoys watching them.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to warmer temperatures.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

TOWN Reminder

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The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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Important budget dates and meetings

SOUTH HADLEY – The Special Town Meeting passed an override, with 66% majority voting in favor of an \$11 million override. Now, the Selectboard and the School Committee are hosting and preparing for budget votes and hearings ahead of the final vote on the April 14 ballot.

Important dates to remember, and recordings to watch before the Annual Town Meeting:

- March 3 Selectboard - Budget Public Hearing
- March 11 School Committee - Budget Public Hearing
- March 17 Selectboard - Budget Vote
- March 25 School Committee - Budget Vote
- March 28 - Community Meeting
- April 14 - Annual Town Election
- May 13 - Annual Town Meeting

VOTE from page 1

“As a resident, I’ve lived in South Hadley for almost 18 years now, and my kids have gone through the school system and are now in high school,” Dixon said. “Over the last several months, I followed the work of the Budget Task Force a little. As it became clear that there were going to be massive cuts to town services and the schools, I jumped in and learned more.”

Dixon said he believes the community’s character and stability could be affected if those cuts are implemented.

“South Hadley is a great community. If these cuts are made, there are going to be severe impacts not only to our schools and services, but to property values,” he said.

The override vote comes as the town faces what officials describe as a structural budget deficit. Without additional revenue, the town faces significant cuts to the schools, public services, and programs.

Dixon said voters who remain undecided should focus on what would happen if the override fails.

Town officials have outlined potential changes, including closing the town hall and the senior center on Fridays, reducing Council on Aging staffing, and possibly losing state certification for the public library, which would end interlibrary loan access. Other proposals include closing spray parks and reducing Department of Public Works staffing.

Public safety could also be affected.

“Cutting two officer positions will result in slower emergency response times and the loss of school resource officers,” Dixon said. “South Hadley has 1.6 officers per 1,000 residents. The state average for towns our size is 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents. We are already below average, and now we lose two officers if there is no override.”

The school system would also face sweeping changes. Proposed reductions include eliminating sports, after-school activities, and

music programs at the middle and high school levels, ending Advanced Placement classes, and cutting between 15 and 17 student-facing positions.

“Impacts to students are going to be immense,” Dixon said. “Our students will lose out on building leadership skills that sports and extracurriculars offer. More importantly, they won’t get the education they need to be successful with such large class sizes that teachers are going to have to deal with.”

He added that some families may look elsewhere if programming disappears.

“Families that can send their kids to private school will do so, or go to charter schools,” Dixon said. “Our best teachers will become frustrated and go to other districts. New families will choose not to come here.”

Save South Hadley organizers say one challenge has been addressing misconceptions about the town’s fiscal situation.

“The biggest misconception I’ve heard about the crisis and need for an override is that it’s a South Hadley problem,” Dixon said. “It’s not.”

He noted that many municipalities across Massachusetts are facing similar pressures due to rising costs and limits on revenue growth.

“This isn’t just a local issue; communities across the Commonwealth are being pushed to a fiscal breaking point due to inflation-driven costs and binding constraints on raising revenue,” Dixon said. “When adjusted for inflation, Unrestricted General Government Aid (the state’s primary support for towns) has fallen 25% since 2002 and is expected to continue to decrease. We need our legislative representatives, including Sen. Jake Oliveira and Rep. Homar Gomez, to develop a comprehensive strategy with other legislators in western and central Massachusetts to change these structural problems and the funding formula that hurts communities like ours.”

While long-term reforms may come from state lawmakers, Dixon said the town

must act in the meantime.

“It’s not going to happen in six months, so we need the override,” he said.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, the organization has focused heavily on outreach.

Katie DeBeer, an organizer with Save South Hadley, said the group’s main goal is to help residents understand the options before them.

“We are focused on getting accurate, digestible information into the hands of residents,” DeBeer said. “There is so much information out there, it can be hard for the average resident, who may not have been aware of the budget issues until recently, to understand how they will be affected.”

The group has organized canvassing efforts, phone banking, information tables, and community events.

“We have over 100 volunteers working to educate residents, so they understand why we support the override,” DeBeer said. “We find it’s easiest to connect with neighbors one-on-one.”

Looking ahead, co-chair Mark Gosselin said the consequences of inaction could stretch for years.

“What’s at stake if the override doesn’t pass is the basic stability of South Hadley’s schools and core municipal services,” Gosselin said.

He pointed to projections showing the structural deficit growing in future years if the current trajectory continues.

“What’s at stake is whether South Hadley moves into a period of sustained decline—larger class sizes, fewer programs, reduced public safety and public works capacity—or whether the town stabilizes its finances long enough to implement the revenue and efficiency strategies recommended by the Budget Task Force. The override doesn’t solve every challenge,” Gosselin said, “but without it the cuts outlined in the town’s own presentation become the new normal.”

Residents wanting to volunteer or for more information can visit the group’s website www.savesouthhadley.org.

Town of Granby 2026 annual town election nominations

GRANBY – Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk no later than March 26. Candidates must collect signatures of 40 or more registered voters and return the nomination papers to the Town Clerk’s office by Monday, March 20, 2026.

- Office Vacancies for Town Election, May 18, 2026
- Select Board, one seat for 3 years
- Board of Assessors, one seat for 3 years
- Board of Health, one seat for 3 years
- Planning Board, one seat for 5 years

- School Committee, two years for 3 years
- School Committee unexpired term, one seat for 1 year
- Commissioner of Burial Grounds, one seat for 3 years
- Library Trustees, three seats for 3 years
- Library Trustees unexpired term, one seat for 1 year
- Calendar of Dates for the Annual Town Meeting and Election.
- Thursday, March 26, last day to obtain nomination papers.
- Monday, March 30, last day to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars for certification.
- Friday, March 27 is the

last day to file with the Town Administrator for a Private Article for the May 11 Annual Town Meeting. For a private warrant article to appear on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, a petitioner must acquire 10 signatures of registered voters in town.

- Monday, April 13, last day of Registrars file town nomination papers with the Town Clerk.
- Wednesday, April 15, last day to withdraw nomination papers.
- Monday, May 11, Annual Town Meeting.
- Monday, May 18, Annual Town Election.

SHPD officers read to students

SOUTH HADLEY – This week, Chief Gundersen, SRO Faginski, and SRO Helems joined students and staff to celebrate Read Across America. A huge thank you to the incredible team at Skala

school for welcoming them into your classrooms and giving them the chance to share some of our favorite books with the kids. The joy of reading is a powerful gift one that grows every time we

share it. Watching students light up during a story reminds us why these moments matter. Here’s to building a community of readers, one page at a time.



Submitted photo

Student Resource Officer Helems reading to the kids.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

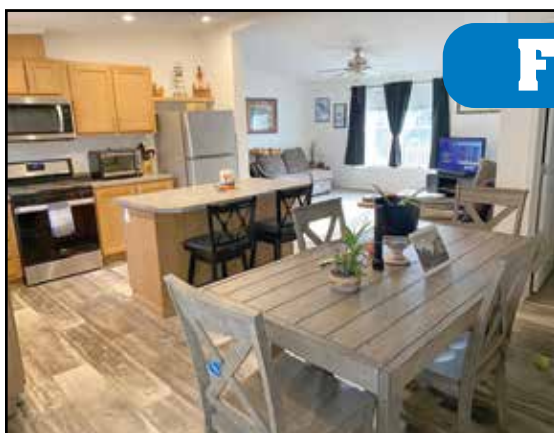
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trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Carl G. Johanson Scholarship Fund

Eligible applicants must be a resident of South Hadley, a graduate, or soon to be graduate, from South Hadley High School and enrolled or accepted in a college Engineering Program. This Scholarship Award is limited to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Applications for the Scholarship Fund may be obtained at the High School or the South Hadley Electric Light Department. Completed applications must be returned **no later than Friday, April 10, 2026** to the South Hadley Electric Light Department, Attn: Johanson Scholarship, 85 Main Street, South Hadley, MA. Successful applicants will be notified.



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Any 16" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$15.50

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#10 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 20 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda
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Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the 2026 Holyoke Grand Colleen and her court.

COLLEEN from page 1

ident Jim Wildman, who offered a bit of insight into the behind-the-scenes process of the event and revealed that every year, the parade president of the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke selects a city to host the Colleen Gathering in early March.

"Normally, we try to set this up throughout the regionals every year and have it be different," Wildman said. "And it's always a great day. It brings all the Colleens and all the committees together, and it gets them all in one place, and lets them just have a day of fun and relaxation, before the next two weeks, which get really busy and hectic leading up to the parade weekend. I'm also looking forward to enjoying the Parade, and just getting ready for the lead up to things, it's great to see the weather getting better, and can't wait for the parade weekend."

Assemble the Colleens

Every Colleen and their courts introduced themselves to the attendees, and first to kick off was the Holyoke contingent, which was led by the 2026 Grand Colleen Jadyne Lois Christie, who touched upon the importance of the gathering, while celebrating her Irish heritage, and previewed what she was looking forward to on Parade day.

Holyoke

"I felt today's event went so well, and bringing all the communities together, and getting to dance, and hang out with everyone was just incredible to be a part of and watch," Christie said. "As Grand Colleen, it's such an incredible honor getting to represent my Irish ancestors, and to ensure their history is always remembered, is just a special moment to reflect on."

She also brought focus to the inclusion of the new Sensory Street addition to the parade.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing how the Sensory Street designated area is in action, because it's such a great concept, which will invite so many new faces and families who haven't had the opportunity to come to the parade due to other intellectual disabilities, and it's just great to see a sense of inclusivity on the biggest stage possible, which brings the community together, regardless of ability," Christie said.

Rounding out her court were Paige Brady Leahy, Bridie Bowler, Anna Mary Evans and Olivia Rose Royland.

Agawam

Next up was Agawam, who was led by 2026 Colleen Ava Levesque, and her court Zoie Leopardi, Samantha Machos, Hannah Newsome, Summer Smith and Made-

lynne "Maddie" Szemela.

Levesque shared this was a moment she had waited all her life for.

"To, actually, be the Colleen is insane; it's been extremely competitive, all the girls are talented, and it's such an honor to represent my Irish heritage. And this event has been a great way to network, and everything has been amazing, and I can't wait till Parade Day," Levesque said.

Chicopee

Following afterwards was Chicopee, who was introduced by 2026 Colleen Charlotte Rae Fields and her court: Mila Dillard, Gracelyn Jarry and Shannon Caloon. Fields said that her highlight of the gathering was getting to know all of the other Colleens and she's excited for Parade Day, discussing what it means to be an ambassador for the Chicopee community.

"Everyone is really nice and sweet, and it's great to see everyone share the same morals that we do," Fields said. "I can't wait to see everyone in the crowd, and to take in the moment with my court, in front of everyone, is going to be really exciting. Also, being an ambassador means a lot to me, and I'm really excited to hopefully help bring this community together and just better Chicopee as a whole."

West Springfield

Representing West Springfield were 2026 Colleen Siobhan Erris Ginty and court: Grace Kennedy Atwater, Saoirse Bacon, Ava Dominguez, Kenzie Candon, and Kellen Ross, who were also in attendance and partook in the festivities.

Westfield

In attendance for Westfield was 2026 Colleen Reese O'Connell, who led her court into the spotlight as Giara Curran, Maggie Leen, Savannah Mazeika and Angelica Madison Racette followed behind.

Springfield

Finally, the last ensemble was Springfield, represented by 2026 Colleen Anna O'Toole, who is from Wilbraham, and a Minnechaug Regional High School senior, and her court Anna Flanagan, Siobhan MacDonnell, Emma Westbrook, and Sophia Dow.

O'Toole expressed what this honor truly means to her and revealed a deeper meaning.

"I'm very excited to be this year's Springfield Colleen, and it honestly means more than just a title to me, because I get to represent my grandparents and their heritage, and I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for them," O'Toole said. "Also, I want to add that representing Springfield is so great because all of

the little kids get to look up to me, and say she's unafraid to represent her heritage, so why can't I do the same thing, and that means the world to me because I want to be a good role model, and ambassador for the community."

She also provided insight into what this title means to her hometown of Wilbraham.

"So, as you know, under the umbrella of Springfield Colleen and my court, we also get to represent the other contingences such as East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Wilbraham, and being

from Wilbraham, it's great because I get to be a liaison of my school, being Minnechaug, and to be able to represent my school pride and heritage within Springfield is pretty cool," O'Toole said.

Parade Day is almost here

Officially now only under two weeks away, and fast approaching is the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race, which kicks off on Saturday, March 21 and closing out the holiday weekend is the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22.

SURVEY from page 1

learn what is happening in town, with the official town website "a distant third," Wilson said. The committee agreed that reality undercuts the reliability of official information.

Committee members said written feedback from residents painted a consistent picture of frustration with the town's publication of official information.

Wilson summarized key pain points: "The town website is out of date, difficult to navigate, and unreliable. Meeting announcements, warrants, and agendas aren't posted early enough. Committees and boards do not reliably post minutes, so there's no visibility into what they're doing. The town has no official Facebook presence."

Member Lynne Mercier pushed to soften language that could sound like a criticism of individual volunteers, particularly on the issue of late or missing minutes.

"I might make 'minutes are not posted reliably' and make it passive, because I cannot post my own minutes," Mercier said, noting that some board members depend on town staff to put documents online.

The committee returned repeatedly to a metaphor Wilson has used throughout the survey process — shifting from a "pull" model of communication, where residents must seek out information, to a "push" model, where the town broadcasts it.

"Right now, we're operating on a pull approach. People have to come to the town to get information, and people expect a push approach, that that information comes to them," Mercier said, paraphrasing Wilson's framing as she suggested final wording for the report.

From those findings, members approved a set of recommendations to the Select Board, ranked in priority order.

"So, if they do only one thing coming out of the survey, I think it should be fixing that website," Wilson said. "Nothing else — that seems to be the most urgent thing."

The second priority is ensuring meeting minutes are consistently posted.

"We have committees and boards doing work, and nobody knows what they're doing, because, as Lynn and I demonstrated, you can't find even the Select Board minutes on the website," Wilson said.

The committee also backed turning on — and troubleshooting — the town website's underused email subscription feature so residents can sign up for topic-based alerts about meetings, trash delays, and other time-sensitive changes.

Committee members noted that while the subscription controls exist, they appear to be non-functional.

"They already have it. It's already there," member Mike Labonte said. "But, as you said, you just answered it. You said you've signed up for a year, and you have received nothing."

Beyond email subscription, members finalized a recommendation to distribute a regular town newsletter by email and to post hard copies around town, including at the library and public safety buildings, to reach residents

who do not use social media or email.

"People want the town newsletter," Mercier said, arguing that even a small number of printed copies in public buildings would help those without internet access.

The committee also wants Granby to create an official town Facebook page, modeled on the existing Granby public safety accounts, to share time-sensitive official information such as parking bans, trash delays, and public health alerts.

Committee member Ginny Hajdamowicz cautioned the group about listing social media last, given the survey's finding that Facebook is the most common information source in town.

"My only issue with having that as the last one is that the way people receive their information, social media was number one," she said.

Labonte pressed for clarity on who would run the official page.

"What is our game plan once we set up an official Facebook page?" he asked. "I don't want to do it."

Committee members agreed the page should be administered by town staff — likely the town administrator or assistant town administrator — not by the volunteer committee.

In addition to policy recommendations, the group approved a revised charge for the Communications Committee that narrows and clarifies its responsibilities for the coming year. Wilson said the current charge is "broad and open-ended" and needs to be tied to specific tasks.

"For the upcoming year, we recommend revising our charge so our committee responsibilities are specifically focused on these goals," he said.

Those goals include auditing and recommending improvements to the town website, reviewing town communications and suggesting improvements, producing a regular town newsletter, preparing accessible explanatory materials ahead of town meetings, and drafting recommended communication guidelines, such as templates and posting cadences, for other boards and committees.

Mercier said having a standard minutes format available for new volunteers would help make town records more accessible.

Hajdamowicz, reflecting on the proposed guidelines, said she liked the structure of the new charge better than the broad language the committee began with.

The committee also spent time wordsmithing its annual report entry, which will appear in the town's annual report book. Members agreed to keep the focus on major findings, including residents' reliance on social media and desire for proactive communication, while avoiding leading with a raw dissatisfaction statistic that could sound combative.

By the end of the meeting, members voted unanimously to approve the recommendations, the revised charge and the annual report text, and to have Wilson present the package to the Select Board, likely on March 16, using both a written memo and a set of slides.

Spring home

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Tigers take down Southwick in state quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—They might have lost five home games during the 2025-26 regular season, but the South Hadley Lady Tigers haven't lost a postseason game on Thomas B. Landers Court in the past six years.

The third-seeded Lady Tigers advanced into the Division 4 state semifinals game for the third consecutive year with a 54-34 victory over the sixth seeded Southwick Lady Rams in an Elite 8 home game played before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We're playing so much

faster than we were earlier in the year. We're moving the ball better, we're defending better, we're rebounding better, said South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. "We talked before the season, where we wanted to be, and we're right there knocking on the door."

The Lady Tigers (14-

10), who are members of the Valley League, began their journey in the state tournament with home blowout victories against 30th-seeded Mount Greylock (61-41) in the round of 32, and 14th-seeded West Bridgewater, 80-28, in the Sweet 16.

South Hadley, who also defeated Pittsfield, 58-57, in

the Western Mass. Class B finals, was scheduled to face second-seeded Millis in the semifinals at Worcester State University on Wednesday night.

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Taylor Bullough takes a free throw.



Kate Phillips fights to get a shot off.



Olivia Athas surveys the court looking for a path to the hoop.

Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race set to kick off big weekend



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall.

Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing du-

Please see **RACE**, page 8



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.

Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of their prep ca-

reer. "We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements

Please see **ALL-STAR**, page 8

T-Birds upset by Wild

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a weekend of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began

at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recovered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to finally crack into the scoresheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

The Thunderbirds had

thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gambrell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley with exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.

RACE from page 7

ties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race beginning at 1 p.m.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are

preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping matters has been the recent warmer weather that has

helped accelerate the melting a lot of the snow.

For participants in this year's race, Runner numbers and bib-tags can be picked up on Friday, Mar. 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. They can also be picked up on Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

There will be free shuttle service going from Holyoke Community College to the race area. The shuttle will drop runners off at the Mater Dolorosa School parking lot outside of the clothing drop. Race officials advise using a shuttle by 12 noon in order to make the start of the race.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The first wave of harriers starts the course on Maple St.



Female winner Angela Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.



Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.

More players wanted for P.V Baseball

SOUTH HADLEY — The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this

season. There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m.

The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for

\$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

ALL-STAR from page 7

of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the community to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the

next page. For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola,

and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, participants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise,

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

TIGERS from page 7

The semifinals game was a rematch of last year's state semifinal game, which the Lady Tigers squeaked out by the final score of 45-42. They then lost to Cathedral High School of Boston in the state championship game for the second consecutive year at UMass Lowell.

South Hadley doesn't have to worry about facing Cathedral for the third time in this year's Division 4 state finals because they're now competing in the Division 3 state tournament.

The Lady Tigers also dispatched the Lady Rams, 65-37, in the round of 32 a year ago.

This year's Elite 8 contest was a close affair for the first five minutes of the opening quarter.

With 3:50 remaining in the first quarter, junior Taylor Bullough (7 points) banged home a 3-pointer from the right side giving South Hadley a 9-8 advantage.

Then sophomore Oliv-

ia Athas (16 points) scored the next six points before a 3-pointer from junior Cara Dean (8 points) helped the Lady Tigers build a double digit (18-8) lead with 27 seconds left in the opening quarter.

"Olivia really came out wanting to win this game," Dean said. "She found her shot, but she also found other people's shots, so she really just helped the whole team, start to finish."

The first quarter ended with a 3-pointer from Southwick sophomore Madelyn Burkholder (8 points).

Southwick, who finished their season with a 17-6 overall record, put together a 7-0 run, which closed the gap to 23-19 late in the first half.

South Hadley junior Kate Phillips (16 points) made four consecutive foul shots and a put-hoop pushing the lead back to double digits once again.

Holding a 29-21 halftime lead, the Lady Tigers out-



Cara Dean fakes, then attempts a three-pointer.

scored the Lady Rams, 9-4, during the third quarter.

Back-to-back lay-ups by Bullough and Dean gave the home team a 38-25 lead entering the final quarter.

Sophomore Simone Quinn made two jumpers during the first two minutes of the fourth quarter, which were her only points of the ballgame.

The Lady Tigers then built



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Grace Sherman sends a pass into the paint.

a 54-29 lead with the help of an 11-0 run.

"We're in a two-game season right now," Dubuc said. "So hopefully we get to play two more games."

Rounding out the box score for the Lady Rams in their Elite 8 victory was sophomore Grace Sherman (3 points).

CHAMBER from page 1

members every month. This is how the Chamber fosters a way for each of its members to be supported and allows for the entire Chamber to get to know one another and network with each other.

“We are a community, and we are here for each other, and we wouldn’t be a community without one another,” said Chamber Vice President Jamie Firzibbon. “The Chamber allows us to really impact the community with members of the community.”

The night also features a raffle with business cards and a 50/50 raffle, where half the money is given to the spotlighted nonprofit or small

business of the night.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a local nonprofit food pantry that services both South Hadley and Granby, was the focus of the evening, with local business owners from the Chamber could ask how they can support the Pantry and hear about their story.

“I love the connections and the support,” said Pantry Manager and Volunteer Coordinator Julie Gentile. “Through the generosity of our community, when things like inflation and shortages hit, through the community we are in, we can still provide. When people did lose their benefits, they had a place to go. There’s always



Julie and Mary Lou receiving a generous donation from Karl Mak, a new Chamber member, in February.

panic out there, but our doors are always open, and we always have food.”

“The community really cares about people, and they want to make sure that they have food,” said Mary Lou Guarnera.

The Food Pantry also works with the Granby United Church of Christ Congregational with Food Mobiles every two weeks. The church hosts this Mobile, and through hosting and delivering to 20 families, the Mobiles help assist 40 families.

Food insecurity is not just an issue to be addressed around the holidays, and needs to be addressed at all

times. The pantry works hard to help the communities of South Hadley and Granby know and understand they don’t need to feel shame about seeking help, and that it is given, no questions asked.

“We try really hard to address the stigma, and we try to reach out to everybody, through the library, the police, and the fire departments. We deliver, and we don’t want anyone to feel like they can’t come to us,” said Gentile. “We want everyone to feel safe and know they can access what we have without shame or guilt.

One of the ways the Chamber helps Neighbors



Receiving the check at the end of Celebrity Bartending for \$15,527.25.

Helping Neighbors is with the annual Celebrity Bartending event, where they were able to raise over \$15,000 for the pantry.

“The generosity of these communities is so heartwarming. They really do show how much they care about us, and that’s what we’re all about. It truly is our pantry’s name in action. Neighbors helping neighbors,” said Guarnera.

“We are thankful for everything that the Chamber has done, and it’s allowed us to feed hundreds of people every week. We can really stretch and make sure everyone who comes to us gets fed,” said Gentile.

The night was filled with smiles and a time to be thankful for the people in our community who help to make it a wonderful place to live.



Celebrating Julie Gentile and Mary Lou Guarnera at the Celebrity Bartending Event last fall.

ARTIST from page 1

“If you have a need to create, and you have some background in it, or a talent, that you should pursue it because its very satisfying. You never know what you can come up with, and creativity is very mysterious in this way,” said McKay.

The gallery of works includes abstract art, art of models, a self-portrait, and other paintings and collages available for purchase. There is a list of the names of the paintings in the community room, as well as her contact information for anyone interested in purchasing one of her pieces for their home.

“Part of it is that I wanted

to expose people to abstract art, and I hope that they enjoy the colors and shapes, but mostly to break ground and introduce people to this art because I don’t think many people understand it, and you don’t really see it much around,” said McKay. “I love the way I can play with [abstract art]. You can try a few things, decide on a few colors, and you can decide what you want it to be like and watch it change and grow. Mostly, a lot of the works are from off the top of my head. It’s an experiment, every time you start a collage or painting, and it’s exciting and very fulfilling.”



A collage piece called “Circle and Triangle.”



“Rocky Shores,” painted in acrylic.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
“Swirl” (above), done in collage, pastels, and ink, and “Orange Flowers” (below) done in acrylic and collage.

State Budget Hearings: A report from TA Lisa Wong

SOUTH HADLEY – The Joint Committee on Ways and Means will have hearings focused on municipal and school aid. The Mass Municipal Association argues that the Governor’s proposal does not keep up with rising costs in labor, health insurance, energy, infrastructure, and much more.

MMA will also advocate for a higher minimum aid figure to ensure that all school districts have the critical resources needed to maintain educational services; prioritize full funding for Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursements; advocate for addressing the financial strain that charter school payments

impose on public school districts; and advocate for fully funding school transportation accounts.

Following the Joint Ways and Means Committee hearings, the House is expected to debate its own budget bill in April, with the Senate deliberating its bill in May. The Legislature will work to get

a final budget bill to the governor by the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. State aid not keeping up with inflation is one of the main drivers of the South Hadley budget deficit.

For more information on the Mass Municipal Association, visit their website at www.mma.org.

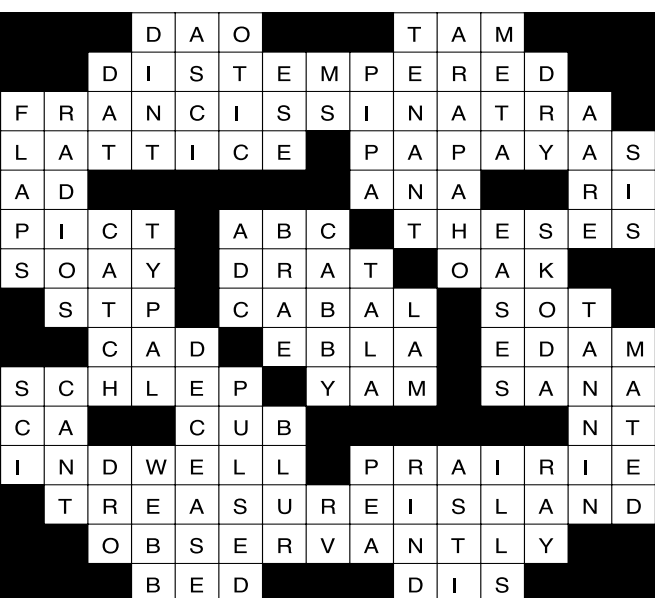
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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sean P. Hannon and Kathryn A. Hannon to Florence Bank, said mortgage being dated July 25, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14603, Page 313, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 9, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 2 Linda Street, South Hadley, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land and buildings thereon located in South Hadley, Hampshire County, Massachusetts being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

The land in South Hadley, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE:
Known and numbered as Lot #38 on a Subdivision Plan of Lynch Brick Co., Inc. dated September, 1950, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 36, Pages 54 and 55, said Lot being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Bounded
NORTHERLY by A Street as shown on said Plan eighty-five (85) feet;

EASTERLY by B Street as shown on said Plan, one hundred twenty-two and Fifty-four one-hundredths (122.54) feet;

SOUTHERLY by Lot #37 as shown on said Plan, one hundred ten and eighty-two One-hundredths (110.82) feet; and

WESTERLY by land of one Dunn, ninety-nine and ninety-seven one-hundredths (99.97) feet.

Granting also the right, in common with other persons, to use the ways designated as A Street, B Street and the proposed extension of Summit A venue as shown on said Plan, when laid out and developed, for all purposes of travel and for the laying and maintenance of water and sewer pipes and other utilities, which ways shall be at all times kept open and free of obstructions for the use and benefit of others.

Being the same premises conveyed to Laura E. Brogle by deed of Charles Remillard and Claire Remillard which deed is dated June 5, 2002 recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6669, Page 85.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors herein by Deed dated June 29, 2006 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8773, Page 274.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$10,000.00 with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur

within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

FLORENCE BANK
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By
Francis R. Mirkin,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 781-0560
03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0003EA
Estate of:
Wilfred E. Brunelle
Also Known As:
Wilfred Brunelle
Date of Death: 09/27/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joseph W. Brunelle of Boston, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Joseph W. Brunelle of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/13/2026

Legal Notice Board of Water Commissioners Fire District No.2 South Hadley, Massachusetts Request for proposals for Antenna Lease on the Skinner Lane Water Tank Advertisement for Requests for Proposals

Sealed proposals for a 25-year lease of antenna space on the Skinner Lane Tank Site on the corner of Skinner Lane and Chileab Road, located near the center of South Hadley, and is overlooking Amherst Road/Rte. 116 area.

Sealed proposals for the lease of cellular or other type antenna space with a starting minimum bid of \$2928.20 per month with 10% increases every 5 years for the duration of the lease will be received by the Board of Water Commissioners at their office at 20 Woodbridge Street South, Hadley MA, 01075, until **1:30 PM local time on Tuesday March 30, 2026** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at Fire District No.2 Fire Station. The bid envelope shall be addressed to the attention of Timothy Cauley, and clearly marked **"PROPOSAL FOR SKINNER LANE TANK ANTENNA LEASE"**.

Contract Documents may be examined and secured at the office of South Hadley Fire District No.2 Water Department, 20 Woodbridge Street South Hadley MA 01075, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM, Monday thru Friday, legal holidays excluded.

The successful proposals are subject to the applicable laws, rules and regulations governing such an installation as well as the Special Permit process with the Town of South Hadley Planning Board and their applicable fees in its entirety.

As applicable fees for this installation will be the responsibility of the successful proposal in its entirety.

No proposals may be withdrawn within thirty (30) days after the date of opening of proposals.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal, which in their opinion is in the public interest to do so.

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No.2
South Hadley, Massachusetts
03/13/2026

St. Patrick's lunch with South Hadley Methodist

SOUTH HADLEY – Reuben sandwiches are back at the South Hadley Methodist Church! The Grab and Go St. Patty's Day lunch will include a Reuben sandwich, potato salad, a choice of beverage, and St. Patrick's Day Oreos. The cost for the lunch is \$15, and pick-up is on March 20, from 5 to 5:30

p.m. Please make sure to call 413-532-0500 or email office@umcsouthhadley.org with your name, the number of meals you'd like to purchase and reserve, as well as your phone number to contact you. Enjoy your delicious sandwich while supporting a worthy cause!

Don't forget to check your smoke detector so you can stay safe

REGION – The smoke alarm in this photo was melted almost beyond recognition by a fire like the ones that claimed three Massachusetts residents' lives this week. Smoke alarms can be the difference between life and death -- but only if they're working properly. PLEASE take a few minutes and be sure you have working alarms on every level of your home and that you can hear them wherever you sleep. If you have older family, friends, or neighbors, check to see if they need a hand installing or maintaining their alarms. And if you need help with any of these actions, contact your local fire department for



Submitted photo

assistance. DFS distributes grants each year to support smoke alarm installation for older adults: <https://www.mass.gov/info-detail/smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms>.

C4R watershed council to hold gathering March 22

PALMER – We have all heard Carpe Diem-seize the day, well our local rivers need us to step up to care for them as we enjoy their beauty.

Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed, C4R, group as its members seek to continue their efforts to do that.

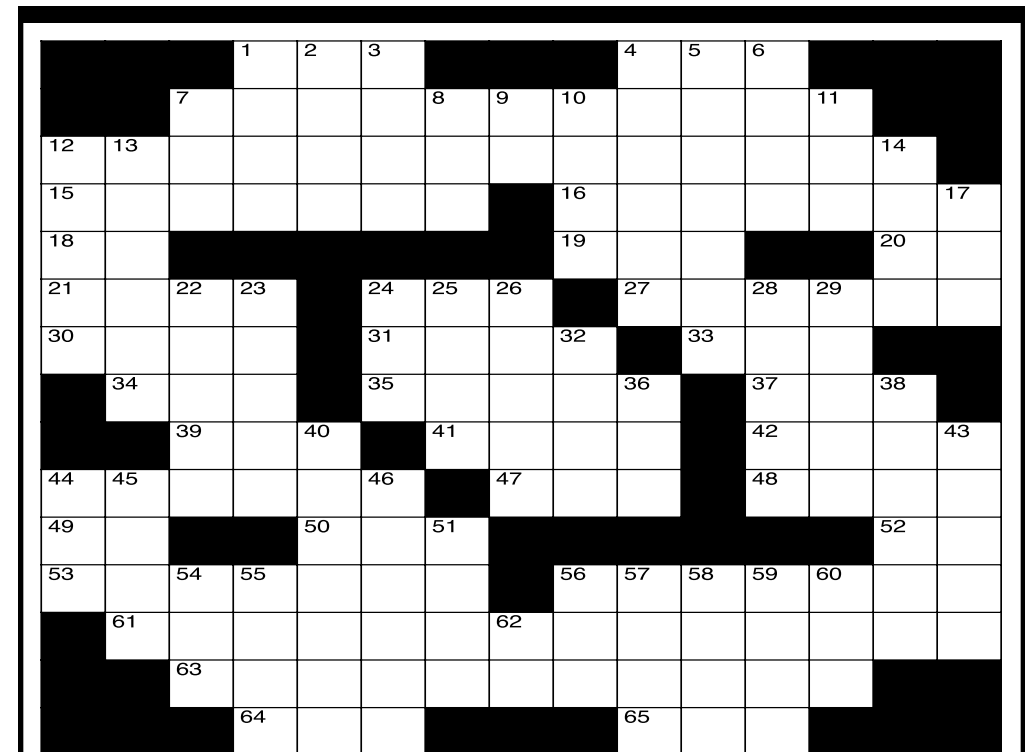
The first gathering in 2026 will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come hear what C4R has accomplished and how you can help to keep it going. They will review water



quality monitoring, paddling trails, clean ups, trail stewardship, leadership needs, and more.

For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Blockchain-based entity
 - 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 - 7. Painted with glue
 - 12. Legendary crooner
 - 15. Structure made with strips of wood
 - 16. Tropical fruits
 - 18. Commercial
 - 19. Comedienne
 - 20. The Ocean State
 - 21. Ancient Scot
 - 24. Basics
 - 27. Stated propositions
 - 30. Scottish island group
 - 31. Expression of annoyance
 - 33. Large tree
 - 34. Engine additive
 - 35. Conspiracy
 - 37. Drunkard
 - 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
 - 41. Ancient Syrian city
 - 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 - 44. Carry (slang)
 - 47. Sweet potato
 - 48. European river
 - 49. The Golden State
 - 50. Windy City ballplayer
 - 52. New Testament
 - 53. Possess spiritually
 - 56. A treeless grassy plain
 - 61. Popular historical novel
 - 63. In a law-abiding way
 - 64. A place to sleep
 - 65. Criticize
 - 4. Occupant
 - 5. Member of Great Plains people
 - 6. Social media firm
 - 7. Digital audiotape
 - 8. Midway between east and southeast
 - 9. Chronic, progressive disease
 - 10. Chinese lute
 - 11. Not wet
 - 12. Moves wings up and down
 - 13. Communication devices
 - 14. Swiss river
 - 17. Female sibling
 - 22. Receive
 - 23. Relating to a type
 - 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
 - 25. Steep bank
 - 26. Taxi driver
 - 28. Moves into without difficulty
 - 29. Bicycle manufacturer
 - 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
 - 36. Fugitives are on it
 - 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
 - 40. Die
 - 43. Matched
 - 44. Literary genre ___-fi
 - 45. Cannot
 - 46. Pounded
 - 51. British rock group
 - 54. Debt relief order
 - 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
 - 56. Green vegetable
 - 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
 - 58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 59. Ailments
 - 60. Famed singer Charles
 - 62. Camper
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Impression in a surface
 - 2. Computer language
 - 3. Relating to the ear

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

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SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives.

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer.

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a

potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular

activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!



July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
 July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
 July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
 July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! hcc.edu/bcs

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PATHFINDER TECH 2026 SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION OPENS 8AM APRIL 1ST



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM!

WEEK #1: July 6 - 10
 WEEK #2: July 13 - 17
 WEEK #3: July 20 - 24

Hands-on fun for students entering grades 4 to 8!

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WWW.PATHFINDERTECH.ORG/SUMMER-YOUTH-PROGRAM/



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 August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

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Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

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 53 Ware Road, Belchertown
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 Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

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WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26	Speech & Debate	Taylor Swift Camp		STEM Challenges!
WEEK 3: JULY 6-10	Broadway at Bement	Soccer Club		Mission Monadnock
WEEK 4: JULY 13-17	Magic Behind the Music	D&D Camp		History Hunters
WEEK 5: JULY 20-24	Graphic Novel Camp	Counselor in Training		Flag Football & More
WEEK 6: JULY 27-31	Little Explorers Camp	Soccer Camp		PE Games & Sports
WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7	Movie Magic Camp	Spanish Explorers		

The Bement School
 14 Old Man Street
 Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link
bement.org/summer