

# TOWN Reminder

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## Tigers top D4 trophy



### SHHS wins state girls basketball championship

By Tim Peterson  
 Sports Correspondent

LOWELL – As the buzzer sounded ending the Division 4 state championship game, South Hadley junior Cara Dean launched the basketball into the air in celebration.

Dean and her teammates had lost in the state finals to Cathedral High School of Boston at the Tsongas Center located on the UMass Lowell campus during the past two seasons. The Lady Tigers took home the championship trophy for the first time following a 49-38 victory over top-seeded Frontier Regional, last Saturday afternoon.

“I don’t even think words can explain how I’m feeling right now,” said Dean, who led her team with 12 points. “It’s the best feeling in the world.”

The Lady Tigers (16-10), who entered the 2026 Division 4 state tournament as the three seed, had a 4-10 record following a 50-34 home loss to Valley League rival Minnechaug Regional on January 31. They then reeled off twelve victories in a row.

“Our regular season schedule was probably one of the toughest in the state in our division,” said South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. “Three other teams from the Valley League-- Minnechaug, Springfield Central, and Pittsfield-- also played in the Final Four. We only won one league game, but we stayed together

The Division 4 State Champion South Hadley Tigers girls basketball team.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Please see **TIGERS**, page 9

## Book sale continues to help fund library activities

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
 gscibelli@turley.com

GRANBY – Going on now through the end of the month, Granby Free Public Library is holding one of its two big book sales. The sales, which are put on by the Friends of the Granby Free Public Library, use the funds to help pay for the many programs held at the library.

Caroline Barba, who is in charge of membership for the Friends group, was running the sale last Saturday and said after about three weeks of sales, the book sale had raised approximately \$3,000.

“We have been doing really well,” Barba said. “We have been making a lot of sales and moving books and other items, which helps us do many things here.”

There are multiple benefits to the book sale for the library. In addition to the funds raised, some of the items being sold at the book fair are books being cycled out by the library. By doing so, it allows the library to bring in new books. Other items include comics, CD’s and DVD’s that were for sale. While the library provides some of the items for sale, the Friends do a collection of items in the month leading up to the sale and



Melody Santos, 12, looks through the CD’s and books available for sale at Granby Free Public Library.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

use the donations to help with the fundraising.

Barba said the other great part of the sale is that it brings more foot traffic to the library, some people who do not normally come out on a regular basis.

“We also get a lot of people who homeschool their kids that come and get materials they need for education,” she said. “We also tend to draw people from

surrounding communities who are looking to purchase books.”

Barba said the sale will conclude at the end of the month and some items will be discounted as the library seeks to liquidate as much as possible before the sale concludes and remaining materials are given to a vendor who recycles the unsold items in

Please see **BOOKS**, page 5

## Recreation Department prepares for busy spring season

By Tina Lesniak  
 Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - As warmer weather approaches, residents of South Hadley can look forward to a full lineup of spring programs and events from the town’s Recreation Department—offering something for all ages and interests.

According to Human Services Director Andy Rogers, spring marks the department’s most active time of year. “The spring is our busiest season with our youth baseball, boys and



Submitted photo

Please see **RECREATION**, page 5

The South Hadley Parks and Recreation Department is looking forward to an active spring season.

## School Committee proposes \$27.5 million budget

By Melina Bourdeau  
 Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – School officials outlined a \$27.5 million fiscal 2027 budget, stark override choices and potential cuts to sports, electives and staff during the budget presentation and public hearing last week.

The School Committee meeting centered on a proposed \$27.5 million spending plan and three paths: an override budget funded by a \$9 million or \$11 million tax override, and a deficit budget if the override fails. The

discussion highlighted rising special education and health insurance costs, long-term structural gaps in state aid and the possibility of eliminating high school sports and other programs.

Superintendent Jennifer Voyik framed the proposed budget at \$27.5 million, an increase of about \$1.73 million or 6.71% over the current year.

Voyik said state education aid has lagged far behind what districts need to maintain services.

“When we’re saying 4% to 6% is what a district needs

to sustain services, state aid coming in has been much lower than that over the last 10 years, except for two stand out years.”

She noted South Hadley remains a minimum amount of Chapter 70 aid, receiving \$75 per pupil, for an FY27 state funding increase of \$131,325. Over 10 years, the town appropriation for schools has increased an average of 2.46%, she said, below the 4% to 6% she described as necessary for level services.

Please see **BUDGET**, page 2

# Women needed for state commission

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is currently seeking candidates for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women, one of 11 Regional Commissions across the Commonwealth that strives to represent women and girls in the areas of equality and opportunity.

The mission of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women (HCCSW) is to provide a permanent, influential voice for women and girls across the county that facilitates and fosters community and inclusiveness. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights,

and the full enjoyment of life for all women and girls throughout their lives.

HCCSW represents all cities and towns in Hampden County which include Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Tolland, Wales, West Springfield, Westfield, and Wilbraham.

To apply for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and to submit a resume, please visit: <https://masscsww.org/about/regional-commissions/hampden-county/>

# Vietnam Veterans Ceremony to be held at Library

SOUTH HADLEY - Please join the South Hadley American Legion Post 260, South Hadley Sons of the American Legion, Yankee Division Veterans Association - YDVA Holyoke & South Hadley VFW Post 3104 on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, as we honor the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans. We pay special tribute to the service members of South Hadley, Holyoke, and Granby who made the supreme sacrifice defending our Nation's freedom. This ceremony honors ALL who served anywhere in the world between 1955 - 1975. Thank you for your service and WELCOME HOME!

Please join us for light refreshments followed by Veteran speakers, communi-

ty leaders, and special recognition to the honored guests, OUR VIETNAM VETERANS. We will conduct a wreath-laying ceremony and the sounding of Taps for those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Vietnam War. A special tribute will also be paid to our Gold Star Families.

A special flag presentation will be made to the Gold Star Family of U.S. Army Corporal Vincent Owen McCann Jr., of Holyoke who made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam on December 26, 1969.

This event is family friendly and appropriate for people of all ages. We hope to see you for this moving tribute to our hometown heroes who answered the Nation's call and served with great honor during trying time for our Nation.

# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:elections@southhadleyma.gov) [www.southhadley.org/elections](http://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

minestrone 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.

## BUDGET from page 1

Major cost drivers include special education placements and services, a 16% increase in town health insurance rates, utilities, transportation contracts and moving positions off one-time grants such as American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"Special education continues to be a big budget driver for all districts across the state, but also including here in South Hadley," Voyik said, citing "additional out of district placements," added in-district positions tied to IEPs and preschool growth, and rising contracted service costs.

Out-of-district special education placements alone are projected to increase by about \$450,000, with uncertainty in state circuit breaker reimbursements adding risk, she said.

Voyik detailed several positions she considers non-negotiable needs for FY27, regardless of which budget path is chosen. These include:

- Expanding a high school multilingual learner teacher from 0.6 to one full time employee

- Restoring one full-time custodial coverage split between the high school and middle school

- Two one-to-one nurses required by IEPs

- Additional educational therapy assistants and a preschool special education teacher to handle rising early-childhood needs

She also outlined positions scheduled to move from federal and one-time grants to the local budget, totaling about \$385,000, including the district's mental health coordinator, a float nurse, two middle school teaching positions and additional educational team leader time.

A central question, Voyik said, is the difference between a \$9 million and an \$11 million override for the town.

Under town projections she cited:

- A \$9 million override would likely yield only about 3% annual increases from FY28 to FY31, barely covering contractual step and COLA increases, which she estimated at about \$677,000 in FY28.

- An \$11 million override is projected to allow 4% annual increases in those years, closer to the 4 to 6% she argues is needed to maintain level services and "potentially look at some strategic positions to help bring in some revenue."

Without any override, the "deficit budget" would grow the FY26 budget of \$25.7 million to \$26.2 million, a 2% increase, still below annual salary pressures alone.

Voyik presented a list of position eliminations under the deficit budget if the override fails. Those would include the elimination of:

- The assistant superintendent
- The Assistant Director of Student Services
- The athletic director
- An assistant principal
- A mental health coordinator

- A high school math teacher

- A high school English teacher

- A high school history teacher

- A high school science teacher

- A high school and middle school music teacher,

- Four administrative assistants

The elimination of these positions would cause the subsequent end of the high school sports program and extracurriculars at all schools, the loss of electives, music programs in the middle and high school and the elimination of AP and honors courses.

Voyik stressed that some Advanced Placement sections with high enrollment might still run, but smaller AP classes would likely be cut.

"If you had an AP class that had seven or eight students or 10 students, we probably wouldn't run that class, because we would have to maximize our classes... to the most students we could have in each class," Voyik said.

Committee members pressed Voyik on the impact of the deficit budget on class sizes, especially at the high school.

Asked whether high school classes would grow, member Tracie Kennedy said she did not "personally want to see 28 kids in a class," warning that the district is already hearing that similar sizes "are not working" at the middle school.

Voyik confirmed that, under the deficit plan, high school classes could reach about 28 students, while state guidance favors smaller high school class sizes.

Several members and residents questioned how to balance legally mandated special education costs with the needs of general education students, especially those relying on AP, honors, sports and clubs.

Committee Chair Eric Friesner reminded residents that the School Committee has already voted to support placing an \$11 million override on the April ballot.

Friesner said the committee will consider all public input and vote on a final FY27 budget recommendation to Town Meeting at its March 25 meeting.

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**Wednesday Night 6:30pm**  
**Bar Bingo**

**Friday Night starts at 7:30 pm**  
**Trivia Night \$5 per person**  
**7 Days A Week**  
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### Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt set for Apr. 4

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is egg-static to bring back our Sensory-Friendly Egg Hunt for a third year! Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this festive egg hunt focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. This year's egg hunt will take place indoors throughout the halls of Wistariahurst. Weather permitting, outdoor games and activities will add some egg-stra fun to the event. Each child can gather eggs and exchange them for prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Hop to it and register for one of the available time slots. Registration is available for free on Wistariahurst's

Eventbrite page. When interviewed at last year's egg hunt, Museum Director Megan Seiler noted "The city of Holyoke does an amazing job putting on a big egg hunt downtown, but not every kid thrives in that environment... So we wanted to be able to offer a more quiet, more calm space for kids who might have sensory sensitivities." Wistariahurst is egg-cited to bring this event back for after families in Holyoke and beyond enjoyed this event the past two years. Families can sign up for timed entry to ensure smooth check-in between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 4. Families are welcome to enjoy the egg hunt any time

during their timeslots, and each time slot will be limited to 10 families. If you are late for your time slot, don't worry. We still encourage all registrants to attend even if they are running late. Families are also welcome to explore the gardens and enjoy outdoor games, weather permitting, during the event. Outside of this event, we have open hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and our gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. We also host Sensory Friendly Sunday Funday events monthly. Hop to it and get your tickets for this year's Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt.

### Community Meeting on the FY27 Town & School Budget

SOUTH HADLEY – Join Town Administrator Lisa Wong and School Superintendent Jenn Voyik for an information session on Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m. about the municipal budget and service impacts to the schools at the South Hadley Senior Center and on Zoom. The public is encouraged to attend!

### Marshal Mania lights up the city

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Mar. 8, Marshal Mania took over the Log Cabin as Unforgettable Fire performed, with food, fun, raffles and more to help get the party going for Irish season. The big events are set for this weekend with the road race on Saturday and parade on Sunday.



Submitted photos

Unforgettable Fire performs.

### Mt. Holyoke presents final film series event

SOUTH HADLEY – The Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theater ends the 2025-26 season with "POTUS, or Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive" written by Selena Fillinger and directed by Natalie Werthamer '26. When the President manages to blow up a PR disaster into a full-blown global crisis, seven brilliant, beleaguered women working in the White House must scramble to keep the free world from

unraveling. From the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary to the First Lady, a journalist and a mistress, these women all risk life, liberty, and sanity to clean up the chaos caused by the man they serve. This riotous farce is a bawdy, irreverent ride through power, politics, and the often-invisible labor of women in high stakes roles. With sharp wit, outrages, and a cast of characters who are equal parts heroic and exhausting, it's a hilarious yet pointed look at what happens

when nobody sane is allowed to yield. This production is directed by Natalie Werthamer '26. Set Design by Amy Sue Hazel, Costume Design by Jensen Glick, Lighting and Sound Design by Sam Skyner. Performance Dates and Times: Thursday, Apr. 16, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Apr. 17, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 18, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Apr. 19, 2:30 p.m.



The Grand Colleen and Court had their dancing shoes on.

### Women's Club to host Fashion Show

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Women's Club is sponsoring a FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON on Thursday, April 23, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. Clothing from CHICO'S in the Longmeadow Shops will be featured. The catered luncheon choices are Salmon

with dill sauce or Chicken Francaise. There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift certificates. Join us at 11:30 a.m. for a social time with hors d'oeuvres, followed by lunch at noon. The donation is \$42 and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarships and charitable donations to needy or-

ganizations in the area. For reservations, please make checks payable to Wilbraham Women's Club and mail them to Sue Agnew, 7 Aspen Dr., Wilbraham, 01095. For questions, call Sue at 596-9480. Be sure to include the meal choice in the memo of the check. Also, include whom you wish to sit with.

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

#### When will I get full credit for delaying my SS retirement?

##### Dear Rusty:

The time is nearing that I want to move from my current Social Security survivor benefit to my own SS retirement benefit at 70 years of age.

I have been looking more deeply into the application of Delayed Retirement Credits and I have read that DRCs accumulated in the year that I turn 70, September 2026, will not be effective when I actually turn 70. Rather, those DRCs won't be paid until the following year. Can you verify that this is correct? I presume that if the DRC's are not applied at age 70, that they will be applied sometime after the first of the year and any increase will be paid retroactively.

##### Signed: Retiring Soon

##### Dear Retiring Soon:

The Delayed Retirement Credits you speak of have accumulated at the rate of 8% per year (.667% per month) since you reached your SS Full Retirement Age, which means that at age 70 your monthly SS benefit will be about 129% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA of 66 years plus 4 months.

However, your understanding of how DRCs will work for you at age 70 is not correct. If you claim for your Social Security retirement benefits to begin in September 2026 (the month you turn 70) you will receive all DRCs, you have accumulated up to that point in time. In other words, you will get your full age 70 benefit amount immediately, including all DRCs earned until then, effectively with your first SS retirement payment, which you will get in October 2026. What you have likely read about is that

DRCs work a bit differently for those who claim SS after their full retirement age, but before their 70th birthday month.

For those who claim mid-year but before age 70, only DRCs earned through the end of the preceding year are initially applied and DRCs earned during the current year are not paid until the following January. This results in a loss of some SS benefit between the time benefits start and the following January, because only the amount earned as of the end of the previous year are first paid, and the full number of DRCs earned during the current year are applied in January.

But, as is the case for you, when benefits are claimed to start in the month you reach 70 years of age, all DRCs earned up to the month of your 70th birthday are immediately applied. Congratulations on selecting a strategy which will maximize your monthly Social Security benefit.

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

## On the look out for a nice lawn

I'll be the first to admit that I don't have an especially nice lawn. Looking out the window further proves it.

It is early in the year and all, so the shades of brown I see are pretty common, but there are some lawns that are greening up nicely while mine is definitely not.

My mind always goes to thoughts of green as we approach St. Patrick's Day. I wonder if that's why my Irish dad enjoyed caring for his lawn so much?

One of his spring rituals was to rake it. I remember him out there working his way across the yard a little at a time, making pile after pile of dead grass, leaves and small sticks.

This was the just the first job in a season's worth of work aimed at growing good turf. Chances are that once the ground dries a bit you'll be out there too, clearing the lawn of winter debris and enjoying some long awaited sun on your back.

Find out what else you can do (and I should too) to achieve an attractive greenscape with a minimal commitment.

Don't mow so low, or as often. Mowing at a height of about three inches will encourage a healthy lawn. Why? Taller grass shades out developing weed seedlings.

It also makes large, established weeds more susceptible to mower damage (the more surface area of the weed that is removed, the more weakened it becomes.)

High mowing also fosters deep root growth. Deep roots sustain the lawn during peri-

ods of drought.

Keep mower blades sharpened for the cleanest possible cut.

Water efficiently and effectively. If you set up sprinklers each season to water the lawn for you, take some time early in the

turf once told me that if I were to apply one thing to my lawn each season it should be lime. Grass can't grow well, or fight off diseases or bugs for that matter, if it isn't getting the nutrients it needs.

Many nutrients are bound up until the pH is corrected. Get a soil test and specify on the order form that you wish to grow grass, as results for flower or veggie gardening may differ.

Based on the results of your test, recommendations will be made as to the type of lime to use and at what application rate. For more information contact the UMass Extension or [www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest). Here are some interesting grass facts: Did you know that according to a poll (sponsored by Briggs and Stratton) 64% of homeowners wish they had a better lawn? Or that 63 million households own at least one lawn mower?

The Professional Lawn Care Association estimates that a well-maintained lawn can increase the value of a home by up to 20%.

This was probably of little concern to Presidents Washington and Jefferson...they were the first to have lawns as we know them today but they were maintained by sheep!

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

Grass is also less prone to fungal diseases because it has a chance to dry before nightfall.

Know your soil. A friend of mine who knew a lot about



by Roberta McQuaid



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Vote no on override, SHELD building

A view that rejects popular opinion is required here to support sound fiscal responsibility. While the need to alleviate Town budget deficits and building a new home for SHELD are recognized, the timing of such requests is highly questionable. Further, no one is challenging the importance of education and other worthwhile issues. However, virtually all financial matters in Town (and nationwide too) are in flux at the moment, it's like chasing a moving target that cannot be resolved easily.

What is the wisdom in tethering the residents of South Hadley to a large budget override of \$9 to 11 million and a \$37 million building - both of which would be accompanied by diverse increased charges that many residents cannot afford. No one in control of budget allocations seems to have a serious interest in: seeking reasonable Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) from wealthy tax-exempt property owners (e.g., Mount Holyoke College and others); or in pressing the State legislature for a

'formula' that would justly distribute funds westward of Worcester; etc.

With the request for local spending approval, the boards and some town meeting members have put themselves in the place of the whole body of Town residents - basically, putting themselves in the place of all those who reside here. Do those bodies statistically represent the whole of the South Hadley population? The US Census says we have 18,500 residents - some 25% are 60 years and older, and many of our seniors are less affluent than those in the aforementioned bodies.

Perhaps some of us feel for the senior portion of Town with a degree of understanding and compassion that has not yet found its way into the boards' and town meeting members' capability of understanding. Consider the current rising costs in: property taxes, food, healthcare, fuel, facility upkeep, federal and state funding cuts, etc. And remembering that senior portion of Town - some of whom have lived here for

many years, raised children, even buried a spouse - that catastrophically have their very homes at risk. Indeed, we must also consider the staggering costs of the current illegal, immoral war in the Middle East at \$1 billion/day plus human deaths and inflation risks for our food and fuel budgets.

Does it not matter to the boards and town members that some South Hadley residents could lose their homes around which they have intertwined their lives? How might people losing their homes and moving away affect the tax base, the schools, and Town quality as a whole? Can they really justify such an insensitive attitude in this time of unpredictable fiscal precariousness for one-quarter of Town residents, if not for some other residents as well? With fiscal responsibility must come long-term fiscal discipline and accountability, not policies that placate the more affluent portion of Town while driving others away.

Dr. Stephen Frantz

### Library Trustee encourages yes vote on override

##### Dear Editor,

I'm writing as a trustee of the South Hadley Public Library to let everyone know that if our library is decertified, which is the danger if our proposed override doesn't pass on Apr. 14, we may lose a big chunk of state library funding and all our interlibrary-loan privileges. This would mean South Hadley Library cards won't work in other branches throughout Western Mass, as they do now, and South Hadley residents will no longer be able to borrow any materials from any branch outside the South Hadley Library, something library patrons did 23,000 times last year.

Over the past five years, our library received nearly a quarter million dollars in state grants; last year we got more than \$63,000 in grants for which we will no longer be eligible if we are decertified. This means that on top of the town giving us less money, we will lose tens of thousands of dollars in state funding.

The impact on the health of our library—and therefore our town—would be serious and long-lasting. Consider these comments from a previous Holyoke Public Library Director regarding their 1989 decertification: "It took more than five years to regain certification. That single budget cut put us about a decade behind other libraries in technology, automation, and services."

Of course, we can (and will) apply for a waiver, but there's no guarantee we'd get one. We would need to show that there is a plan in place to restore library funding within the next five years—which, again, we will not be able to do if our override doesn't pass.

Everything we value about the town is on the line. Please vote yes to pass the override—for our students, our seniors, our streets, and our wonderful library, visited nearly 143,000 times last year.

Janette Sweeney

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

## Turley Election Policy

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

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

## TOWN Reminder

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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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## 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 Friday, 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.

## Sign carriers needed for Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is calling on enthusiastic individuals, school groups, clubs, and community organizations to join the excitement of the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, Mar. 22, by serving as sign carriers. More than 100 volunteers are needed to help introduce each marching unit and proudly recognize the sponsors who make this beloved tradition possible.

Sign carriers lead the way for award winners, bands, floats, marching units, and divisions—bringing energy, visibility, and anticipation to the parade route. No experience is required; participants simply need to be 12 or older, upbeat, and ready to engage with the crowd.

As a thank-you for their time and spirit, each sign carrier will receive a 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade sweatshirt and a \$20 stipend upon completing the parade. It's a perfect opportunity for students, service groups, and community members to take part in a lively, meaningful local tradition while earning

a little extra money.

"Being a sign carrier is one of the most fun and accessible ways to be part of Parade Day," said Jim Wildman, 2026 Parade President. "These volunteers help set the tone for every unit that follows, and their enthusiasm truly fuels the crowd. We're thrilled to welcome new and returning participants who want to experience the parade from the inside out."

Past sign-carrying groups have included scouting troops, sports teams, Key Clubs, National Honor Society chapters, school clubs, small businesses, and faith-based organizations. Spots fill quickly, and early sign-ups are encouraged.

Those interested can learn more and register at [www.holyokestpatricksparade.com/sign-carriers](http://www.holyokestpatricksparade.com/sign-carriers) or email [holyokeparadesigncarriers@gmail.com](mailto:holyokeparadesigncarriers@gmail.com).

The 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade steps off on Sunday, March 22, 2026, following the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

## Belchertown ViewFinder 2026 Photography program underway

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown ViewFinder 2026 photography program is underway ([www.belchertown.org/ViewFinder](http://www.belchertown.org/ViewFinder))! The project includes a series of workshops for adults and children and will culminate in a contest of photographs taken in Belchertown celebrating the beauty and heritage of our town. The workshops and contest are free and open to anyone.

A series of three adult workshops in April will focus on Smartphone Photography, Photography for Beginners and Advanced Photography techniques. They will be led by three noted Belchertown photographers and will include field exercises to put into practice what was just covered in the classroom.

Two workshops for children will be held in May at the Swift River Elementary

School garden and will show the students how to gain an appreciation for nature, large and small, through the lens of a camera

The ViewFinder 2026 Photo Contest kicks off on March 21 and will run until May 30. While anyone can enter, the submitted photos must have been taken in Belchertown. A panel will review the submissions, and the winning photographs will be exhibited at the Clapp Memorial Library for the month of July.

The ViewFinder project, now in its third year, is a collaboration between the Clapp Memorial Library, the Quabbin Photo Group, the Friends of Lake Wallace and the Belchertown Creative Economy Initiative.

"We're really excited about this year," said Cyn-di Harbeson, Director of the Clapp Memorial Library. "The partnership with the Quabbin Photo Group adds a whole new dimension to the project, and we are delighted to have their expertise in helping deliver the educational component."

"Education is a big part of what the Quabbin Photo Group is all about," added QPG President Mark Lindhult. "It was part of the mission when Les Campbell founded the club in 1984, and it has only become stronger over the years."

More information on ViewFinder 2026 can be found at [www.belchertown.org/viewfinder](http://www.belchertown.org/viewfinder)

### BOOKS from page 1

some fashion.

The Friends group sponsors a lot of programs at the library, including many children's activities such as magicians and the Forest Park Zoo recently visiting. She said it also helps with

adult activities such as the knitting club that meets regularly. The Friends are also responsible for the funding the entire Summer Reading Program, which has events and challenges for children, teens, and adults.

The sale is ongoing Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Caroline Barba completes a transaction during the book sale last Saturday.**

## Providence Places holding next concert in series

HOLYOKE – If you missed our Spring 2026 concert series kickoff concert last month, you do not want to miss this one. Our second concert of the Spring series is on Sunday, Apr. 12 at 2 p.m. in our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at Providence Place. Providence Place is located at 5 Gamelin Street in Holyoke, right behind the Holyoke Mall. The April 12 concert will include a piano solo performance by Tamila Azadaliyeva featuring a program that brings together

works by Glinka-Balakirev, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, and Mompou, celebrating the universal language of emotion and storytelling. This event is free and open to the public with ample parking available, no RSVP is necessary. For more information on the concert or if you are interested in learning more about our retirement community, please contact Katelyn Bacon at 413-534-9700 or email [kbacon@providenceplace.org](mailto:kbacon@providenceplace.org).

### RECREATION from page 1

girls lacrosse, soccer and softball," Rogers said. These longstanding programs continue to draw strong participation from local families, giving young athletes opportunities to stay active and build skills.

Beyond youth sports, the department is also preparing for several community-centered events. Among the highlights are the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Parade, along with a major celebration planned for May. "We also have the grand opening event at Buttery Brook Park on May 16," Rogers said. The event at Buttery Brook Park will include a variety of activities, local organizations sharing information, food trucks, and a live performance by

Aquanett to close out the evening.

Outdoor enthusiasts will also find new opportunities to explore the area. The town's Bike-Walk Committee has organized guided treks, including excursions focused on vernal pools and bird watching. These events aim to connect residents with South Hadley's natural resources while promoting physical activity.

While many programs return each year, the recreation department also evaluates new ideas carefully. "When we get approached from someone looking to add a new program or event, we have to research what that involves, is there available space, the costs and if it will be popular," Rogers explained. Collaboration

with neighboring communities also plays a role, as staff regularly meet with other recreation departments to share ideas and discuss successful initiatives.

Rogers emphasized the broader impact of these programs on the community. "We think [they have] a huge role. We give people things to do with their families and friends, and things like our Summer Concerts on the Common are multigenerational," he said. From youth leagues to seasonal events, recreation offerings help foster connections across age groups.

Health and wellness are also central to the department's mission. "Our sports programs get kids out exercising in our parks. Our treks

get people into nature exploring our great resources we have in town," Rogers said. He added that amenities like pickleball courts and the disc golf course at Buttery Brook Park continue to grow in popularity, offering both physical and mental health benefits.

Ultimately, the department's goal is simple: to create enjoyable, meaningful experiences. "That they enjoy whatever it is they are attending!" Rogers said. "We try our best to offer high quality programs and we hope that people see that."

Whether residents are looking to compete, explore, or simply connect with neighbors, South Hadley's spring recreation lineup promises a season full of activity and community spirit.

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## Rams suffer loss in second round of state tournament

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—A total of 41 girls basketball teams qualified for the 2026 Division 5 state tournament.

One of those teams was the Granby Lady Rams, who advanced to the Sweet

16 for the first time since the implementation of the new postseason realignment five years ago.

The postseason journey for the eighth-seeded Lady Rams came to an end following a 50-40 loss to the ninth-seeded Hoosac Valley Hurricanes at Sullivan

Gymnasium on March 2.

“The girls had a great season and I’m very proud of them,” said Granby girls varsity coach Dave Padavano. “Nobody expected us to go 19-4 this season. We won the Western Mass. Class D title, and we advanced to the Sweet 16. We missed

too many shots and had too many turnovers in tonight’s game.”

Back in the middle of February, Granby captured the Class D championship title with a 64-56 win over Pioneer Valley Christian Academy.

The Lady Rams, who

defeated Keefe Tech in the Round of 32, entered the Sweet 16 contest with a perfect 13-0 home record. Their three regular-season road losses were against

Please see **RAMS**, page 7



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Ellie Szlosek** sends a three-point attempt away.



**Brenna Moreno** sends a pass away.



**Kalli White** fights to go to the hoop.

## Women’s basketball season comes to a close

HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, Holyoke Community College Women’s basketball saw their stellar season come to a close on Sunday afternoon, Mar. 1, falling to top seed CC of Rhode Island in the New England (Region XXI) championship game. The #2 seed Lady Cougars played well in their attempt to win a regional title but were on the wrong end of the 86-51 final score.

Holyoke had a tremendous season overall, finishing in second place in the regular season New England standings before their runner-up finish in the regional championship tournament. Their postseason and title game appearances were

Please see **SEASON**, page 7



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

**Tatiyana Zuniga** heads across the court.



**Annastacia Dixon** sends a pass away.



**Mileidy Rosado** heads into the paint.

## Wrestling season nets many championships in region

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The high school wrestling season has come to an end, with many individuals and teams in Western and Central Massachusetts bringing home titles.

At the All-State Tournament held on Mar. 1 and 2 right in Springfield at the MassMutual Center, Agawam High School girls wrestling captured the All-State title with 86 points. Ludlow was 11th overall at 46 points. Stella Christopher captured the All-State title at 165 pounds, defeating Jordyn Reynolds of Greater Lawrence. Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up at 145 pounds. For Ludlow, Ella Libiszewski was the runner-up at 114 pounds. In the mixed-gender all-state event, Agawam would place 16th with 33.5 points. Minnechaug scored 26 points and both teams crowned an all-state champion. Jordin Agosto was Agawam’s all-state champion with a top finish at 144 pounds. Minnechaug’s Kai Ly also took an all-state title at 138 pounds.

Ludlow High School captured the Division 3 state girls wrestling championship with 97.5 points, crowning four state champions. Quabbin Regional High School was ninth overall with 36 points. South Hadley finished with 18 points and Holyoke with 16 points in the meet.

Ludlow’s champions were Libiszewski at 114 pounds, Samantha Bertini at 120 pounds, Ellianna Williams at 145 pounds, and Riley Morais at 152 pounds. Quabbin had one champion with Kailynn Schuster scoring the win at 138 pounds.

Agawam took second place in the Division 2 state girls tournament, scoring 94.5 points. Christopher had the big performance by placing first in the 165-pound bracket. Ramos placed second at 145 pounds and Madison Minalga also had a runner-up finish at 185 pounds.

In the Division 2 state championship, Agawam was the second-best finisher from Western Mass., finishing fourth overall with 96 points, and crowning one runner-up in the field. Minnechaug was a distant 14th with 52 points. The Falcons’ Ly won the state championship at 138 pounds, while Agawam’s Ryan Sexton placed second.

In the Division 3 state championship, Holyoke placed ninth overall with 69 points, Ludlow was 25th with 28 points, Quabbin 26th with 27 points, and South Hadley and Belchertown also registered points in the competition. Holyoke would place two wrestlers as runners up. Steven Santiago was the second-place finisher at 120 pounds and Parker Brunelle was the runner-up at 285 pounds.

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**Johnays Andrades** gets the open layup.

## T-Birds inch closer to .500 with big comeback

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-27-6-2) rode their veteran forwards to a thrilling, come-from-behind 4-3 win over the Providence Bruins (45-12-1-0) on Sunday afternoon inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

After potting seven in a win over Hartford a night ago, the Bruins wasted little time adding to their potent offensive weekend as Matthew Poitras cleaned up a rebound in the blue paint after Georgi Romanov made an initial save off of Ty Gallagher. Poitras' 12th goal of the year made it 1-0 Providence just 2:10 into the contest.

The Springfield power play provided a good response for the visitors at 9:34 when Juraj Pekarcik shuffled a rebound past Simon Zajicek following a Marc-Andre Gaudet slapper, tying the score, 1-1.

Unfortunately, the Bruins would restore their lead in short order when Matej Blumel surprised Romanov with a long slap shot just 1:18 later to make it a 2-1 game.

Springfield's special teams continued a strong

first period, as the man-down unit successfully fended off two Providence advantages to keep the deficit at just one goal heading into the second.

With a carryover power play to begin the second, Dillon Dube nearly got Springfield even with a one-time slapper that beat Zajicek but caught the iron. Romanov, meanwhile, had a strong showing in the period, especially early in the period, keeping his team within a goal by making nine stops in the period.

Zajicek and the Providence penalty kill stiffened on a third man-down scenario near the midpoint of regulation, and the 2-1 score remained intact heading to the third.

The third period began with Springfield penalty kill once again answering the bell on back-to-back Providence power plays to keep the score at a manageable 2-1.

As the third passed its midpoint, the T-Birds' most experienced leaders took over, beginning at the 10:36 mark when Chris Wagner's torrid weekend continued as he threw a shot off a defend-

er and past Zajicek to tie the game, 2-2.

Just 1:50 later, the T-Birds flipped the game upside-down when Wagner won an offensive zone draw directly back to Dillon Dube, who snapped a perfect shot under the crossbar to give Springfield its first lead, 3-2.

Romanov and the T-Birds' defense locked things down in the defensive zone, and Alek Kaskimaki hit an empty net after a clutch shot block from Wagner at 18:53 of the third. Blumel would get his second of the night for Providence, but only three seconds remained at the time of the goal, making it too little, too late for the Bruins.

The T-Birds' comeback marked the first time all season that the Bruins failed to win when leading after two periods. With their victory, the T-Birds now sit in the sixth and final playoff spot in the Atlantic Division with 13 games remaining in the regular season.

The T-Birds take a trip north of the border for their next two contests on Friday and Saturday in Laval and Belleville, respectively.

## Railers split weekend in Reading

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (26-24-5-2, 59 pts) split the weekend against the Reading Royals (30-20-6-1, 67 pts) by a 4-2 final on Sunday, March 15th, in front of a crowd of 3,066 at Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action this Friday at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA against the Maine Mariners for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

Reading came out firing in the first with three unanswered goals. Connor Kurth (11th) drove the puck home with a slapshot to the top corner of the net at 2:09 on Reading's first shot of the afternoon. Connor McMenamin (10th) made the game 2-0 for the Royals as he finished off a rebound along the far side of the crease and chipped the puck high as Gale dove to cover. Brandon Saigeon (12th) closed out the period with a third goal on the power play, another rebound play set up by Vincent Sevigny on the outer edge of the zone. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with six to Reading's 10. Each team picked up one penalty in the first twenty minutes.

It was a scoreless second period for both sides as neither team was able to break past their respective goaltenders. Despite not finding the back of the net, both teams kept the energy going with continuous conversations and physical blows. Cam McDonald collected a roughing call just as the period turned to its second half. MacAuley Carson dropped the gloves against former-Railer Artyom Kulakov. Both men

earned themselves a double minor in the final five minutes of the frame. Reading outshot Worcester by one, nine to eight. Worcester led in penalties with three to Reading's two.

The Railers managed to narrow the gap created by Reading in the first, as Ross Mitton (5th) scored the first goal of the game for Worcester at 4:22 in the final frame. Mitton's shot came from a faceoff win by Ryan Miotto, who maneuvered the puck behind him at the near faceoff dot in the Royals' zone. Mitton quickly steadied the puck and skimmed the crossbar as he fired high on Keith Petruzzelli (3-1). Worcester continued to chip away in the offensive zone as Gale was called to the bench for the extra attacker. Michael Suda (3rd) nabbed a second goal for the Railers from the left point, his shot sent past Petruzzelli for a narrow 2-3 game. An unexpected turnover in Reading's zone, as Declan McDonnell's stick snapped while he tried to maintain puck possession, led Ben Meehan (9th) to a fourth and final goal for the Royals. Meehan sent the puck sailing from along the near boards into the unattended Railers' net as the final seconds of regulation ticked away. Final shots were 29-27 in favor of Reading. Worcester led in shots for the period with 13 to 10. MacAuley Carson and Jacob Frasca earned the sole penalties awarded to each team in the period.

### RAMS from page 6

Ware, Amherst, and Southwick.

The Hurricanes (9-13), who were scheduled to face top-seeded Drury in an Elite 8 game, are the two-time defending Division 5 state champions. They defeated the Renaissance School, 64-57, in last year's finals at the Tsongas Center on the UMass Lowell campus. They also beat West Boylston 71-53, in the 2024 state finals.

The Lady Rams have now lost their previous twelve meetings on the hardwood with the Hurricanes.

A year ago, Hoosac Valley defeated Granby in the Western Mass. Class D semifinals by 41 points.

Ten of the twelve players listed on this year's Granby's varsity roster will be returning next season.

The only two seniors are Kaitlyn Curran and Mylin Laliberte.

"I'm very lucky to be a

member of this basketball team and I love all my teammates," said Curran, who was a starting point guard. "I wouldn't want to play for another basketball team.

Curran and Laliberte, a reserve player, served as co-captains.

"Mylin and I are best friends. We've been playing on the same basketball teams since we were in kindergarten," added Curran, who scored three points in the sweet 16 game. "I really enjoyed helping the younger players on the team. They're very coachable."

The junior duo of Brenna Moreno (15 points) and Kalli White (13 points) combined to score 28 points in Granby's final game of the 2025-26 campaign. Their other scorers were junior Eleanor Szlosek (5 points), freshman Rowan Cook (4 points) and Curran (3 points).

Both teams struggled offensively during the first eight minutes of the contest.

The Lady Rams were trailing, 3-2, before More-

no, who scored 11 first half points, was fouled while attempting a three-pointer from the left corner. She made all three foul shots.

Then Curran hit a jumper from the top of the key. She also made a free throw with 21.6 seconds left in the opening quarter which tied the score at 8-8.

Granby took the lead for the final time at 12-10 two minutes into the second quarter when White converted an inside hoop.

Hoosac Valley began to pull away at that point by scoring eleven unanswered points.

Sophomore Genevieve Lagess, who led her team with a game-high 18 points, scored seven of the eleven points.

Freshman Gianna Witek (9 points) also contributed with a lay-up and a pair of free throws, which gave the visiting team a 23-13 advantage late in the second quarter.

During the final minute of the first half, Moreno drained

back-to-back 3-pointers, which closed the gap to 23-19 at the break.

Granby's momentum didn't carry over into the second half, as the Hurricanes built an eleven point lead (30-19) with the help of a 7-0 spurt during the first three minutes of the third quarter.

"Red Auerbach used to say that a team needs to win the first two minutes of each quarter," Padavano said. "We shot 1-fo-15 from the field in the third quarter. You're not going to win very many games shooting that poorly."

Granby made five foul shots in the third quarter before Moreno knocked down her third 3-pointer of the contest.

The Lady Rams outscored the Hurricanes 13-12 during the final eight minutes of the contest, but they couldn't get any closer than nine points.

The returning members of the Granby girls' basketball team will be looking to make it a little bit farther in the Division 5 state tournament next year.

### SEASON from page 6

the program's firsts since the 2010-11 campaign. Women's basketball finishes the year with an 11-4 regional record

and a 15-8 overall record. They were 13-4 against fellow NJCAA teams. Eight players from this year's squad can return to play next season.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kara White keeps play moving around the perimeter.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kaitlyn Curran looks to make a pass.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Cougars face off with Bristol Community College early in the playoffs.



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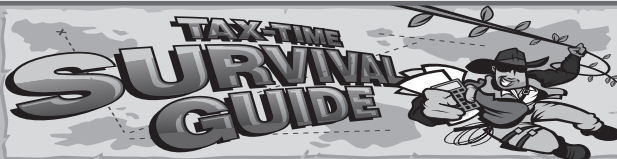
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**TIGERS** from page 1

as a team, which was huge.” One of the victories during the South Hadley winning streak was a 62-60 victory at Frontier Regional in the Western Mass. Class B semi-finals on February 13. Five days later, they squeaked out a 58-57 win over Pittsfield in the Class B finals at Holyoke Community College.

“When I interviewed for this job 16 years ago, they asked me why I wanted to do it,” Dubuc added. “I said, I wanted to be coaching the South Hadley girls’ when they do something. We’ve won two Western Mass. titles, and we’ve been to the state finals three years in a row, and we finally won one. I’m just so proud of every single player on this team, along with my coaching staff.”

South Hadley advanced into the state finals for the third consecutive year following home wins against Mount Greylock, 61-41, in the round of 32, West Bridgewater, 80-28 in the sweet 16, and Southwick, 54-34, in the Elite 8. They also posted a 59-49 victory over Millis High School in the semifinal game, which was held at Worcester State University on March 11. Frontier (21-4), who made their first appearance in the state finals since 1988 and second overall, posted a 67-62 non-league victory at South Hadley at the end of January.

The only senior listed on the Lady Tigers varsity roster is Sofie Quinn, who’s a tri-captain, along with junior Kate Phillips (9 points), and Dean.

Phillips and Dean, who combined to score 750 points this season, will most likely be 1,000-point scorers by the time their outstanding high



Taylor Bullough splits the defense.

school basketball careers wraps up in March of 2027.

Quinn, who’s a reserve player, is planning to play for the women’s soccer team at MCLA next fall. Her younger sister, Simone, who’s a sophomore, was also a member of the varsity basketball team this winter.

“It just feels amazing to win the state title as a senior,” said Sofie Quinn, who’s a four-year varsity basketball player. “I just love all the girls on this team.”

The Lady Rams’ other double-digit scorers in the Division 4 state finals were junior Taylor Bullough and sophomore Olivia Athas, who scored 10 points apiece.

“We’ve lost here the last two years,” Athas said. “Our main goal this season was to win the state championship title, and we were finally able

to accomplish it. We’ve been playing basketball together forever and it just feels great.”

Frontier, who held a slim 15-14 lead at the end of the opening quarter, only scored two points during the second stanza.

Junior Ryley McMahon scored all six of her points during that eight-minute span, which helped the Lady Tigers build a 27-17 halftime lead.

South Hadley’s largest lead of the contest was 32-19 with 3:49 left in the third quarter following an old fashion three-point play by Phillips.

Frontier finished the third quarter with a 9-0 run.

A Dean driving lay-up gave the Lady Tigers a 40-30 lead in the middle of the final quarter.

With 2:50 left in regulation, the Red Hawks were

only trailing by four points (40-36) following a put-back basket from senior Macy DeMaio, which was her only points of the game.

A little more than a minute later, Dean buried a 3-pointer from the left side pushing the lead to seven points. Then an Athas coast-to-coast lay-up



Olivia Athas looks for a shot.

gave the Lady Tigers a 45-36 advantage with 1:25 remaining.

Following a lay-up from Frontier junior Skyler Steele, who finished with a game-high 19 points, Bullough hit a 3-pointer from the right corner and Dean added a free throw.

After a missed shot by the

Red Hawks, Dean dribbled out the final seconds and tossed the ball into the air before celebrating with her teammates.

Unlike the past two seasons, the long bus ride back to South Hadley High School was very enjoyable for the members of the Lady Tigers basketball team.



Ryley McMahon reaches out to grab a loose ball.



Kate Phillips takes the long jumper.



Cara Dean goes for the layup.



Simone Quinn backs out of the pressure.

## Legal Notices

**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HEALTH SETS REGULATION REGARDING NOISOME TRADES**

Town of South Hadley Regulation regarding noisome trades was passed by the South Hadley Board of Health. Copies may be obtained at the Board of Health Office.

Karen Walsh Pio, Chair  
Tony Judge, Vice-Chair  
03/20/2026

**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HEALTH SETS REGULATION RESTRICTING THE SALE OF NITROUS OXIDE**

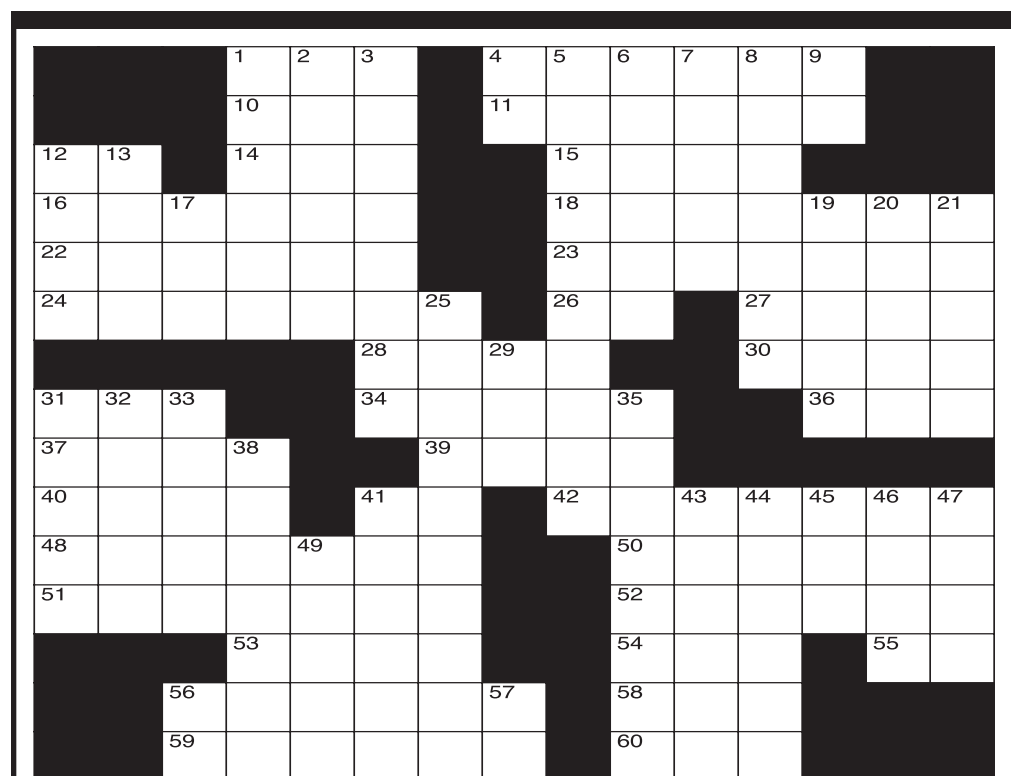
Town of South Hadley Regulation Restricting the Sale of Nitrous Oxide was passed by the South Hadley Board of Health. Copies may be obtained at the Board of Health Office.

Karen Walsh Pio, Chair  
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**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HEALTH SETS AMENDED MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS**

Town of South Hadley Amended Minimum Standards for the Keeping of Animals were passed by the South Hadley Board of Health. Copies may be obtained at the Board of Health Office.

Karen Walsh Pio, Chair  
Tony Judge, Vice-Chair  
03/20/2026



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers’ groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Moth species phalonidia
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth’s crust
- 21. James \_\_\_ painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. “Pollock” actor Harris

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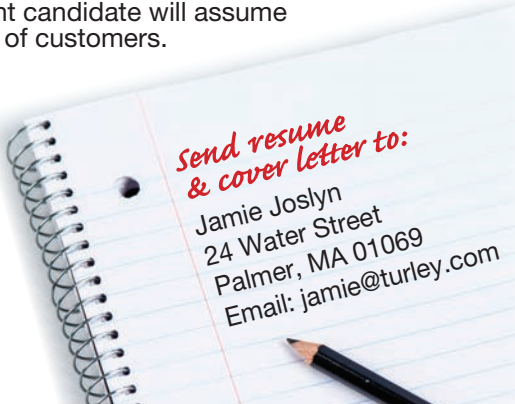
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# Support your local library this March

SOUTH HADLEY – Over the past few weeks, two topics have been much talked about: the winter weather and the town budget situation. Good news on the weather: spring is just around the corner! The budget is a bit more complicated.

Regarding the library, our proposed budget for next year reflects a 7% reduction in funding, which jeopardizes our library certification. Why is this important? Library certification brings benefits to the library and community through state aid (over \$60,000 this year), grant opportunities (like our past construction grant), and the ability to borrow materials from other libraries. Decertified libraries lose that annual aid and the ability to apply for certain grants. Decertification also means that materials may no longer be available to South Hadley residents through interlibrary loan or by visiting other local libraries.

This is certainly a situation we will keep patrons informed about as the budget process moves forward. Any questions should be directed to Library Director Joe Rodio by email at jrodio@cwmars.org.

### Adult Programs at SHPL

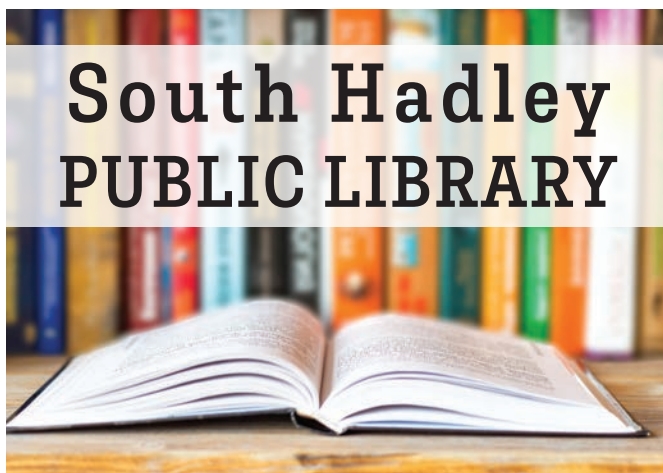
March at the South Hadley Public Library brings three

engaging evening programs - all beginning at 6 p.m., with no registration required.

On **Wednesday, March 18**, join Library Director Joe Rodio and Adult Services Librarian Desiree Smelcer for **Truth Detective: How to Outsmart Misleading Media**, a hands-on session focused on spotting misinformation and disinformation and building smart habits for navigating today's information overload. **Seniors:** If you cannot attend, there is another session on **Thursday, March 26, at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.**

On **Wednesday, March 25**, local historian Leo Labonte presents South Hadley's **Pearl City History**, sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council. Explore more than 170 years of history of this small but industrious hamlet, powered by Batchelor Brook and known for producing some of the world's first manufactured pearl buttons.

Our book groups will be talking about a great variety of titles this month. Our **Between the Covers** romance club will meet on **Tuesday, March 10, from 3 to 4 p.m.** to talk about *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Later in the month, the **Sustainable Living** book club will meet



on **Wednesday, March 25, at 6 p.m.** to discuss *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler.

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

**America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis with Author Shoshana Walter**, With Special Guest Host Barbara Kingsolver, Tuesday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

**On a Mission: The History of US Women Astronauts with Smithsonian Curator Emerita Valerie Neal**, A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration, Thursday, April 2 at 2 p.m.

### Children's Programs at SHPL

Girls to the front! March is **Women's History Month**,

and our display will feature dozens of artists, athletes, activists, scientists, mathematicians, musicians, and more. Speaking of musicians, we're thrilled to welcome the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's **Musical Petting Zoo** back to the library on **Saturday, March 28, at 10:30 a.m.** This is your chance to try out a tuba, a cello, or a flute!

There are two opportunities to **Read to a Dog** this month: **Tuesday, March 17, at 4 p.m.**, and **Saturday, March 28, at noon.** **Pride Club** also meets on **Tuesday, March 24 at 4 p.m.** Pajama Storytime, Rhyme Time, Baby Lapsit Storytime, Lego & Games, and CFCE Playgroup all con-

tinue as usual.

Lastly, National Honor Society students from SHHS are offering **homework help on Tuesday, March 24, at 3:30 p.m.**

Are you participating in the Massachusetts Center for the Book Student Reading Challenge? March's prompt is "a book set in a magical land." Librarian Jenny has recommendations for you!

### Teen Programs at SHPL

This month for Teens (ages 11 through 19) we have a lot of great offerings!

**Night Craft** will be happening on **Tuesday, March 31, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** We will be creating Shaving Cream Art. None of these programs requires signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be on **Tuesday, March 17, for Xbox X. Tuesday, March 24, for Switch.** All gaming sessions start at 3:30 p.m. and run until 5 p.m. No sign-up is needed.

**Snackertnoon** will be on **Thursday, March 26, from 4 to 5 p.m.** Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly **Teen Takeaways** continue to be available. This month

features Circle Painting. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month. We also have our latest Booktrovert pick: *Thunderhead* by Neal Shusterman. There are no in-person meet-ups; just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for checkout.

**The Read Whatever Book Club** meets on **Monday, March 30, from 4 to 5 p.m.** Come and talk about whatever you're reading with other teens! Hot cocoa and popcorn provided.

Any questions, please email Bethany.

### Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Drop in on **Thursday, March 26, between 6 and 8 p.m.** for a **Seed-Starting Party.** Bring your own seeds or check out some from our library.

For kids, we also have our usual **Story Times every Friday at 10:30 a.m.** We have **Drop-In Crafts on Thursday, March 19, from 3 to 6 p.m.**, and **LEGO Club meets on Thursday, March 26, from 3 to 6 p.m.**

Families can also join us on **Saturday, March 14, at 10:15 a.m. to Make Green Play-Dough** with Miss Janet and MHC chemistry student Victor McCarthy.



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