

August

YEAR IN REVIEW from page 5

Learning the way of the sword with Castle Nitor

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – The Gaylord Memorial Library, in the spirit of “Levelling Up” this summer, hosted Castle Nitor, where Allison Pettengail taught the European martial art of the long sword and the basics of using the weapon.

“...What I like about this as a theme for the libraries is that reading is amazing for you and learning in general changes you and makes you a better person,” said Petten-gail.

The lessons are taught from a variety of old Euro-pean texts, where the masters themselves wrote out their lessons and drew pictures, but in a language that is now dead, making the process challenging.

The tradition of Europe-an martial arts was almost lost due to the introduction of gunpowder and firearms, but people today have found a way to revive the old ways of the sword.



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas
Allison Pettengail teaching how a sword can be used to inflict the most damage.

The lesson teaches stu-dents to guard, but also how to move when “cutting” so that they are protecting them-selves. It then selects a pic-ture from one of the manuals

to help people figure out how to do it.

Students learned to hold the sword and how to swing it the right way. The lessons bring you into history in a more real way, where you can experience it as you learn about what the masters of old taught and how they fought.

“It is fun, and it is chal-lenging, and you get to reach out and hit your friends,” Pet-tengail joked. “It’s a lot of fun, though, and learning the techniques is a lot of fun.”

Learning the way of the sword also helps dispel a pop-ular myth that longswords are heavy, whereas the reality is that they are much lighter, only about two to four pounds each, to make swinging the sword easier and much more realistic.

“I believe that for anyone who studies anything in his-tory, getting to dispel all the myths is the best part,” said Pettengail.

Learning to wield a sword is a fun and engaging way to learn an ancient martial art, and its unique and wonderful history all at once.

Kids learn the art of robotics with local high school students



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Sophia Sarage, Gideon Antonowicz, Ella Wong, Libby Smith, Andrew Weston, Holden Castenson, and Uri Davidovitch with their robots.

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY — Being able to work at and share the things you love most in this world is a special privilege, and for the students at Amherst Regional High School who love robotics, Saturday was the perfect day.

Kids got the chance to color pictures of electronics, take a remote control to guide a robot through the tape mazes on the floor, and play with a coded mouse to guide it through another maze to get to the cheese at the end.

The students led a robot-ics demo for kids and teens at the South Hadley Public Library last weekend, and the room filled with kids getting

to direct real robots through challenging mazes and learn a bit about how they work.

The ARHS Robotics Team competes yearly in the First Tech Challenge, with chal-lenges that lovers of robotics come up with a new robot de-sign for the given prompt and challenge, then compete with other robots across the state.

“We’re really lucky to have the robotics club we have,” said Libby Smith. “We care a lot about building a community in the school.”

During the challenge, the students present their robot to the judges and also share their passions and what they love most about the art and have won the Motivate Award with their matching T-shirts in pink, The Hare Bears, after their beloved teacher.

After budget cuts, many schools and their students may not have access to sci-ence curriculum, and this program of outreach helped to bring science and knowl-edge about the engineering industry to students all over the community.

“Each of the members of the Team has different roles, whether it’s organizing and planning the events, coding, or directing the group; each of these students brings in their strengths to the team to help lift all parts of it,” said Ella Wong.

“It’s been one of the best learning experiences I’ve ever had because we’re learn-ing through doing the things-through building, coding, and seeing how it all works,” said Gideon Antonowicz.

September

DinoFest comes back for another successful year

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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GRANBY – For the past 11 years, the town has come together to celebrate the an-nual DinoFest put on by the Granby United Church of Christ.

DinoFest’s history begins as it was originally called the Dinosaur Arts, Crafts, and Music Festival, and was later taken over by Dennis Doucette, the Chair/Organiz-er and “Grand Poobah,” who has truly fallen in love with DinoFest, and the “hugs and smiles” found throughout the

one-day festival.

The Grand Poohbah Den-nis Doucette was joined by Marketing Wizard Tasondra Jardine, who helped with publicity, took photos, and more, and Brian Pike, the Land Baron, who set up the layout for DinoFest.

The tight-knit families that call Granby home are what make Dino Fest so spe-cial, with crafters and vendors returning year after year for a one-of-a-kind celebration of a very unique community.

“We did it this year on a smaller scale to focus on

Crafters’ needs and Com-munity engagement,” said Tasondra Jardine, the Mar-keting Wizard. “We had lo-cal musician Marvin Jackson perform, as well as Soular Eclipse, which was provided by a grant from the Granby Cultural Council. We had two teen title holders from the Mrs. America and a few new surprises.”

The DinoDash, an annual tradition now, had its third year of fun in order to raise money for local food pan-tries, including Granby to Go.

“We had some fantastic

Lois R. (Helm) Duso

Lois R. (Helm) Duso, of Northfield, MA, passed away peacefully at her home after a long illness on December 28, 2025. She was born on January 1, 1948 to the late Arnold and Doro-thy (Hartt) Helm. Lois was a gradu-ate of Granby High School in Granby, MA.

She worked at the Belchertown State School and the Hampshire County Collab-orative, where she worked with her favorite little ones and learned American Sign Lan-guage. For many years, she continued her passion for teaching young children by offering a day care business in her home. Later in life, she owned another business, but this time working with senior citizens. Lois enjoyed play-ing chip ‘n putt golf, fishing, bowling, and card games with friends and family through-out the years. She had a pas-sion for painting, specifically her favorite flowers, irises,

which she also grew in her garden. She adored dancing around to her favorite mu-sic with her husband, Ran-dy. Lois was always smiling; she had a very upbeat attitude and always looked at the positive things in life.

She is survived by her devoted, caring, and lov-ing husband of 32 years, Randy Duso of North-field, MA; daugh-ter, Sonja Gougeon and her husband, Dale; sons, Wil-liam Scheinost and Steven Scheinost; siblings, Arnold Helm and his wife Jeanne of Maine, Richard Helm and his wife Donna of Belcher-town, Bruce Helm of South Hadley, and Conrad Helms of Northampton; and her grandchildren, Ava Gou-geon, Drew Scheinost and Ashley Scheinost. Besides her parents, she was preced-ed in death by her sister, Di-anne Helm Scheinost of South Hadley.

Lois will be truly missed



Death Notice

Lois R. (Helm) Duso
Died December 28
Services Beers &
Story South Hadley
Funeral Home

and remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Visitation will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funer-al Home. Family and friends are welcome to gather at the funeral home the following morning, January 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. for Lois’ funeral service beginning at 10 a.m. at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home. Buri-al will immediately follow in West St. Cemetery in Granby, MA.

Her family has request-ed that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her memory to the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452, or the Massachusetts General Hospital, Multiple Sclerosis Clinic, 125 Nash-ua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS25P0740EA
Estate of:
Joseph Berman
Date of Death:
November 11, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Peti-tion of Petitioner **Lisa A Gold-berg of South Hadley, MA** a Will has been admitted to in-formal probate.

Lisa A Goldberg of South Hadley, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Rep-resentative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being adminis-tered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uni-form Probate Code without su-pervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but inter-ested parties are entitled to no-tice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representa-tive 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 Repre-sentatives appointed under in-formal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/02/2026

**Town of Granby
Massachusetts
Conservation Commission**
The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wet-land Protection Act (MGL Chap-ter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** *1 Library Lane- Carnegie Building-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 pm “RDA”** filed by Benjamin Kindell, owner a to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and to see wheth-er the boundaries of resource

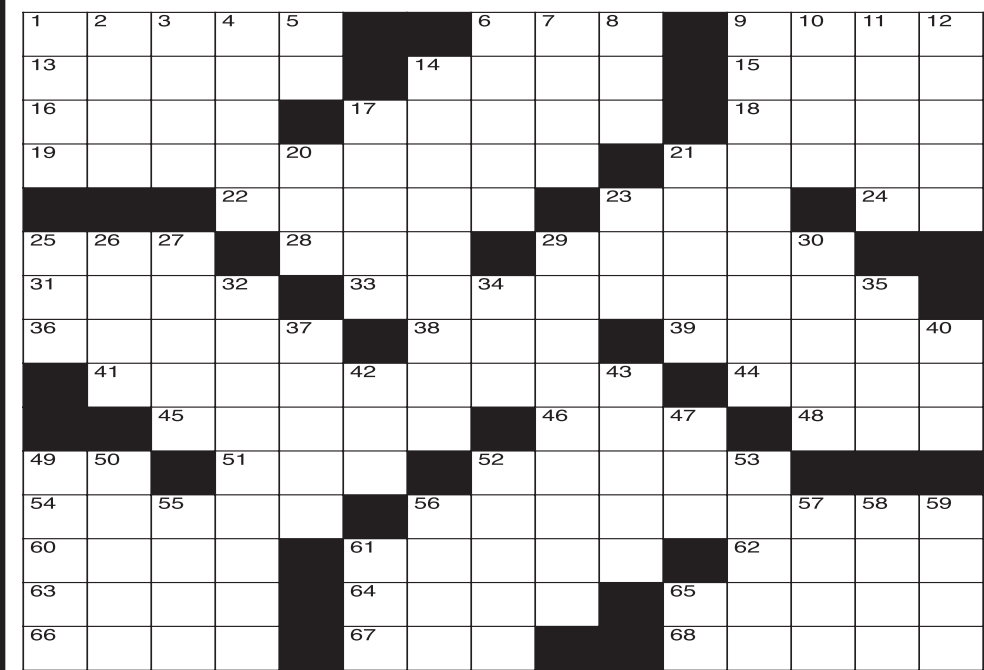
area depicted on plans/maps ref-erenced are accurately delineat-ed with regards to property lo-cated on 0 South Street (adjacent to 82-88 South St.) and known as Map 4-B Lot A/2-2, in the Town of Granby.

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

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

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation
Commission

01/02/2026



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| CLUES ACROSS
1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy | 36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet | CLUES DOWN
1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. “The Indiana Jones of beer”
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women’s apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. “It’s a Wonderful Life” director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques __, French biologist | 29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one’s beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to “oohed”
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic |
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