

# TOWN Reminder

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## Charter Days returns for annual weekend of fun

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

GRANBY – Step right up, the fair has returned, and last weekend, Granby and surrounding communities came together to have some fun, eat cotton candy, and jump in the bouncy houses at Charter Days.

Granby Charter Days is a weekend celebration to commemorate and celebrate the day the town of Granby received its Charter on June 11, 1768.

“Key features I would say, would be the amount of community support we all have for the event. It is always the second weekend in June,” said Randy Guevin, the Chair of the Charter Days Committee. “The event is bringing multiple communities together to celebrate and meet with older community members, and also new community members.”

There were fourteen nonfood vendors with some returning year after year, and new vendors including Mr. B’s Kettle Korn, Andean Creations, Runas Crafts, Enchanted Gardens, Henna + Face-painting + Crafts, LooBug Design, Amy’s Rt 9 Bakery, Mad Eat, Crazy Arepa, D Smoker, Heart-Moser, and Moser Concessions.

Fanelli’s Entertainment provided the carnival games where people could win anything from a squirt gun to a stuffed animal the size of a chair.

They also brought along their fun rides and amusements, including the Ferris Wheel, and spinning and swinging rides, enough for everyone.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts  
Autumn enjoys a day at Granby Charter Days with her family.



Pharaoh's Fury, a swing-based ride common at most festivals and fairs.

Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Please see **CHARTER**, page 12

## Gaylord Memorial Library hosts its annual wine, cheese, and chocolate night

By Murphy Fitts  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Friday night Gaylord Memorial Library welcomed community members for an evening of Wine, Cheese, Chocolate, music, raffles, and a guest speaker.

In attendance were three board members of the Gaylord Memorial Library Association. Katie Van Winkle, the president. Jane Johnson, the Vice President and Denise Hammon, the secretary.

2025 sponsors include Eink, Florence Bank, Provisions, PeoplesBank, South Hadley Electric Light, bank-ESB, Veryl’s Automotive Services Inc., and Jubinville Insurance.

Interim treasurer Jeff Millard and Mariann Millard donated the red wine. Provisions donated their wine and cheese. Many other vendors and businesses were donors for the evening.

Please see **GAYLORD**, page 6



Turley Photos Submitted by Murphy Fitts.

Above: Cory Telman from local business Provisions sets up his table of wine and cheese.



Left: Town historian Leo Labonte giving his speech about Gaylord history.

## MHC’s geothermal project is ‘full-steam ahead’

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

SOUTH HADLEY – As the world looks towards more renewable forms and ways, Mount Holyoke College is proud to share more about its Geothermal Project, which has been up and running for the past three years.

“Mount Holyoke College made a commitment to Carbon Neutrality by 2037, the college’s bicentennial. The Geothermal Project is key to that goal,” said Karla Youngblood, Associate Vice President of the school.

The project itself will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, replacing fossil fuel systems with state-of-the-art energy through a geothermal exchange system through the ground.

There are three components to the project: the first being the high-efficiency electric heat pumps, which generate hot water for heating and chilled water for cooling



Submitted photos

Hot and chilled water distribution piping down Lower Lake Road on our campus.

the buildings.

The new distribution system will convey this hot and cold water for temperature regulation throughout the campus more efficiently and

Please see **PROJECT**, page 6

## Planting native trees with a purpose

By Murphy Fitts  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Community members gathered at South Hadley library to hear from Rebekah Cornell and guest speaker Larri Cochran talk about Native plants and their importance.

This event was sponsored by the Tree Committee to promote the tree planting program and Growing Wild South Hadley to promote the importance of native species and get pollinators into backyards.

Rebekah Cornell is the Conservation Administrator and Planner of the town of South Hadley.

Cornell is leading the South Hadley tree planting program with the South Hadley Shade Tree Challenge. “We’ve got 351 more trees to



Turley Photos Submitted by Murphy Fitts.

Conservation Administrator and Planner Rebekah Cornell introducing guest speaker Larri Cochran.

go,” said Cornell.

They are planting 400 trees over the next two years. 100 of those trees will be planted in the two environmental justice neighbor-

hoods South Hadley Falls and Mount Holyoke College neighborhood.

They have two grants to

Please see **TREES**, page 5

## Disc golf is coming to Buttery Brook Park

By Kim Prough

SOUTH HADLEY – Don’t use the “f-word”, it’s not frisbee golf, it’s disc golf, as any avid disc golfer will tell you.

The sport of disc golf is experiencing rapid growth and increasing popularity, thanks to the development of more disc golf courses, as well as its accessibility and affordability.

UDisc, the app for disc golfers, showed over 20 million rounds tracked in 2024.

The sport is seeing an average of over five new courses being opened daily.

South Hadley is well-positioned to capitalize on this fast-growing sport with the addition of the Buttery Brook Disc Golf, a nine-hole course that weaves throughout the unused woods of the Park.

The course is free to play. The addition of this course is part of the Buttery Brook Park Improvement Project,



Photos submitted by Kim Prough  
The new logo for Disc Golf at Buttery Brook Park.

funded collectively through a PARC grant, the town of South Hadley, and individual donations.

Disc golf is largely driven by its passionate community, with players often taking the initiative to build and maintain courses. Avid disc golfer Maddy Venancio, who has played in 14 states and at 160 courses, has led a group of volunteers to help get the course ready.

He’s been instrumental in helping shape some of the interesting design elements of the course, including the island green on the 9th hole.

“Helping to bring disc golf to Buttery Brook Park has been a lot of fun. I’ve always wanted to build my own course, and this may be the closest I get to it”, commented Venancio.

“It’s not your average nine-hole course. Although beginner-friendly, it will chal-

Please see **GOLF**, page 5

## 4 Towns Food Drive coming Saturday, June 28

**SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY/BELCHERTOWN/LUDLOW** – The local Democratic Committees are hosting a Food Drive on June 28 to fill up local food pantries to fight food insecurity.

Granby- 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Granby UCC's parish parking lot to fill the Granby to Go Food Pantry. For more information, contact Susan Knightly at susan.knightly@gmail.com.

Belchertown- 10 a.m. to

1 p.m., held at and benefiting the Helping Hands Cupboard on 18 Park Street, as well as on the Belchertown Common. Contact Cara Lapenas at belchertowndem-chair@gmail.com for more information.

Ludlow- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Ludlow Department of Veterans Services at 487 Holyoke Street. Please get in touch with Mia Alves at miaalves@charter.net for more information.

South Hadley – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the South Hadley High School to fill the pantry for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. For more information, contact Ann Stockton at astockton15@gmail.com.

Please remember to check expiration dates, and to not donate anything past the date on the item. Monetary donations are also accepted to help the food pantries stock their shelves.

## Special permit approved for Anthony's Club

By **Walter Hamilton**  
Correspondent

**SOUTH HADLEY** - Anthony's Dance Club, a New Ludlow Road "adult entertainment" venue on Monday was granted a one-year special permit to continue its business, after installing interior video cameras and identification scanning equipment that satisfied police and Planning Board concerns about dozens of "disturbances" there over the past three years.

Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen confirmed, after a Police Department site inspection, that the updated camera and ID scanning equipment, that would track customers and employees while in the building, will be sufficient to ensure security at the business that features live nudity.

Other deficiencies in the Special Permit application cited by the board were found to have been addressed prior to Monday's extension of a March 28 hearing. They included exterior lighting, exclusion of town police from acting as security personnel, elimination of restaurant services, providing employee information to the Police Department pertaining to investigations and a management plan.

Based on Gundersen's findings, the board determined that Anthony's had satisfied all the requirements of a new security plan, while also asserting that if the camera system and ID scanner were to be shown as not functioning at any time, the venue would be found to be in violation of its permit that could trigger further action.

The one-year permit granted on Monday can be renewed in one-year extensions over three years. After that, the board may waive further hearings.

The club pledged to plant shrubs and other vegetation around the perimeter of the parking lot, with gaps in certain areas to allow passing motorists to partially view abutting properties, such as an existing used-car lot.

An illuminated sign was approved, and will be required to be shut off at 1 a.m., prior to the club's closing time of 2 a.m. as allowed under its liquor license. A manager said the club's policy sets its "last call" for alcohol at 12:45 a.m.

Addressing safety concerns during the first portion of the public hearing in

March, former board member Joanna Brown, citing police logs from 2022, 2023 and 2024, said Anthony's had more than 50 calls that were not of a non-criminal nature or not including such disturbances as parking lot alarms and crashes.

At the hearing in March, the board noted the number of calls to police from Anthony's were twice the number of calls about disturbances than any of the other eight establishments that serve alcoholic beverages in town.

The police records also included allegations of larcenies, fraud, theft, assault, damage to property, and fights at Anthony's.

In March, Gundersen said a call of a disturbance requires response of two or three officers, at a time of night when those are the only officers on duty, resulting in "the rest of the town not having coverage."

Gundersen at that time said in the past six years she has been on the job, the bar's classification of some employees as contractors complicated police investigations. She also cited incidents in which security cameras were deemed non-functioning, also hampering investigations.

In other business outside of the public hearing, the board acknowledged that Mount Holyoke College had withdrawn its application for a site plan review of a proposed Energy Center at Woodbridge Street and Dunlap Place. On June 5, an MHC administrator cited uncertainty in the financial markets under the Trump administration for its decision to postpone the energy center portion of the project.

The center stands as a vital component of a geothermal system now under construction, that will provide heating and cooling to all buildings on its campus, thereby eliminating almost all the use of fossil fuels on campus.

Critics of the proposed energy center cited noise, pos-

sible toxic emissions, loss of parking spaces and architectural incompatibility with surrounding properties at the site.

In response to assertions in a letter by The Knolls resident Denise Presley that questioned the college's right under state law to build the center, the Planning Department sought and received legal guidance that affirmed the college's right to build the center under a state law commonly referred to as the Dover Amendment. That law exempts agricultural, religious, and educational uses from certain zoning restrictions.

"We believe that the proposed development is subject to Dover Amendment protection, and that the (resident's) opinion that the proposed structure (energy center) alone must have as its primary and dominant use an educational purpose, reads the Dover Amendment too narrowly.

"The Appellate Courts in Massachusetts have recognized that accessory

structures, even if not located on the physical campus of the educational institution,

or are ancillary to the primary use as an educational institution, are protected uses, according to the opinion of Lisa Mead of the law firm Mead, Talerman & Costa, the town's legal advisers.

"Regardless of whether the proposed development is characterized as a geothermal hub or a power plant, the proposal is a subsidiary use to the primary use of the property for educational purposes. As a practical matter, one reaches the same conclusion. It would be illogical to withhold Dover Amendment protections to certain elements of a college campus which are not literally used for academics (e.g. dormitories, parking areas, power generation, maintenance facilities, public safety buildings, health care center, etc.), while the primary use of the property as a whole is educational," Mead wrote.

## South Hadley students on WPI Dean's List

**WORCESTER** -- A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university's spring 2025 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and re-

quire a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in

all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2025:

Griffin Brown from South Hadley, Massachusetts, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Brady Currier from South Hadley, Massachusetts, class of 2028, majoring in Data Science

Evan Piquette from South Hadley, Massachusetts, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

## Get ready for the class of 1975's 50th reunion

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Save the Date! South Hadley High School Class of 1975 50th reunion will be

held on October 4, 2025. For more information and to be added to our email list, please contact either Karla

(Koenig) Zukowski at kzu-kowski57@comcast.net or MaryPat (Fenton) Krumsiek at mpkrumsiek@ahoo.com.

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# South Hadley's library events for June

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Moving into June, summer is almost upon us. The theme to our ever popular summer reading this year is Level Up at Your Library and we're definitely kicking things up a notch! Our summer kicks off with an amazing family event featuring Mass Capoeira on Wednesday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. Join us for a demonstration of this Afro-Brazilian martial art that incorporates fighting, dance, music, and acrobatics. Join us all season long for programs and activities to help you "level up" your skills and knowledge.

**Adult Programs at SHPL**  
Our Spanish Conversation Circle meets on Saturday, June 21 at 10:30 a.m. This monthly group provides an opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills with peers. Participants should have some basic conversational skills to join the group. This is not a language class.

Leading off our Adult Summer program, Level Up At Your Library, will be Constance Hallinan Lagan to begin to recharge your spirit, with a virtual webinar, Level Up Your Happiness, on Wednesday, June 25 at 6 p.m. Discover practical tools to bring joy back into your life (register online).

Finally, puzzle lovers rejoice-our Puzzle Swap is back on Saturday, June 28! Drop off your complete jigsaw puzzles (300+ pieces) from June 9-27 at the front desk, and trade them for new challenges during the big swap. Let June be your month to dance, sing, swap, and smile!

Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)

Living the Otter Life with Katherine Applegate (3rd-6th Grade), Newbery Medalist and New York Times Bestselling Author, Tuesday, June 24 at 4 p.m.

## Children's Programs at SHPL

It's time, it's time! Our summer reading program, Level Up!, officially begins on Tuesday, June 17. Kids from birth to age ten can sign up at the children's desk and get a game-board-style log: color in a square for every day you read! Reading just 20 minutes a day helps prevent "summer slide" (learning loss) and you can read anything you want! All participants will get a coupon for Cindy's ice cream at the end of the program in August, and everyone who finishes their game board will get to choose a game-themed prize!

Don't miss our all-ages summer reading kickoff event with Mass Capoeira on Wednesday, June 25 from 3:30-4:30 p.m..

We're also welcoming a special guest, author Vicki Johnson, at Pajama Storytime on Monday, June 23 from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and Brie's Balloons for a Balloon Storytime on Saturday, June 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

And babywearing expert Jennifer Hydefrost will present at Baby Lapsit Storytime on Friday, June 20 at 10 a.m..

All of our regular weekly and monthly programs continue through the summer (see calendar): Pajama Storytime, Lego & Games, Rhyme Time, STEAM, Read to a Dog, Story Time, Playgroup,

Graphic Novel Book Club, and Baby Lapsit Storytime. Starting the week of June 17, we'll also have a summer scavenger hunt.

Looking for book recommendations? Use our quick and easy Book Bundle form. And the new Student Reading Challenge begins in June, too - sign up at the children's desk! (Any time you spend reading for the challenge this summer counts toward your summer reading too!)

## Teen Programs at SHPL

This month in Teens we continue with Crafternoon, Snack-ternoon and Xbox1. Snack-ternoon on Thursday, June 26 at 4 p.m. will feature Pico de Gallo! Please sign up online. Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snack-ternoon.

Crafternoon features Water Bottle Wind Spirals this month.

Our Teen Takeaways continue this month with Origami Butterflies. Sign up once and get a new Takeaway every month! We end the month with our Teen Night Craft Tuesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m.. We will be Marble Painting!

Our Teen Book Club Booktroverts continues and this month features So Let Them Burn by Kamilah Cole. There is no in-person meet up. Enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room to check out.

This month features gaming on the Nintendo Switch on Monday, June 23 at 3:30 p.m.. A new selection of games are available.

Catch up on the Jurassic World series before the new movie comes out July 2. The 3 movies will be shown Fridays in June. June 20 at 3 p.m. for Jurassic World Dominion. Popcorn to snack on during all movies! Movies will take place in the Teen Room. A thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Friday movie series. Any questions please email Bethany (broberts@cwmar.org).

## Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Gaylord's Pollinator Garden is in full swing now, with several native plants blooming for the beginning of June.

As part of the Adult Summer program we have a workshop from Peter Glass: Level Up Your Smartphone Photography on Thursday, June 26 from 5:15 to 8 p.m. Sign up here and don't forget your phone!

For kids, we have Story Time every Friday at 10:30 a.m. with Miss Janet!

Lego Club meets Thursdays, June 26 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Our first Story Stroll of the spring is also up on the front lawn! Come enjoy Lola Meets the Bees, by Anna McQuinn and illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw.

# Special events held at the South Hadley Senior Center for the month of June

Two major events are being held this month:

## Aging In Place Fair: Wed., June 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual engaging and informative Aging in Place Fair. You'll discover a wide range of valuable resources designed to support aging with independence and confidence. Connect with local organizations and experts and enjoy exciting raffles Beverages sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Please note: There is NO Healthy Bones and Balance classes or congregate lunch service on this day.

## Pride Celebration: Thurs., June 26, 4:30 p.m.

Join us as we close out Pride 2025 with a memorable evening dinner and history. This special event features a captivating presentation on a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ History: the creation of the Rainbow Flag and the life of its creator - Gilbert Baker. Our guest speaker, Jay Blotcher, Board member of the Gilbert Baker Foundation and co-author of Baker's 2019 memoir, *Rainbow Warrior*:

*My Life in Color*, will share insights into Baker's life, activism and the flag's enduring legacy. A book signing will follow. Diner will be prepared by Chef Dakota and is sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

## Stroke Awareness Presentation with Full Breakfast

**Fri., June 13 at 8:30 a.m.**  
Join us for a free full breakfast and information by the Stroke Public Awareness Collaborative. There will be free giveaways and prizes. Sponsored by Mont Marie Rehabilitation, Holyoke VNA Hospice, Holyoke Medical Center and Castaldo Ambulance Services. Registration is necessary.

## Lunch and Movie: Jaws! Mon., June 30 at 1:30 p.m.

Pre-order your lunch at our café and join us for a classic summer movie. Filmed on Martha's Vineyard in 1974, opening with two iconic notes written by Oscar winner John Williams. The movie was directed by Oscar winner Steven Spielberg. (Bet you're singing those two notes right now).

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

#### Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

##### Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

##### Signed: Anxious for Information

##### Dear Anxious:

If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they

will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity 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.

#### Letter to The Editor

### Looking forward to upcoming project for MHC

To the editor,  
Thank you to Mount Holyoke for holding a public information session to share your geothermal project with the town. Thank you to the citizens who listened and expressed their concerns about one portion of this project: the location of a pump station on Woodbridge Street. Hopefully, the opportuni-

ty to talk with each other sparked the return to an era of collaboration between the town and the college. I look forward to learning about what the future steps will be and how the town and college will work together to complete this unique project.

Marie Rohan,  
South Hadley

## What not do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

#### Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

#### Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

#### Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

#### Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

#### Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to

have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag.

If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it de-



mands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

#### Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skip in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

#### Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

#### Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees,

roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

#### Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

#### Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

#### Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

#### Mute swans and cranes

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf



By Ellenor Downer

Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

#### Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."



Western bluebird

#### Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territo-

ry on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory

and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*

## 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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**TREES** from page 1

support this program. The first is from the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The second grant is the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Cool Corridors Grant.

“Someone has to speak for the trees,” said Cornell. Planting trees is her way of giving back to the earth.

“I can’t fix all the problems. But I can plant trees and teach people how to care for them. That’s how I’m going to save the world,” said Cornell.

Cochran manages the Northampton community garden as well as she is a Master Gardener through Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association.

Cochran is also a certified horticulturist and a landscape for life trainer.

Cochran went on to thoroughly discuss why planting native trees in South Hadley is so important.

Areas are facing issues of climate change. With the changing temperatures native trees and plant species are struggling.

Because native trees can’t always adapt to the changing temperatures, non-native species are brought in instead. This negatively affects the local ecosystem.

90% of birds and insects rely on specific species to thrive. The amount of native species that native trees support wildly outweighs the amount of native species that



Rebekah Cornell gives a community member advice about native plants.

non-native trees support.

The whole life cycle of insects, birds, bushes and trees merges into a whole reliant ecosystem.

Not only is this topic important for the well being of nature, it is also very important for the physical and mental health of people

“Sometimes you just feel called to do things,” said Cochran. Cochran wants to be there to help the community understand how plants work in their environment.

Cochran finds it so amazing how resilient plants can be. When the earth continues to decline plants will be able to revive and prosper.

Cochran also enjoys seeing people of all ages get excited about gardening and planting. She thinks that it is important that people continue to be educated about the ever changing environment.

Tom Dennis, a co-chair of the conservation council

subcommittee Growing Wild, wants people to understand a love of trees and to go home and plant more trees.

Dennis mentioned that this idea of everyone going home to plant a few plants in their own back yard derives from Doug Tallamy.

Cochran went on to discuss Dough Tallamy’s thought process called the Homegrown National Park. This idea explains that there are so many millions of acres worth of back yard space that it amounts to the size of a national park.

If only people know how simple it was to plant a few plants in their backyard, then it would greatly help local ecosystems thrive. It doesn’t matter where you live, everyone can help.

“It’s a great time to start [planting], whether it’s native plants or native trees,” said Cochran. Plant with a purpose.



A group of friends enjoying the new course.

Photos submitted by Kim Prough

**GOLF** from page 1

allenge even an experienced disc golfer. You can’t help but love the 657-foot par five on hole 8.”

The course designer, Chris Barden, one of the owners of the New England Disc Golf Center, says, “Designing the course was a great experience. I anticipate this course to be well-received by the community and that it will see a lot of use.”

“Chris’s experience and vision have really helped to shape this into an incredible 9-hole course”, said Venancio. “People will be lining up ready to play as soon as it opens.”

Disc golf is played in over 80 countries, with the United States, Finland, and Canada having the most courses.

Additional factors contributing to the sport’s popularity are that it’s an affordable option for people as disc golf equipment is significantly cheaper than traditional golf equipment; the sport is relatively easy to learn and accessible to people of all ages and athletic abilities; and it’s a great way to enjoy the outdoors, exercise and spend time with friends and family.

While the initial construction of the BATTERY BROOK Disc Golf Course was part of the Park Improvement Project, the turf on the tee pads, signage, benches, information kiosk, and ongoing maintenance are being funded by sponsors and donations.

Kirsten Therrein and her local business, SVG Athletics, were the first sponsors to sign up to support the course.

“SVG Athletics is a gym built around its members and the community they create within. It is something we take great pride in. When the opportunity came for us to support the community outside the gym with another healthy, fitness-related activity, we threw ourselves at the chance. This was the easiest “disc-ussion” we have had as owners! We have several members who are avid disc golfers, and they can’t wait to play the new course”, said Therrein.

The official grand opening celebration for the course will be on Friday, July 18, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The inaugural “first toss” will occur at the practice basket by the playground at 5:30 p.m. to officially open the course.

There will be food, mu-

sic, raffles, volunteers to help teach the sport, equipment to try out, vendors, and more. All are welcome to attend this free event.

To find out more about the course, when it will be open for play, or to become one of the limited number of inaugural business sponsors, please email [butterybrookdiscgolf@gmail.com](mailto:butterybrookdiscgolf@gmail.com).

Additionally, on Saturday, July 19, the course will be hosting a Flex Tournament. Email or visit the BATTERY BROOK Disc Golf page on Facebook to find out more information, and be sure to check out the UDisc app for specifics on the course.



The basket on hole #9.



Larri Cochran giving a talk about native trees and their importance in our community.

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**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

**PROJECT** from page 1

safely than the existing steam distribution system.

Thirdly, there are 600-foot-deep bores underneath one of the athletic fields that store heat extracted from buildings during hot months to heat the buildings during cold seasons, and the opposite will happen for warm seasons, where stored cold air will cool the buildings.

"The system could be considered an electrification of our heating and cooling system, and the idea is that we extract every bit of energy from each BTU, British Thermal Unit," said Youngblood.

Instead of releasing heat, the system captures it and then allows for it to be used when needed.

MHC, alongside the Town of South Hadley, purchases their electricity through SHEL, and its power grid is already functioning at 89% green energy.

"We are well on our way, just by using the local electric grid," said Youngblood, referring to the closer goal of becoming even more carbon-neutral each year.

The Hub, the building that will house the electric heat pumps and is planned to be on the Dunlap site, is being rephased as the college looks to address circumstances outside of its control.

With the market rising for parts, tariffs rising, and risks on the scene and the un-

knowns, the college is playing it safe as it looks to address the Hub, and parpartner more with the abutters of the college to open up further communication.

"It caused us to push the Geothermal Hub into a later year, but there is no pausing on the project," said Youngblood. "We're full-steam ahead."

The Hub will store heat pumps that are tied to the geothermal field that is currently being drilled, and this summer, the college will be laying about 17,000 feet of piping as part of their ongoing construction process.

"We are super excited about it, and our community is excited about it, and the Town of South Hadley is excited about the project. The concerns we are hearing are around the Geothermal Hub."

This week as well, the school will be installing geothermal bores, and will continue the work as this summer, they continue to convert the resident halls to the new geothermal system.

"We are improving the environment all around us by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and just to think about it globally- the benefits of this project," said Youngblood.

Youngblood shared she understands the opposition and concerns about the project, and reassures that the geology in South Hadley is ideal for this kind of drilling work; however, concerns are still being heard and taken se-

riously.

Central Service Station, the gas station formerly occupying the site where the Hub is planned to be constructed, was closed in the 2000s, and the college has been working alongside the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to ensure it is safe to use.

There have been no restrictions, and the site is currently being used as a parking lot for the school. They also did soil testing in 2024 while investigating the site.

Ten feet below the surface, gases were discovered, but the digging and laying for the Hub would only disturb the first four to six feet of the ground, and the school and MA DEP are confident it won't disturb the gases.

MHC will file with Mass DEP before construction to alert them of the beginning of the project and to ensure they are following all DEP regulations.

To be careful, a licensed site professional will come in to observe all earthwork for compliance, and use best practices for design to put in a venting system in case vapors enter the building.

"We don't anticipate disturbing contaminated soils, but we are taking these extra mitigation steps to ensure compliance with all Mass DEP regulations," said Youngblood.

An environmental consultant stated that any gas vapors that might enter the

building might be vented out, but the level is less than what is produced by cars passing by on the street, and if over time testing indicates that the levels are higher than that allowed by MA DEP, then there's another safeguard that would be put into place through filtration

"The opposition is understandable. I think thoughtfully reaching out to our abutters earlier would have fostered some more time for understanding," said Youngblood. "We're committed to continued outreach and to listening."

MHC believes that pushing the Geothermal Hub to a later date will allow for there to be more communication and interaction with abutters so that they can be informed every step of the way. It also allows the college to take some time to revisit some other sites, as well as revisit the façade of the building.

"I'm hopeful that through continued outreach and information sharing, we can address the concerns that we have not been able to yet," said Youngblood.

"Mount Holyoke's legacy is global thinking, taking action, and I am most excited to see the amount of opportunities it will give for research and student engagement, and we've been able to do that through a test bore for geology, as well as students learning about restoration of areas we disturb, and to teach students how to talk about it so that



Submitted photos

The drilling rig is surrounded by acoustical sound panel walls.

they feel its their project, and not being done to them," said Youngblood.

Mount Holyoke College is not the only college taking on the geothermal energy project, as colleges in Amherst and Easthampton are also working towards carbon neutrality.

"It's fascinating what is happening. We are a small liberal arts college in Massachusetts, and we are doing

our part to step up and address climate change," said Youngblood.

The school has a dedicated email address for those who wish to reach out with questions, and can expect to hear a response within a day or two by contacting geothermal@mtholyoke.edu. You can also visit their website to learn more about the project at <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/geothermal-project>.

**GAYLORD** from page 1

Musical entertainment for the evening was provided by classical guitarist Malgorzata Lach.

Prior to the pandemic this event had been going on for many years. After a long hiatus, partly due to the pandemic, the event was revived in 2024.

This is only the second year the event has been held outside to be made more accessible to everyone.

The two main focuses of the fundraising are to help the library restore and preserve their many historical artifacts and to make the library more accessible to everyone.

Van Winkle's favorite part of the night was the wildflower bouquets on the tables. All of the flowers were native flowers from people's back yards.

Van Winkle said that the flowers were a reminder to not overthink things. The committee members were trying to think of what table decorations they could solicit for donations, but ended up going with this beautiful idea instead.

The flower arrangements also draw attention to the flowering Pollinator Demon-

stration Garden.

The pollinator garden is just one of the many ways the library is bringing resources to the community to further educate everyone.

The library is also trying to give community members access to local historical documents.

Gaylord is a historical gem. Part of what makes the library so special are the many historical documents and artifacts that they have.

Many of these pieces need to be restored and preserved. Because the library lost a large grant that was meant to be for preserving these artifacts now they need to find a new way to fund the care of these historical pieces.

The special guest speaker was town historian Leo Labonte. He is a member of the historic division as well as a profound lover of history.

Labonte genuinely loves libraries and how ancient they are as well as their striking architecture.

Labonte was brought in to showcase the cemetery behind the library and discuss the important history behind the library.

People often forget that there is a cemetery behind the

library and most people don't know that the library ground used to be a much larger cemetery many years ago.

"I want to take [John Preston] out of the shadows and bring him into the light," said Labonte. John Preston is the remaining person who is buried in the Gaylord Memorial Library cemetery.

The rest of the cemetery was moved so that the library could be built where it stands today thanks to John Preston, who donated the land.

"We can't let history slide off into the sunset," said Labonte.

Van Winkle wants people to remember how important libraries are to communities like ours. "Libraries have always been a huge part of my family," said Van Winkle.

The library was also very special to many other people including Jane Johnson. Johnson is thrilled to see people supporting and valuing the library.

Johnson has so many memories from participating in the summer reading program to studying there as a college student. "We want to keep the doors of the library open," said Johnson.



Turley Photos by Murphy Fitts.

Jane Johnson helps set up the food tables before guests arrive.



Community members enjoy an assortment of snacks and wine.



Katie Van Winkle introduces the evening and guest speaker Leo Labonte.



Classical guitarist Malgorzata Lach providing entertainment for the night.



An array of chocolates and snacks from various local shops.



The wine table filled with a variety of wines for the guests to try.

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# SPORTS

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## Aldenville Post 337 falls to Monson

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the playoffs. That

won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion playoffs,

Two days after hosting their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed

due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manag-

er Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the State tournament. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be

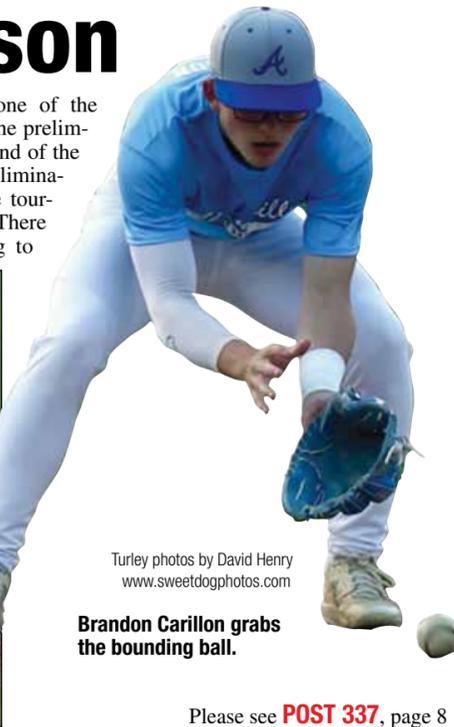
hosting one of the pods in the preliminary round of the double elimination state tournament. There are going to



Memphis Huertas gets ready to receive a pitch.



Ryan Netkovic gets the throw to second.



Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Brandon Carillon grabs the bounding ball.

Please see **POST 337**, page 8

## Lions edge Tigers in PVSSL action

SOUTH HADLEY – Neighboring towns were in action in the opening week of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League play. Ludlow girls defeated South Hadley in the A Division last Friday evening 2-1 on the turf at South Hadley High School. Both teams will return to action this week.

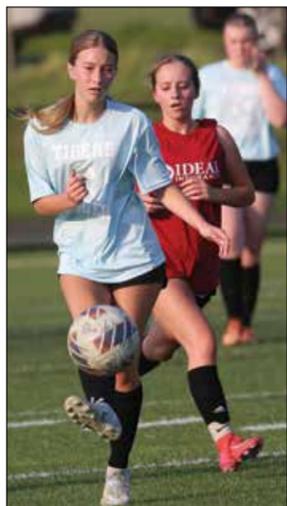


Mallory Levreault clashes with an opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Cara Dean keeps play moving.



Kiana Ramos tries to corral a pass.



Kelcey Zraunig winds up for a pass.

## Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born

in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis, who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women's soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who

Please see **MUTINY**, page 8

## Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always dis-

appointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in

Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you

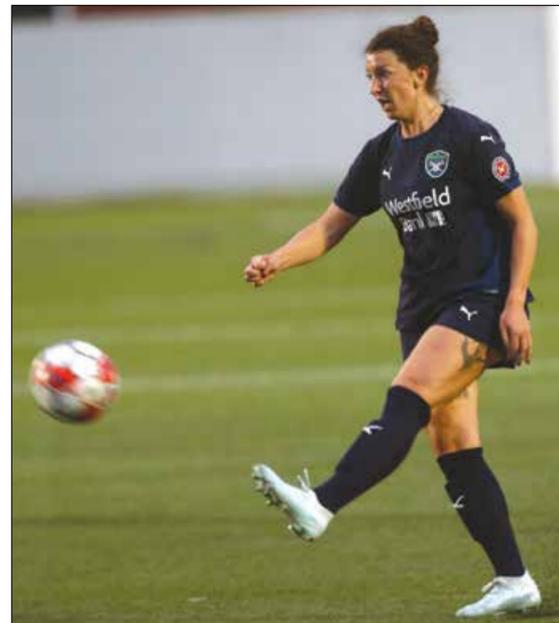
take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 8



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jenna Kalwa pops up a pass forward.



# Granby Library's Youth Summer Reading Program Is Here! June 20 - August 8

GRANBY – Join the club! We are excited to announce The Granby Library's free Summer Reading Program for 2025, "Level Up at Your Library" which starts on June 20!

We have fun activities and great prizes to win. Kids birth through age 11 can sign up at the Children's Desk and get a folder (which they keep all summer) including a log sheet, calendar of events and more. Reading 15 minutes a day helps prevent learning loss over the summer.

Read (or be read to) anything you want from home or on the go, simply mark off on the included log calendar for each day that you read for 15 minutes (read 10 min. to the youngest participants)!

All participants get a free book, free Cindy's Ice Cream cone coupon prize pack when they log 25 days of reading. Participants can stop in for raffle tickets for our weekly raffle baskets and stickers to decorate their folders.

The completed reading log is kid's entry to the two main prizes - \$175. gift certificate for Mystic Aquarium & sea fun puzzle/ book and a \$100 gift certificate for Magic Wings & a butterfly hatchery set.

**Summer Reading Kick Off: BINGO for Books & Ice Cream too! June 20 at 2pm.** Enjoy some Bingo fun & a sweet treat! Pre-register to come by stopping in or calling the library.

**Level Up with Laughter June 20- 28**

**Ed Popielarczyk Friday, June 27 at 11 a.m.**

Join us for a magical comedy show with Ed Popielarczyk where the audience makes the magic happen! Drop in this week to Chalk the Walk" outside with silly pictures. Create your own comic strip and pick up a joke book, and Guess How Many Marbles are in the Jar.

Ages 4 & up 6/20- 7/1 This week's raffle basket is "It's all fun and games" themed.

**Level Up with Cats vs Dogs July 1- 5**  
**Who reigns supreme - Cats or Dogs?**

What say you kids? Vote and tell us who your favorite book character dog or cat is too! Bring your plush pet to the vet! Visit our Pet Vet Station and give your plush pet a checkup. We will have stuffies on hand too. Paint a cat or dog with water this week, drop in! This week's raffle book bundle/ basket is cat & dog themed.

Silly Pet Photo Contest Capture your pet on camera looking silly! Photos will be voted on & the silliest pet in photo will win a \$50. gift certificate for Granby Grain. Drop off /email a photo through August 1 to: janicemcardlegpl@gmail.com

Don't fur-get! "Reading Buddies" is bark at the library! It's a grrreat, low-stress way to gain confidence in your reading. For kids in K & up. Sign up for a slot: June 12 & 26 and July 10 & 24.

**Summer CFCE Playgroups: Wednesdays July 9 through**

**August 13 at 10:30 a.m. Level Up with Sea Life July 8-12**

Celebrate everything ocean. Drop in to make a seahorse marker mosaic and visit our "Shell-ter" to adopt a shell July 10 -12. Take home a DIY mini dough sea scene. Guess how many sharks are in the jar too! This week's raffle basket is sea themed. When you check out a sea themed book receive an extra raffle ticket for this week's basket. 1 extra ticket per child.

**Level Up with Yeti and Unicorns July 15- 19**

Mythological creatures are fun to read about! It's all about them this week. Drop in crafts on July 16th are adorable Yarn Yetis and magical Flower Crowns. Weeklong: Guess how many unicorns are in the jar? and Hunt for Magical Creatures too! This week we have 2 raffle baskets: One Unicorn basket and one Yeti basket.

**Level Up with Games July 22- 26**

Minecraft Madness!! with Jungle Jim Friday, July 25 at 11 a.m.

A fast-paced, interactive show that brings the world of Minecraft to life with: Building Block Madness Tournament, Balloon Firework Rocket Show, Zombie Chase Challenge & an Awe-inspiring giant 6-foot balloon finale. You don't want to miss this! Week-long Minecraft table. Play "Findcraft." This week's raffle basket is Minecraft themed.

**Level Up with Superheroes July 29- August 2**

Lego Superheroes Wednesday, July 30 3pm. Create a Superhero or Dogman (he's a hero too) Lego mosaic using a pattern card. Pre-register, space is limited. Kids keep the Lego. Ages 4 & up Drop in to color a Dog Man sheet & make a Dog Man badge July 30-Aug.2. Enter a superhero raffle with your weekly raffle ticket.

Guess What Book is in the Jar July 16 - 30

If you guess what book is shredded in the jar you win a "munch & play" prize basket!

**Would You Rather - "Ice Cream Edition" July 22 - August 2**

Fill out a "Would you Rather" sheet for a chance to win free ice cream! Sheets for younger & older kids.

Drop in crafts are all "while supplies last."

Stop in or call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours to pre-register for programs.

Granby Library hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Check out "Granby Library Children's Room" page on Facebook for updates & news!

**Teen "Got Summer Reading Program" at the Granby Library**

**June 20 - August 22, 2025, for students entering grades 7 - 12**

Teens, read your required Summer Reading books or just for fun books and you'll have

a chance to win one of several great prizes at the Granby Library!

You may also buy a great book from a special selection, with 1 raffle ticket. For each book you read this summer, teens fill out a raffle ticket in the teen room. Keep track of the books you read on a "Got Summer reading" sheet that you pick up at the library or download on our website under "Young Adult." Bring this sheet into the library after you've read 1 book for a free coupon for a Cindy's Drive In ice cream cone.

Teens, also come on in & cool down this summer, there's always something to do in the Young Adult Room. Check out the craft & board game cart, plus the following activities!

**RUBBER DUCK COSPLAY Friday, June 27 at 4 p.m.**

We're making ducks into famous characters. Summer is here! Sun's out, wings out! Using paint, Sharpies, clay... We'll transform our ducks with fun costumes. Rubber ducks have fandoms, too! Decorate your duck any way you choose. Ages 12- 18. Drop in.

**Play "Would You Rather? Pizza Edition! July 8 - August 22**

It's all about the slice... win free pizza! Pizza sticker sheets, guessing jar - How many slices of pizza gummies are in the jar? Drop in to play! 1 time per teen.

Unmask the Title of the Shredded Book in the Jar... what's its true identity?

Win a goodie basket! Through July.

**Summer Long ~ June 20 - August 22**

Build the Granby Library Lego Tower Each time you stop in grab a handful of Lego, add to the tower. How high can we go?

**Help us build an art gallery!**

Create a post it note masterpiece and add it to our collection. We are excited to see what you can make on a tiny square! Summer long.

**Weekly Drop-In Activities in the Young Adult Room & Take Home Crafts**

New crafts start on the following dates & go until we run out of craft items.

Check our calendar for newly added activities!

June 20 on: Drop in to color by sticker. Take Home Craft Kits - Paint your own bookmark . Guessing Jar - How many Harry Potter gummies are in the jar?

July 8 on: Drop in to scratch art a bookmark. Take Home Craft Kits - Perler bead bracelets.

July 19 on: Drop in to create "Black Out Poetry". Take Home Craft Kits - sand mandala.

August 2 on: Drop in for DIY duct tape fun. Guessing Jar - Twin Snake Gummies. Take Home Craft Kits - Junk Journal Kit.

\*1 of each activity per teen 11-18 yrs. while supplies last.

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# Parents launch fundraiser to save marching band staff jobs

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Facing deep budget cuts that threaten the future of South Hadley High School’s marching band, the South Hadley Music Parents Association (SHMPA) has launched a targeted fundraising campaign to preserve critical staff roles within the program. The Tiger Pride Marches On campaign aims to raise nearly \$5,000 to fund stipends for the band’s Assistant Director and Fall Percussion Arranger.

“The South Hadley Marching Band is the first musical ensemble many students are involved with during the school year, and often in their entire high school careers,” said Lisa Beauchemin,

president of SHMPA. “It’s a wonderful, musical community that operates more like a family.”

Due to recent budgetary constraints, the school district has eliminated the \$3,253 stipend for the assistant band director and the \$1,450 stipend for the fall percussion arranger. These roles are essential, especially as the district consolidates its middle and high school music programs under a single teacher, now responsible for all ensembles across two schools.

“They need these positions to be able to run a marching band this fall,” Beauchemin emphasized.

SHMPA hopes the community will rally behind the effort. Donations can be made online through the cam-

aign’s Givebutter page at <https://givebutter.com/Tigerpride>, via the SHMPA website [southhadleymusic.org](http://southhadleymusic.org), or by mailing checks to SHMPA at PO Box 63, South Hadley, MA 01075.

Beyond staffing, the organization typically raises funds for scholarships, band supplies, pit musicians for school musicals, and transportation costs. However, Beauchemin noted, “These stipends are well above what we would typically be able to support, so we’re looking to the community for additional help.”

Students have also stepped up to advocate for their program. Since learning about the campaign, they’ve been promoting it across social media platforms for the color guard, marching band, and

school theater group, the Harlequins. “They are involved in our fundraisers whenever possible,” said Beauchemin.

The marching band is deeply rooted in the South Hadley community, with alumni stretching across generations. It performs at football games, local parades—including Holyoke’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Northampton’s Pulaski Day Parade—and competitions throughout New England.

“Marching band teaches discipline and teamwork, which are important life skills for all students to learn,” Beauchemin said. “It’s hard to go anywhere in town and not run into someone who was in the band.”

SHMPA’s vision goes beyond short-term fixes. The

group still has hopes to reintroduce instrumental music at the 4th grade level, a program lost in previous years. “We see enrollment decreasing in the band program, not because students are not interested, but because we are not reaching them at the right time,” Beauchemin explained. “To have a robust band program, we must reach students in elementary school. As students get older, it becomes difficult to fit it into their schedules, especially when trying to accommodate a rigorous academic course load. We’d like to see the district commit to not only reinstating these stipends, but also build a reasonable plan to offer band to students in at least 4th grade and work toward increasing the number of staff supporting

the music programs in town.”

Within the first five days of launching the fundraiser, the campaign raised \$3,155—a promising sign that South Hadley is listening. “Thank you to all those who have supported and plan to support,” Beauchemin said. “We appreciate you.”

She added, “For the past several years, the valedictorian at South Hadley High has been an active member of the music program. The music students are leaders and top academic performers and that’s not a coincidence. Music is a worthy and essential investment for our students and for the communities they are a part of.”

## Yoga at Stanley Park

WESTFIELD – Yoga will be starting for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings beginning May 8 through Aug. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m., on the Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex. Please join certified instructor Michelle Gagnon, as she leads the yoga classes. This class is for all levels of yoga practitioners, and all abilities are welcome. The poses are foundational, and modifications are always available. As a class we will harness the power of our

breath in alignment with the movement of our bodies.

Children 10 and up are welcome accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own mat and any props as needed, wear comfortable and stretchy clothes. Prepare to strengthen, stretch your body, and open your minds. Bring lots of water (you might also want a small towel). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Donations to the Park are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person per



class.

Registration forms are available on our website at [www.stanleypark.org](http://www.stanleypark.org) and will also be available at class. You

may sign up on our website, by e-mailing us for the registration form at [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org), or register at the Park at your first class.

## ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.**

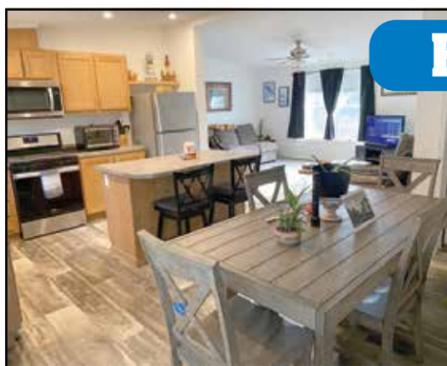
Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

### NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine  
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom  
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



# EARLY DEADLINES

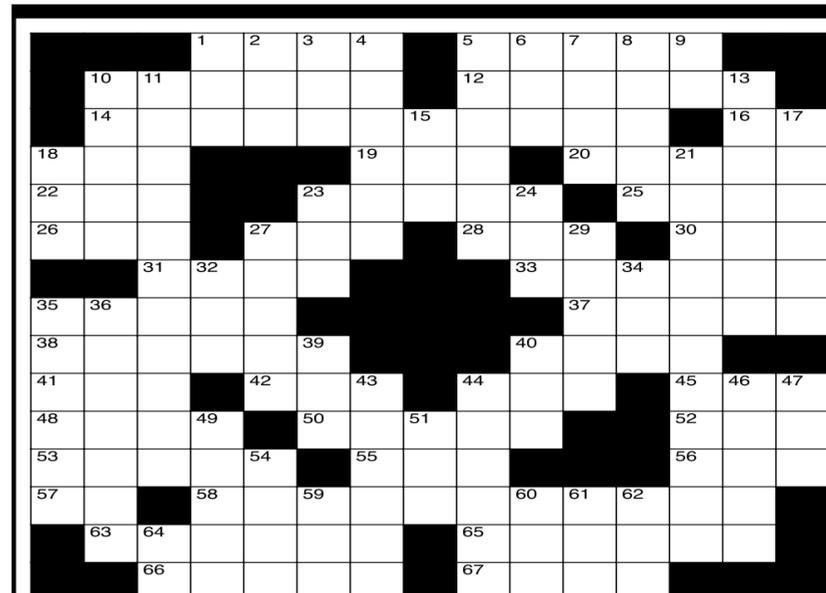
In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

## Thursday, July 3

*Thank you!*

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread
5. Range of mountains
10. Ended
12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
14. On the nature of being
16. Law enforcement agency
18. Australian flightless bird
19. Subway rodent
20. More dried-up
22. A beaver might build one
23. Suggestive of the supernatural
25. Art \_\_, around 1920
26. American rocker Snider
27. Not or
28. Earliest human: \_\_-Magnon Man
30. Firearm
31. Tough outer skin of fruit
33. Alternative form of a gene
35. Low shrub some call “fat pork”
37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
38. Revolutionary War era spy
40. Portion of a book
41. Hoover’s office
42. Title of respect
44. Tax collector
45. Cool!
48. Real estate
50. Boy’s name
52. Airborne (abbr.)
53. Strongly recommends
55. Hit lightly
56. Bar bill
57. Atomic #54
58. Devotes again
63. Fish sauce
65. French stock market
66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak
2. Equal (prefix)
3. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
4. Loved
5. A type of analyst
6. Ad \_\_
7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
8. Ran without moving
9. Opposite of yes
10. Diffuse clouds of gas
11. Mentioning one by one
13. Instruments used to dilate
15. Freshwater fish
17. Remotely-manned flying objects
18. Doctor of Education
21. Renews
23. Not the start
24. Pitching stat
27. Small water buffaloes
29. Ceramic jars
32. I (German)
34. Something to toss on a fire
35. The process of flowing in
36. A series of acts at a night club
39. Egg of a louse
40. Inquire too closely
43. Travelers
44. Drink
46. Behave in a way that degrades
47. Electronic music style
49. Northern Ireland city
51. Upset
54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
59. Father
60. North Atlantic fish
61. 8th month (abbr.)
62. Make an effort
64. Commercial

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, **PUBLIC NOTICES** EARLY AD DEADLINE

Place your public notice no later than **NOON**

## Thursday, July 3

*– Thank you!*



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Children going around the Ferris Wheel at high speeds.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A festival truck serving desserts like cotton candy, candied apples, and popcorn.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Tim and Nita Abbott with the Friends of Granby's Parks & Recreation holding a raffle for two handmade raised flower beds.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Two young children participate in a skeeball-like game while their grandfather watches.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

A customer receives a mac and cheese egg roll from a specialty egg roll food truck.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

Spectators watch as one of the contestants steps up in one of the Tractor Pulls.

CHARTER from page 1

Lead Food Brewing also had their beer tent, which was there for the first time this year, and many people stopped by to enjoy some craft brews.

There was an animal show and a mini animal show, and the Northeast Kingdom Express drove around to give rides.

Charter Days is made possible by the community coming together and helping to make it happen.

"I love the fact that so many people in the community are willing to come out and help our fully volunteer committee make the weekend exciting for everyone by also volunteering to help with everything from parking, trash, and bathroom maintenance," said Guevin. "Everyone gives their hard work and time to help out. It makes me feel great to know the community is behind the entire committee."

Members of the Charter Days Committee: Chair Randy Guevin, Glenn Durham, Steve Sabourin, Jon Szymonik, Martin Laliberte, Kim Kibbie, Dan Paquin, Leora Bergeron, Amanda Paquin, and Crystal Dufresne.

"In the future, we look forward to making the event even more enjoyable for all of our community and the surrounding communities around us," said Guevin.

Sponsors included Polish National Credit Union, Wheeler & Taylor (Jubenville Insurance), Laflamme Gardens, Dickinson Farm, Cote Cattle Company, Class Grass, and Everson Construction, with a special thanks to: WM (Waste Management), New England Paving, and Granby Grain.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped out, from our committee members to all of the volunteers in the community. That without all of them, we would not have had such a great event. Thank you to everyone," said Guevin.

Charter Days is not only a celebration of the day Granby got its Charter, but also a time to celebrate and remember the way the community comes together, and works together, to create something truly magical.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Teenagers Emma Murphy (left) and Telyn Kelly (right) fight to the death on top of the bouncy house obstacle



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

Kids get spun around with joy on the Twister.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

Baby calves Sully and Beans from Deere Creek Farm located in Granby.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

Amy from Amy's RT nine Bakery with an assortment of baked goods.



Turley photos by Murphy Fitts

The Northeast Kingdom Express makes its way through the crowd.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

Bouncy House obstacle course with a variety of different themes and areas to explore for kids.



Turley photos by Abigail McCoy

A wide variety of food trucks with flavors for every palate available.